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# COASTAL FISHERMAN

**VOLUME 43 • • • NUMBER • • JUNE 20, 2018**

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Early Sunday morning, anglers on the charter boat "Foolish Pleasures" arrived back at the Ocean City Fishing Center with a 121-inch, 636 lb. mako shark, 12 yellowfin tuna and a pair of mahi. As can be expected, the capture of the mako shark was a team effort after it was hooked on a skipjack tuna fillet in 500 fathoms on the northeast corner of the Norfolk Canyon where Capt. Dale Lisi found the water temperature hovering around 72-degrees. The shark was hooked at 11:00 at night and took 90 minutes to get to the boat. Fishing with Capt. Dale and mate Eddie Braxton were Rob Reusch, Derek Fisher, Jason Kilby, Harvey A. Fisher, Nick Benjamin and Harvey E. Fisher.





On the charter boat, "That's Right", Capt. D.J. Churchill and mates Austin Bickford and Brian Riley had a large group from Kutztown, PA on board to take advantage of the hot tuna bite in the Baltimore Canyon. The anglers ended their day with 5 yellowfins and 2 bluefins, caught in 200 fathoms on trolled ballyhoo and spreader bars. Pictured are Daniel Brubaker, Marvin Burkholder, Leroy Sauder, Quinton Burkholder, Eunice Newswanger, Aaron Burkholder, Linford Martin, Earl Burkholder, Martha Brubaker, Arlene Burkholder, Elvajane Zimmerman, Rosemary Newswanger, Evelyn Nolt and Elaine Burkholder.

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# Ron Bennett on the “Stalker” releases first white marlin of 2018 season in Ocean City



On June 13th, just 3 days earlier than in 2017, angler Ron Bennett from Landenburg, PA caught and released the first white marlin of the season while fishing on the “Stalker” with Taylor Bennett, Andrew Rinehimer and Richie Rinehimer, all from Landenburg, PA, Jeff Hepbrun of Elkton, MD, Paul Smack of West Grove, PA and Capt. Steve Moore. The white marlin attacked the ballyhoo dressed up with a blue and white Ilander being trolled in 200 fathoms in the Poor Man’s Canyon where Capt. Steve found the water temperature hovering around 70-degrees. The anglers also caught 3 yellowfin tuna and 4 bluefin tuna during their trip. For releasing the first white marlin of the year out of Ocean City, Ron and the “Stalker” team will receive \$6,000 from a group of local businesses (Atlantic Tackle, Bank of Ocean City, Bahia Marina, Coastal Fisherman, Ocean City Fishing Center and Sunset Marina), \$5,000 from the Town of Ocean City and \$5,000 from the Ocean City Marlin Club. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

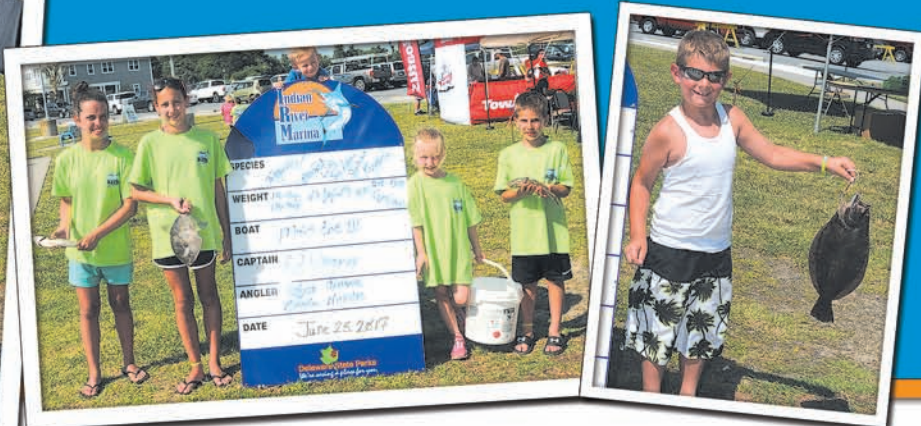


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# OCEAN CITY FISHING REPORT

by Larry Jock



Wow! It was quite a week for fishing in Ocean City with a few "firsts" and a load of tuna caught in the canyons.

## White Marlin

With Ocean City being known as the "White Marlin Capital of the World" it makes sense that the first one released receives a lot of fanfare, and that was the case last Wednesday when Capt. Steve Moore on the "Stalker" took his anglers to the Poor Man's Canyon where mate Ron Bennett caught and released a white in 200 fathoms. The fish hit a white marlin favorite, a ballyhoo dressed up with a blue and white Ilander. The catch brings Ron and the "Stalker" team \$16,000 in award money, made up of \$6,000 from local businesses (Atlantic Tackle, Bahia Marina,

Bank of Ocean City, Coastal Fisherman, Ocean City Fishing Center and Sunset Marina), \$5,000 from the Ocean City Marlin Club and \$5,000 from the Town of Ocean City.

A few other white marlin were released throughout the week including a pair in the Small Boat Tournament where one was hooked by the Triple 0's and the other in 100 fathoms in the Poor Man's Canyon.

## Blue Marlin

Last Sunday on the "Chaser", the first blue marlin of the season was released while trolling in 500 fathoms between the Poor Man's and Baltimore Canyons.

## Sharks

With the minimum size of makos being increased from 54-inches to 83-inches, some people (including me) wondered if we would see any

hit the scales this year. We saw a nice one caught on the "Marli" a few weeks ago and on Sunday morning, the charter boat "Foolish Pleasures" arrived with a 636 pounder that was caught during an overnight trip in 500 fathoms in the Norfolk Canyon.

## Tuna

It was an exceptional week of tuna fishing in the canyons with most of the action coming from between the Poor Man's and Baltimore Canyons.

We saw a couple of good trips come back early in the week but the yellowfin bite really turned on in the Poor Man's Canyon on Thursday in water between 200 and 500 fathoms. Some of the most noteworthy catches came on the "Moore Bills" (18), "Boss Hogg" (18) and the "Marli" (17). In addition to yellowfins, several boats returned on Thursday with a couple of bluefins in the mix and the charter boat, "Marli" even had 3 bigeyes in their fish box.

On Friday, the yellowfin bite really exploded with over 8,000 lbs. of tuna coming into Sunset Marina alone. The water moved to the south, so most of the catches were on boats trolling between the Poor Man's and Washington Canyons. Double digit catches came in on the "Talkin Trash" (21), "Pumpin Hard" (17), "White Lightning" (11), "Spring Mix II" (11), "Espadon" (12), "Rhonda's Osprey" (18), "Boss Hogg" (18),

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"C-Boys" (22), "That's Right" (18) and the "Marli" (18). Like the day prior, several boats also had bluefins in the mix and a 150 lb. bigeye was caught on the "Espadon" (150 lbs.) in 300 fathoms in the Poor Man's.

As expected, Saturday's tuna bite was a little tougher, which is not uncommon when you have a great bite heading into the weekend and boat traffic increases dramatically, driving the fish deeper. Yellowfins were up and down the line with catches coming in from the Norfolk Canyon on overnight trips but most seemed to come from the Poor Man's. We also saw 3 nice bigeye tuna come in on the "Offshore Hooker" after they went 3 for 7 in 330 fathoms in the Poor Man's. Their eyeballs weighed 83.2, 92.0 and 98.6 lbs.

Sunday's bite was even tougher than Saturday's and we didn't see a lot of tuna flags flying at the end of the day, but anglers on the charter boat, "Boss Hogg" pulled out a good trip when they returned with 9 yellowfins from the Wilmington Canyon. Capt. Brian Porter told me that they were ready to call it a day when they got covered up and put the final 8 yellowfins in the box. Also in the Wilmington Canyon, the "Reel Chaos" captured a couple of bigeyes in addition to 3 yellowfins.

## Weakfish

On Tuesday, Dave Neumayer was tossing a Roy Rig around the South Jetty when he hooked into a 20-inch weakie.

## Sea Bass

Sea bass fishing right now is tough. Anglers are finding good numbers of fish but anglers have had to weed

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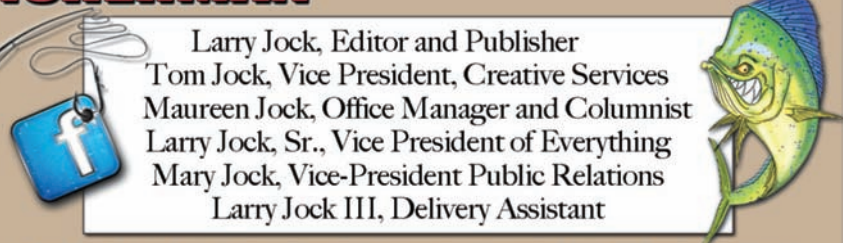
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through a lot throwbacks to get their keepers. Some boats have had to travel over 25 miles from shore to find structure holding good numbers of larger fish.

#### Flounder

Flounder fishing in the bay was much improved over what we have been seeing due primarily to an increase in water clarity. A lot of the action continues to come from the bay behind Assateague and last week it was spread out with keepers caught down by the Duck Blinds and also on the north end closer to the inlet.

Last week, we saw much better action in the East Channel. Early in the week, Budd Heim and Charlie Plis caught 9 keepers (releasing 5) while drifting bucktails tipped with Gulp Swimming Mulletts. On Friday, Budd was joined by Kevin Welkner and the duo caught 6 in the East Channel, also on Gulp artificial baits.

Also on Friday, anglers on the charter boat, "Get Sum" ended their morning trip with 7 keepers in the box. Capt. Nick said he was all over the bay finding fish wherever he found clear water.

On Saturday, boat traffic was heavy but we still saw some good catches of quality flounder. Katie Thatcher and Nate Gregory ended their day with 7 keepers in the box including a 23 1/2-incher caught by Katie. The duo caught their fish on white Gulp artificial baits in the Thorofare

and behind Assateague. Anglers on the headboat, "Bay Bee" also had a good day with 7 keepers caught on squid and shiners behind Assateague Island.

Water temperature in the bay right now is hovering between the low 70's at the end of the outgoing tide and the high 60's during the incoming tide.

#### Cobia

A few cobia were hooked in the Ocean City Inlet over the weekend and on Monday morning, but none met the 40-inch minimum size for state waters.

#### In the Surf


It's been quiet in the surf with kingfish, skates, sharks, small bluefish and stripers taking offerings of cut bait and lures.

#### Upcoming Tournament

We have a rare off-week for tournaments in Ocean City but if you are inclined to take a short trip north to the Indian River Marina, they are holding their annual Kid's Catch-All Tournament on Saturday and Sunday. Registration is Friday at the marina from 6:00 to 8:00 PM on Friday night and 6:00 to 8:00 AM on Saturday morning. This tournament is open to anglers ages 3 to 18 and fishing is allowed on one or both days. Like the Marlin Club Kid's Classic, this tournament is a must for junior anglers.

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

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While trolling between the Poor Man's and Washington Canyon last Friday, 18 yellowfins and 5 mahi fell at the hands of anglers fishing on the charter boat, "Rhonda's Osprey". All were hooked on trolled ballyhoo and spreader bars in 50 to 80 fathoms. Fishing with Capt. Joe Drosey and mates Matt Bierley and Yanni Harris were Alex Parker, Sr., Alex Parker, Jr., James Parker, Thomas Forrest and Issac Davis (not pictured). Pictured at Sunset Marina.



Sharon Sacra from Perry Hall, MD used a top & bottom rig tipped with a 4-inch chartreuse Gulp Swimming Mullet to fool this 18-inch flounder in the East Channel during the outgoing tide.



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# CHUM LINES

by Capt. Mark Sampson



While shark fishing last week we had a blue shark swim up close to our boat. Obviously attracted by the scent that was leaching from our chum bucket and the fish carcasses hanging off the side of the boat, we thought the shark was destined to provide a certain catch and release for one of our clients, but despite the numerous times it swam up to and investigated each of our three hooked baits it never committed to making a meal of one. Wondering whether the shark was just curious, but not hungry, or it didn't like the way our baits were presented, I threw a hookless bait into the water to see what would happen. The shark ate it right away! When another free bait met with similar results my suspicions were confirmed that the shark was hungry, but not so much that it would eat a piece of fish that had a metal hook and wire leader attached to it.

Obviously, sharks don't always refuse to eat something with a hook attached, otherwise they would never be caught, but this one wasn't about to oblige us so I came up with a plan to outsmart the critter. Knowing that sharks use the electro-sensors located on the front of their heads to pick-up on the weak electrical current

generated by their prey, and that this shark was probably using those sensors to detect the unfamiliar electrical signature of the metal hook and leader, I grabbed the leader, pulled the bait up to the surface with the hook and leader out of the water and watched as the shark immediately swam up and grabbed the bait right beside the boat.

That little episode was a classic example of not only how sharks use their senses to locate prey, but also how they might use them to detect and avoid danger. I'm not sure who first coined the phrase "ignorance is bliss", but I'm pretty sure it wasn't a fisherman, because as most anglers will probably agree, the more we know about the fish we're trying to catch - the better we'll be at doing so.

It was for that reason, about six years ago, I agreed to help a team of scientists who wanted to learn more about the movements and habits of shortfin mako sharks. Their goal was to put satellite transmitters or SPOT tags on makos and track their movements for months or even years after their release. The researchers were from NOVA Southeastern University and the University of Rhode Island. When we started

in 2013, few (if any) makos had ever been tracked this way and everyone was curious to see whether or not makos would even be good candidates for the \$1,800 transmitters that require the shark to come to the surface with it's fin out of the water for more than just a couple seconds in order for the satellite to receive precise location information.

In early June of 2013 we tagged the first mako with a SPOT tag and the very next morning when the scientists returned to the boat for another day of fishing they happily reported that the shark from yesterday had already reported in by "pinging" the satellite with it's location information. We were elated by the success of that first shark because it demonstrated that not only were makos good candidates for SPOT tags (by transmitting at the surface every day or two), but also that the boating and handling techniques we've developed are successful in allowing the sharks we release to survive the encounter. Since 2013 we've tagged a total of 42 makos, 6 smooth hammerheads and one common thresher shark with spot tags and have had 100% survival rate - we're pretty proud of that!

Of course, much of what has been learned from each shark has revolved around it's travels. Whether it was north or south, inshore or offshore, where it was at different times of the year and if it returned to the same area the following year - all good stuff to

know if you're trying to learn a thing or two about movements or migrations. But along with location data, the scientists have also been able to derive other valuable information from the tagged sharks that has filled some blanks in the knowledge about what goes on in their daily lives. In the months and years ahead, data from these tagged sharks will be used for various reasons, from fishery management decisions to a better understanding of the life history of the sharks, as well as the health and ecosystem of the ocean.

As a simple fisherman and not a scientist, I'm happy to give a few simple insights of what I've learned from the sharks we've tagged. First, the mako tracks are amazing! Unlike a lot of fish that travel somewhat predictable paths (north in the spring, south in the fall), makos just seem to wander around the ocean. They can be up on the Continental Shelf today and way out over the edge tomorrow. Of the first four we tagged this past May, two left our boat and headed south, one went north and one went way out to the east and then northeast. Overall, we've seen that makos spend a lot of time right along the edge of the shelf, but they never seem to stay in one area for long. We've had them cross the equator and one traveled more than halfway across the ocean.

Our smooth hammerheads, however, stayed mostly on the shelf, spending much of

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summer off the Delmarva and New Jersey coasts and in the cold weather months in the waters off the Carolinas. What surprised me the most was how much time they spend at the surface, so much in fact that the first ones we tagged burned out their batteries early from transmitting so much!

The thresher we tagged a few years ago in late May wasn't heard from until about 7-weeks later when it pinged twice up in the Bay Of Fundy off Nova Scotia. But that was the only time we heard from it, so it was pretty much decided that they don't swim at the surface enough to be good candidates for the expensive tags.

One somewhat sobering fact we learned from this study is that our makos were being recaptured more frequently than expected. Of those we released,

over 30% were recaptured and killed by either commercial or recreational anglers. Since the transmitters continue to send a signal even when removed from the shark, it was obvious when a shark was caught because the tag would make a beeline for the coast and then transmit from land. We had them caught by commercial long-liners out of Spain, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, and taken by recreational anglers out of Chincoteague Va. and Long Island NY. One of our makos only made it a month before being brought back to the dock by a recreational angler!

Considering the time, effort and expense of getting transmitters on these fish, it was always a heartbreaker to have a data-set cut short by a recapture. The only good thing that came from the recaptures was that they provided researchers with

an increased and more accurate understanding of the kind of fishing pressure makos and other sharks face in the Atlantic, and if there is any silver lining to the new 83-inch minimum size on mako sharks, it's that there's now less of a chance that our tagged sharks will be caught and killed before providing long-term tracking data.

We started this season with seven tags programmed for makos and were blessed to be able to get all of them on sharks during our first couple weeks of fishing. As we look forward to following their movements over the next year or two, and perhaps learning new things about these incredible predators, we're also preparing to "Part II" of this year's satellite tagging

which will have us attempting to put transmitters on a number of smooth hammerheads for a study on that species.

We have only played a small part in these projects, the scientists are the ones who actually design and orchestrate the studies that are providing new insights about shark biology, habits and life history. But for us, being able to assist them with some of the necessary fieldwork continues to be rewarding, educational and always exciting!

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

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Sometimes all you need to do is look at the anglers faces and you know who caught the larger fish that day. Katie Thatcher and Nate Gregory, both from Bishopville, MD, caught 7 flounder (4 pictured) while fishing with white Gulp artificial baits in the Thorofare and in the bay behind Assateague Island. Katie led the way with a fat 23 1/2-incher. Pictured at Atlantic Tackle in West Ocean City.



Last Saturday, while fishing on the charter boat, "Boss Hogg" with Capt. Brian Porter and mates Tucker Colquhoun and Marshall Freng this group of anglers caught 18 yellowfins and 3 mahi in the Washington Canyon. Fishing on the "Boss Hogg" were Chris Murray, Scott Ewing, Dave Taylor, Whit Maccauig, McLain Fisher and Lenny Weber. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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This 18-inch flounder was minding it's own business, hanging out in the East Channel near Harbor Island when it couldn't resist going after the Gulp Swimming Mullet being fished by angler Bob Sharbaugh from Ellicott City, MD.



Anglers fishing in the bay behind Ocean City and at the South Jetty have mostly found short stripers, but on this day, McKinley Taylor of Harrisonburg, VA landed a 31-incher and a 17-inch flounder. The striper ate a sand flea and the flattie went for a Gulp artificial bait. Taylor was fishing on the charter boat, "On the Run" with Capt. Dave Caffrey. Pictured at Bahia Marina.

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Dylan Wiley, age 14, fought this 80 lb. yellowfin for 30 minutes before getting it into the "Reel Crazy". Dylan was fishing with Devin Wiley and Chris Seramone when they went 7 for 14 on yellowfins in the Baltimore Canyon. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em in the Indian River Marina.



Kevin Welkner (pictured) was fishing with Budd Heim in the East Channel last week when they caught 6 legal size flounder (kept 3) on Gulp artificial baits. The 3 flatties that they kept measured 18, 19 and 22-inches.

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### BLACK SEA BASS

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16" minimum  
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40" minimum  
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28" - 38" and 44" and greater  
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16.5" minimum  
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### WEAKFISH

13" minimum  
1 per person/day





It only took 2 hours for these anglers to muscle in 18 yellowfins while fishing on the charter boat, "Marli" with Capt. Mark Hoos and mates Michael Butler and Dakota Bittner. All of the action took place on trolled ballyhoo and spreader bars in 100 fathoms in the Poor Man's Canyon. Pictured are Ken, Lisa and Hunter Pfeiffer from White Hall, MD, Joe Pfeiffer from LaCrosse, WI and Gretchan Benjamin from LaCrosse, WI. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



Preston and Debbie Walls were at it again, this day catching 4 flounder while drifting minnows during the incoming tide. One flattie came from the bay behind Assateague Island while the other three were caught in the East Channel, north of the Rt. 50 Bridge. Their largest measured 18-inches.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Noah Zarkovich caught a 19-inch flounder and Chase Kepner boated a 17 3/4-inch, both while fishing on the "Helbent Charters" with Capt. Jeff Grimes. The flatties both hit live minnows during the outgoing tide behind the Ocean City Airport.

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During a trip on the charter boat "Siren" with Capt. Will Hathaway and mate Eddie Braxton, this group of anglers caught 9 yellowfin tuna while trolling ballyhoo and spreader bars in 200 fathoms in the Baltimore Canyon. Fishing on the "Siren" were Scott Meyer, Stephanie Meyer, Nathaniel Meyer, Wes Meyer, William Meyer and Abby Byers. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Brian Rader muscled in this 15 lb. dolphin while fishing on the "Bubblehead" with Steven Strine, Capt. Buddy Whetzel and mates Joey Collins and Kevin Twilley. Brian hooked the mahi near a weed line in 400 fathoms in the Poor Man's Canyon. Weighed at Bahia Marina.



Micheal Dillon and Lisa Hawver, both from Hanover, PA used shiners and squid to fool this pair of flounder while fishing on the headboat, "Tortuga" with Capt. Drew Zerbe and mate Serge Garder. Both fish were caught in the bay behind Assateague Island with the larger of the two measuring 17 1/2-inches and weighing 1 lb. 12 oz. The "Tortuga" is docked at Bahia Marina.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Last Saturday, flounder were snapping in the bay behind Assateague Island and that is where Capt. Cale Layton and mate Joe Marowski on the headboat, "Bay Bee" headed with their anglers. They ended the trip with 7 keepers in the box, all caught on squid and shiners. Michael Granese of Baltimore, MD caught the largest flounder on the trip, a 23-incher, while fishing with Levi Byler of Dover, DE, Aaron Yoder of Dover, DE, John Yoder of Dover, DE, Max Solensky of Reading, PA and Mike Kazmierczak of Reading, PA. Pictured back at the dock at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Rick, Jack and Jess Stetler, Ryan and Dave Roberts and Adam Stoner teamed up to capture 18 yellowfins while fishing on the charter boat, "Boss Hogg" with Capt. Brian Porter and mates Rick Tshudy and Marshall Freng. The tuna were all hooked on trolled ballyhoo and spreader bars in 250 fathoms in the Baltimore Canyon. Pictured back at the dock at Sunset Marina.



Kristine Anderson, Erik Antos, Wayne Cornelius and Bo Shultz had a good day of sea bass fishing during a trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. Everyone caught a nice box full of fish and several boated their limits. All were hooked on squid and clams over natural ocean bottom.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



The black sea bass were really snapping this day for anglers on the charter boat, "Katydid" with Capt. Brent Wiest and mate Chris Vann. All of the fish were caught on chunks of clam at an ocean wreck. Fishing on the "Katydid" were Lititz, PA residents Kathy McClune, Carl High, Kenneth High, Dale Zimmerman, Darnell Zimmerman, Jeff Zimmerman, Justin Zimmerman, Earl Zimmerman and Jordan Zimmerman. Pictured at the Lewes Harbour Marina cleaning station.



Little Audie Rice from Mechanicsville, MD caught and released this 22-inch tautog while fishing on the headboat, "Judith M" with Capt. John Bunting and mate Randy Carl (pictured). Audie hooked the blackfish on a chunk of clam. The "Judith M" is docked at Bahia Marina on 22nd Street in Ocean City.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Kevin Stump from York, PA, Rob Krout from Timonium, MD and Brad Schaale from Howell, NJ returned to the Ocean City Fishing Center with 4 flounder in the box after fishing on the charter boat, "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente and mate Willie Poole. All of the flatties were fooled with white Gulp Swimming Mulletts in the bay behind Assateague Island. Their largest fish measured 17 1/2-inches. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Yellowfin tuna were really snapping in the canyons last Friday and this group of anglers fishing on the charter boat, "Pumpin Hard" were there to take advantage of it, ending their day with 17 in the box in addition to a single mahi. All of the action took place between the Poor Man's and Washington Canyons. Fishing with Capt. Anthony Pino and mates Mike and David Burt were John, Dave and Jacob Karfgin, Ed and Gavin Seaman and Shane Stringfellow. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



This group of Maryland DNR officers spent the day last Friday fishing offshore on the charter boat, "Spring Mix II" with Capt. Chris Watkowski and mates Aryton Pryor and Jacob Lewis. The anglers ended their day with 11 yellowfins, 2 bluefins and 3 mahi in the box after trolling between the Poor Man's and Washington Canyons. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center are Andy, Dean and Vinny Artrip, Vinnie Arillo, Bryce Parrish and Nathan Bradley.



Zack Dell and Merritt Heaton have to be smiling on the inside after catching this pair of bluefin tuna in 30 fathoms near the Hot Dog. The anglers were fishing on the "Troublemaker" with Capt. Kayvan Bahrami and mates Jake and R.J. Stuckey. They also released an additional bluefin during their trip. Pictured back at Sunset Marina in West Ocean City.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Oliver and Carter Bayliss, Rob Yurth, Chip Weiman, Sarah Anderson and George Buerhaus teamed up to boat 17 yellowfin tuna, 3 bigeye tuna and a bluefin tuna while fishing on the charter boat, "Marli" with Capt. Mark Hoos and mates Michael Butler and Dakota Bittner. The bite for these anglers last Thursday was in 200 to 500 fathoms in the Baltimore Canyon. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



Print and television star, Big Bird Cropper of Powellville, MD caught 3 nice size flounder and a 30-inch bluefish while tossing Roy Rigs and Gulp artificial baits around the Rt. 50 Bridge. He also hooked 8 short stripers with all the action taking place in 71-degree water during the outgoing tide. Pictured at the Coastal Fisherman office on Sunset Avenue.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



On the first day of the 2018 Ocean City Marlin Club Small Boat Tournament, Pete Renzi, Michael Renzi, Wayne Whitney and Keith Brasure caught a pair of yellowfins, weighing up to 29.2 lbs., while trolling splash bars in the Poor Man's Canyon. Weighed at Sunset Marina.



Jeremiah Hibner, Vovak Patel, Cheyenne Ingram, Jeff Dillinger, Josh Hibner and Ryan Moore traveled down from Spring Grove, PA to go fishing with Capt. Carey Evans on the "Grizzly" and were rewarded with 8 big black drum. The fish were caught at the Coral Beds while using clams for bait. Their largest black drum weighed 54 lbs. on the scale at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Travis Turner of Baltimore, MD (left) caught an 18-inch flounder and Andrew Kiefer and John Pieroni each caught a nice size flattie while fishing on the headboat, "Happy Hooker" with Capt. Steve Whitlock and mate Charlie Coates. The flounder were hooked on squid and shiners in the bay behind Assateague Island. Pictured back at the Talbot Street Pier.



While fishing at the African Queen wreck, Brandon Solomon of Ocean Pines, MD caught this 29-inch, 9 lb. 8 oz. pollock on a piece of squid.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Tim Moss ventured down from Pennsylvania and spent some time last Friday fishing on the charter boat, "On the Run" with Capt. Dave Caffrey. Tim ended his trip with a 5 lb. sheephead and a pair of flounder measuring 17 and 18-inches. All three were caught around the South Jetty with the sheephead hooked on a sand flea and the flounders fooled with Gulp artificial baits. Pictured at Bahia Marina on 22nd Street in Ocean City.



Last Friday, Jim Bennett, Joe Yarbrough, Tim and Jason Norton, Cathy and Bob Montague and Bryan Vernon had a great day fishing on the charter boat, "That's Right" with Capt. D.J. Churchill and mate Austin Bickford. The anglers caught their limit of 18 yellowfins while trolling ballyhoo and spreader bars in 68-degree water in the Baltimore Canyon.

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- Set your camera to the best quality and largest picture size available
- If you are using a cell phone, make sure it is taking photos at the largest setting possible
- Shoot vertical photos
- Smile!

As always, we do our best to run the pictures we receive; however, we are sometimes unable to run all of the pictures due to space restrictions and other circumstances.



# FISHING CHARTERS



The yellowfins were really biting between the Poor Man's and Washington Canyons last Friday and that is where Capt. Rob Skillman on the charter boat, "Moore Bills" took his anglers with great success. They ended their day with 18 quality tuna in the box. Fishing with Capt. Rob and mates Nate Lang and Brian Behe were Andy, Bernie, Kevin and Bryan Schweigman, Tim Baldwin and Rick Baker. Pictured back at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Kathy Schott was fishing with her husband, Les Schott in the East Channel when they caught 4 flounder, measuring up to 19-inches. All were hooked in a period of 15 minutes at the top of the tide on minnows and Gulp artificial baits.

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# FISH STORIES

by Capt. Franky Pettolina



I rigged my first ballyhoo during the summer of my tenth year on this planet. Capt. Ben Mell was working for my dad on the "Last Call" and we were out on a fun fishing trip. The goal for the day was to catch me my first white marlin (spoiler alert... we didn't succeed...but that is not what this fish story is about anyway).

We were trolling in the Poorman's Canyon. Back in those days the standard ballyhoo rig was a 15 to 50-foot leader made of #9 Malin brand coffee-colored wire with a pin rig to a 9/0 needle eye hook. The rig was usually dressed with a sea witch or some other type of skirt. By today's standards the rig was clunky and huge, but it was the hot ticket during the 70s and most of the 80s.

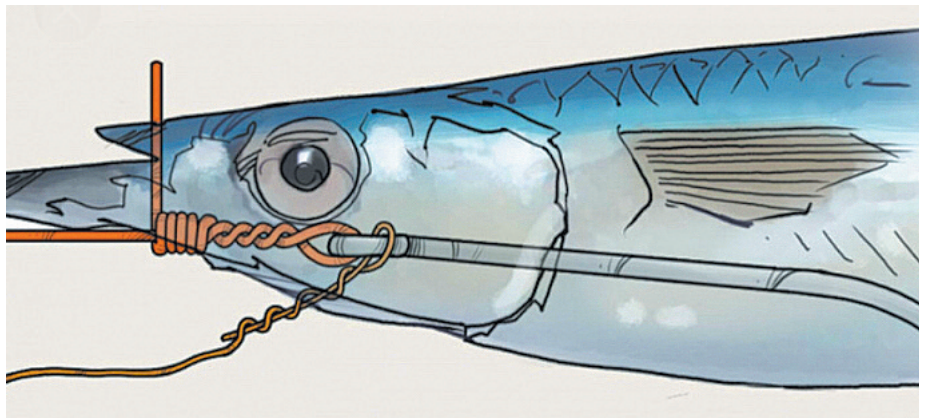
For those of you unfamiliar with the term "pin rig" I will do my best to describe it. The hook is attached to the leader by a haywire twist. Normally when the haywire twist is complete the tag end of the wire would be broken off

leaving a smooth connection. In the pin rig, rather than breaking the tag end off, a half to three quarter inch length is left sticking up at a right angle from the leader, 180 degrees opposite from the bend of the hook. A length of monel or copper wire is then attached to the twist.

To properly rig the ballyhoo to the pin rig you hold the pin even with the hoo's mouth and measure where the bend of the hook will end up protruding out of its belly. You mark the spot in the belly, then insert the hook through the gill plate and bend the baitfish until the hook comes out to the predetermined exit point. When this is done correctly the pin will line up with the mouth and be pushed through. The copper wire, or monel, is then wrapped around the mouth and the pin to secure the head of the bait to the leader. The finished product is then placed in the bait cooler until ready to use.

Since we were not catching any white marlin, Capt. Ben decided to make good use of the time and

teach me the method I just described. Thinking back, he probably did this to get me to stop pestering him with other questions. And it worked. Sort of. I did stop pestering him, but the ballyhoo rigging didn't exactly go perfectly. You see I have these big dumb caveman hands now, and back then I had the same hands, only slightly smaller and without years of practice.



Capt. Ben did his best to coach me. I did my best too, but the end result was not too pretty. Remember that predetermined exit point in the belly of the bait? I marked mine with the point of the hook so that I had a good target to hit. Well I missed. Four or five times I missed. Holy ballyhoo belly Batman! Actually HOLE-y ballyhoo belly. Oh yeah, the pin didn't measure up right either. My perforated ballyhoo seemed to be looking over his shoulder. I guess he wanted to see the

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marlin coming!

When I held up my bait for final inspection Capt. Ben smiled and offered some encouraging words. Then he told me I should go up to the fly bridge and show my dad what I learned to do. Again, thinking back, this was probably a way to get me out of the cockpit (and out of his way) for a while. Up the ladder I went with my first

ballyhoo. Dad offered some of the same encouraging words that Ben did, but didn't stop there. He proceeded to offer some other encouraging words. Words like, "your fish is dripping blood on the deck. Clean it up. Get your mother to bring me a sandwich." Or something like that. A short time later Ben put my ballyhoo out on one of the outriggers. A very short time after that he brought it back in and made some adjustments so that it would stop spinning and actually



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swim a little bit.

Now here I sit some thirty five years later thinking about that first ballyhoo. I would love to know how many ballyhoo I have rigged since that first day. That is something I think any new mate should do. Keep track of the ballyhoo. For me it is in the tens of thousands I am sure. To fish a normal Ocean City day, it is a couple or three dozen. When the bite is good that number goes up. Multiply that by anywhere from 40 to 80 or more days per summer for 30 plus years. Then add in a handful of seasons in Cancun and Isla Mujeres where rigging 80 to 100 per day was not unusual. Throw a few seasons in Venezuela on top of that, although down there it was more like 50 per day. Can't forget about the random days in Florida, the Bahamas and Costa Rica. I may need to add another zero to the number of 'hoos that I have

rigged! Man I wish I had kept track.

So why am I spending all this time thinking about rigging ballyhoo? Because I didn't get to rig any this week. I was supposed to be fishing today, but the plug got pulled on the trip. You see we were going to go looking for the first white marlin of the 2018 season. Unfortunately for me, but very fortunate for my friend Capt. Steve Moore, the first white was caught yesterday. Capt. Steve and his crew on the "Stalker" broke the seal for the 2018 season. Way to go guys! And you know what? Yup, you guessed it. The fish was caught on a ballyhoo. I wonder how many Stevie and the crew rigged yesterday.

*Capt Franky Pettolina is Co-Captain of the charter boat, "Last Call", owner of Pettolina Marine Surveying, Inc. and multi-term President of the Ocean City Marlin Club.*



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Parker Stoltz was soaking a kingfish rig tipped with bloodworms in the surf off Fenwick Island, DE when he hooked this black drum. Photo courtesy of Fenwick Bait & Tackle.

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Last Thursday, Jason Ketner, Gunnar Ketner, Riley Lawrence and Travis Boone teamed up to capture 10 yellowfin tuna while fishing on the charter boat, “That’s Right” with Capt. D.J. Churchill and mate Austin Bickford. The tuna were caught on trolled ballyhoo and spreader bars in 200 fathoms in the Baltimore Canyon.




Paul Reyburn caught this 22-inch pollock while fishing for sea bass on ocean structure in 100-feet of water. Paul was joined on the trip by Blake and Jacob Gunther.

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**BIGEYE TUNA**  
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**YELLOWFIN TUNA**  
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**BLUEFIN TUNA**  
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(Charter Boat)  
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## 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  
-----

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

Only 1 shark from the lists above may  
be retained per vessel per trip. In addition,  
1 Atlantic Sharpnose and 1 Bonnethead  
may be retained per person per trip. No  
size or creel limits on dogfish sharks.  
-----

83" Minimum Fork Length  
Shortfin mako  
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### Prohibited Sharks

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





Owen Anders, age 14, from Newark, DE was fishing from the beach in South Bethany with his dad, Clay Anders when he hooked into this 24 1/2-inch, 5 lb. 5 oz. flounder. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em Outfitters.

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Anglers on the "Hot Lick" headed offshore and returned with this 87 lb. yellowfin tuna and 2 other yellowfins after trolling spreader bars in the Wilmington Canyon. Pictured are Rob Miller, Brett Schappel, James Hammond, Travis D'antoni, Ryan Turner and Chris Miller, all from Middle River, MD.



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Capt. Chris Evans



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Steve Wann, Darrell Long, Daryl Reinke, Steve Pelham, Jeff Marshall and Mike Dwyer had a great day fishing on the charter boat, "Espadon" last Friday with Capt. Sylvain Cote and mates Karl Bieberich and Alex Beane. The anglers teamed up to catch a 150 lb. bigeye tuna and 12 yellowfins. Steve added to the day with a white marlin release. All of the action took place in 300 fathoms outside the Poor Man's Canyon. Pictured back at Sunset Marina.



On Saturday, Mary Darrell of Finksburg, MD captured this 23-inch flounder while drifting a white Gulp artificial bait at the north end of the bay behind Assateague Island.

# TOURNAMENT SERIES

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## 2018 Schedule

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**36th Annual Canyon Kickoff\***  
 FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS  
 Registration: June 28, 6:30 PM  
 Fishing Days: (2 of 3) June 29 & 30 July 1  
 Awards Banquet: July 1, 6:30 PM

**14th Annual Kid's Classic\***  
 To benefit Wish-A-Fish Foundation  
 Registration: July 20, 6:30 PM  
 Fishing Days: (1 of 2 of 2) July 21 & 22  
 Sunday Carnival & Awards: July 22, 5:00 PM

**10th Annual OCMC Ladies' Tournament "Heels & Reels"\***  
 To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund  
 Registration: August 2, 6:00 PM  
 Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 3 & 4  
 Awards Banquet: August 4, 6:30 PM

**60th Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament\***  
 FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS  
 Registration: August 30, 6:30 PM  
 Fishing Days: (2 of 3) August 31 September 1 & 2  
 \*with overnight option Friday/Saturday or Saturday/Sunday  
 Awards Banquet: September 2, 6:30 PM

**3rd Annual OCMC vs. OCLTC Shoot-Out**  
 Angler Meeting: September 6, 7:00 PM  
 Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 7, 8 & 9  
 Awards Banquet: September 9, 6:30 PM

**40th Annual Scott Smith & Charles Kratz Challenge Cup**  
 Registration: September 12, 7:00 PM  
 Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 13, 14 & 15  
 Italian Night: September 14, 6:30 pm  
 Awards Banquet: September 15, 6:30pm

**6th Annual OCMC Rockfish Tournament\***  
 To benefit the Jimmy Fund  
 Registration: December 7, 6:00 PM  
 Fishing Days: (5 of 9) December 8-16  
 Awards Banquet: December 16, 5:00 PM

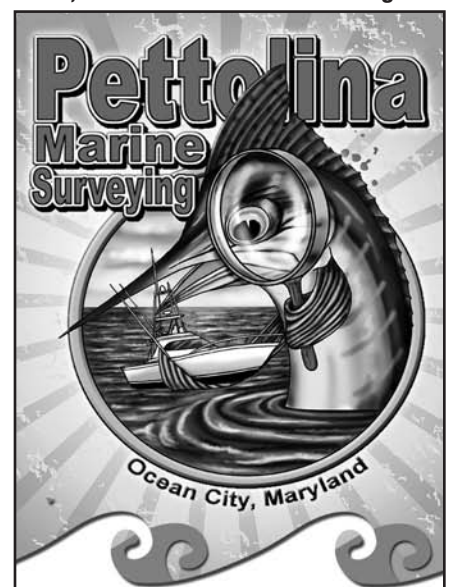
**410.213.1613**

**info@ocmarlinclub.com**





On opening day of the 2018 Ocean City Marlin Club Small Boat Tournament, the crew on the "PYY Marine" headed out to 200 fathoms between the Poor Man's and Baltimore Canyons and returned with a pair of yellowfin tuna weighing 31.6 and 40.0 lbs. Both were hooked on spreader bars. Pictured are Steve Wagner, Janine Samuel, Brandon Cassady, Roy Dove and Steve Channell. Weighed at Sunset Marina in West Ocean City, MD.



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### Cheesy Shrimp Garlic Bread

2 TBSP. unsalted butter  
1 1/2 lbs. large shrimp,  
peeled and deveined  
Kosher salt  
Freshly ground black  
pepper  
2 tomatoes, diced  
4 cloves garlic, minced  
1/4 cup mayonnaise  
1 TBSP. fresh lemon juice  
1 tsp. fresh lemon zest  
1 cup shredded  
mozzarella, divided  
1/2 cup freshly grated  
Parmesan, divided  
1 loaf ciabatta, halved  
lengthwise  
Chopped fresh parsley, for  
garnish

Preheat oven to 375-

degrees.

In a large skillet over medium heat, melt butter.

Add shrimp and season with salt and pepper.

Cook until pink and cooked through, 3 to 4 minutes.

Stir in tomatoes and garlic and cook until fragrant, 1 minute more.

Remove from heat and when cool enough to handle, chop into bite-size pieces.

Transfer to a large bowl and mix with mayo, lemon juice and zest, 1/2 cup mozzarella and 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese.

Season with more salt and pepper.

Spread shrimp mixture onto bread and top with remaining mozzarella and

Parmesan cheeses.

Bake until bread is crispy and cheese is bubbly and golden, 18 to 20 minutes.

Garnish with parsley and slice.

### Slow-Cooker Paella

1 tsp. extra-virgin olive oil  
1 1/2 lb. boneless skinless  
chicken breasts, cut  
into 1-inch pieces  
1/2 lb. chorizo, sliced  
Kosher salt  
Freshly ground black  
pepper  
1 cup short-grain rice  
1 (15 oz.) can diced  
tomatoes  
1 large onion, chopped  
5 cloves garlic, minced  
2 tsp. paprika  
Pinch of cayenne pepper  
2 cups low-sodium  
chicken broth  
1/3 cups dry white wine  
1/2 lb. medium shrimp,  
peeled and deveined  
1 1/2 cups frozen peas  
Freshly chopped parsley,  
for garnish

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Lemon wedges, for  
serving

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat.

Add chicken to one side and chorizo to the other.

Season chicken with salt and pepper and cook until golden, 10 minutes. (Remove chorizo if it's getting too burned.)

In a large slow-cooker, add browned chicken-chorizo mixture, rice, tomatoes, onion, garlic, paprika and cayenne and season with salt and pepper.

Pour over chicken broth and white wine, then stir to combine.

Cover and cook on low until rice is almost tender, stirring occasionally, 1 1/2 to 2 hours.

Remove lid and stir in shrimp and frozen peas.

Cover and cook until shrimp is pink and peas warmed through, about 10 minutes more.

Garnish with parsley and

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serve with lemon wedges.

## Crab Ravioli with Lemon Butter

### Filling

1 cup ricotta cheese  
1 cup. lump crabmeat  
Coarse salt and freshly  
ground pepper  
1/8 tsp. red pepper flakes

### Ravioli

All-purpose flour  
90 wonton wrappers  
1 large egg  
Coarse salt

### Sauce

1 stick unsalted butter  
2 tsp. lemon peel  
2 tsp. fresh lemon juice  
Fresh chervil

Make filling by mixing together ricotta, crabmeat, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/8 teaspoon pepper and the red pepper flakes.

Make ravioli by lightly flouring a baking sheet.

Working in batches, arrange 45 wonton wrappers on a work surface.

Keep remaining wrappers covered with a damp paper towel.

Mound 1 tsp. of crab filling in the center of each.

Brush edges of wrappers with egg wash and top each with another wrapper.

Press edges to seal.

Cut out circles using a 2 1/4-inch cookie cutter.

Transfer to baking sheet.

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil.

Working in 2 batches, cook ravioli until they rise to the top, 2 to 3 minutes.

To make the sauce, heat a large skillet over medium heat.

Melt 4 TBSP. butter and heat until just bubbling and frothy.

Transfer first batch of ravioli to skillet using a slotted spoon, along with about 2 TBSP. cooking liquid.

Add 1 tsp. chopped lemon peel and 1 tsp. juice. Swirl to



David Beach was recently elected Mayor of the 2nd Street Bulkhead and celebrated by catching a pair of flounder measuring 18 and 20-inches. Both were caught on minnows during the incoming tide.

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Jim Lott and Warren Aukett from Gardners, PA, Joe Buckley from Carlisle, PA and Harry Kamnik from Horsham, PA teamed up to catch 12 yellowfins and a bluefin while fishing on the charter boat, "Boss Hogg" with Capt. Brian Porter and mates Rick Tshudy and Marshall Freng. All of the action was in 500 fathoms in the Wilmington Canyon where Capt. Brian found the water temperature at 69-degrees. The anglers caught the majority of their tuna on two passes, going 4 for 5 and 3 for 5. Pictured at Sunset Marina in West Ocean City.

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combine.

Transfer to plates.

Repeat with second batch of ravioli.

Garnish with chervil.

## Crab and Spinach Casserole

2 package of frozen leaf spinach (thawed and drained)

1/2 cup or 1 stick of butter

3 cloves garlic

2 TBSP. grated yellow onion

1/3 cup all-purpose flour

3 cups whole milk

1 cup grated Swiss cheese

1 cup half-and-half

2 tsp. fresh lemon juice

Pinch of garlic powder

Dash of freshly grated nutmeg

1 tsp. salt

1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper

2 lb. fresh crabmeat

1 cup fresh breadcrumbs

Preheat the broiler.

Butter a shallow 2-quart baking dish or eight

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ovenproof individual ramekins.

In a 12-inch skillet over medium heat, sauté the spinach in 2 TBSP. of the butter with the garlic and onion for 3 minutes.

Drain the spinach mixture and chop finely.

Transfer the spinach into the baking dish.

In a large saucepan over medium heat, melt 4 TBSP. of the butter.

Stir in the flour and whisk until smooth.

Reduce heat to low and gradually add the milk, stirring constantly with a spoon until smooth and thickened; 8 to 10 minutes.

Once the sauce is thickened, add the cheese, half and half, lemon juice, garlic powder, nutmeg, salt and cayenne.

Cook over low heat until thickened again, about 10 minutes.

Remove the sauce from the heat and carefully fold in the crabmeat.

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Pour the mixture evenly over the spinach.

Sprinkle with the breadcrumbs and dot with the remaining 2 TBSP butter (you may need more bread crumbs if you're preparing individual servings).

Broil about 5 minutes, until browned.

Let sit 5 minutes before serving.

### Zucchini and Tuna Pappardelle

3/4 lb. dried pappardelle pasta  
1 TBSP. butter  
4 shallots  
1/2 tsp. kosher salt  
1/4 tsp. Freshly ground black pepper  
1/2 cup dry white wine  
1/2 cup chicken or vegetable broth  
2/3 cup heavy cream  
1 cup frozen peas  
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese  
2 TBSP. grated Parmesan cheese

3/4 lb. fresh tuna  
3 zucchini  
1/4 cup chopped chives (optional)  
3 TBSP. lemon juice

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil.

Add pasta and cook until al dente, 8 to 10 minutes.

Melt butter in a large, deep skillet over medium-high heat.

Add shallots, 1/2 tsp. salt, and 1/4 tsp. pepper and cook, stirring often, until deep golden brown, about 5 minutes.

Add wine and cook until almost evaporated, 3 to 4 minutes.

Add broth and cook 2 to 3 minutes.

Reduce heat to medium, whisk in cream, and simmer until just thickened, 3 to 4 minutes.

Stir in peas and cook 1 minute, then gently fold in 1/2 cup cheese and tuna and cook until heated through, 1 to 2 minutes more.



Here's a case where the beard is more impressive than the fish, but Alex Carson from Louisville, KY still had a great day sea bass fishing on the headboat, "Judith M" with Capt. John Bunting. Alex used clams and squid to catch a number of knotheads while fishing near the Bass Grounds. The "Judith M" is docked at Bahia Marina on 22nd Street in Ocean City, MD.

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**Page 44 Coastal Fisherman June 20, 2018**

Drain pasta, reserving a few TBSP. of the cooking water, and transfer both to skillet with tuna and pea mixture.

Add zucchini, 3 TBSP. chives and lemon juice.

Salt and pepper to taste.

Toss gently to combine.

Transfer to a platter and garnish with remaining 2 TBSP. cheese and 1 TBSP chives.

Serve.

### Striped Bass with Heirloom Tomato Scampi

3 TBSP roasted garlic oil  
7 garlic cloves, finely chopped  
2 shallots, finely diced  
1 TBSP. fennel seeds, toasted in a dry skillet  
4 celery ribs, sliced 1/4-inch thick  
1 TBSP drained, chopped capers  
1/4 cup dry white wine  
1 TBSP. red wine vinegar

Grated zest and juice of 1 lemon

3 lbs. mixed heirloom tomatoes, cut in wedges

1 cup tightly packed hand-torn fresh basil leaves

Preheat the oven to 350-degrees.

In a large ovenproof nonstick skillet, heat the olive oil over medium-high heat.

Season the fish liberally with salt and pepper and sprinkle with the lemon zest and juice.

Once the oil begins to shimmer, place the fillets skin-side-down in the pan and let them cook, without moving them, until the skin is crisp and golden brown, 45 seconds to 1 minute.

Give a light push to loosen the skin from the pan.

Add the thyme sprigs to the pan.

Transfer the pan to the oven and bake until the fish flakes easily with a fork, 6 to 8 minutes.

Remove fish from the oven and transfer to paper towels.

In a large skillet, heat the garlic oil over medium-high heat.

Add the garlic, shallots and fennel seeds and cook, stirring frequently, until the shallots are translucent, about 2 minutes.

Add the celery and capers and cook until the celery has softened, about 2 minutes.

Add the wine to the pan and cook until it is reduced by half, about 1 minute.

Add the vinegar, lemon zest and juice, tomatoes and basil and cook for 1 to 2 minutes to incorporate the flavors and heat the tomatoes through.

Serve the fillets topped with the tomato scampi.

### Baked Swordfish with Tapenade and Orange

4 swordfish steaks  
Salt and pepper  
1/2 cup green tapenade

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1 orange, juiced

1/4 cup dry white wine

2 to 3 TBSP. unsalted

butter

Orange slices and minced parsley for garnish

Preheat oven to 400-degrees.

Place swordfish steaks in large shallow baking dish and season with salt and pepper.

Spread tapenade on top of steaks.

Pour orange juice and wine over and around the fish and cover with foil.

Bake until fish is just cooked through, and still opaque, about 8 to 10 minutes.

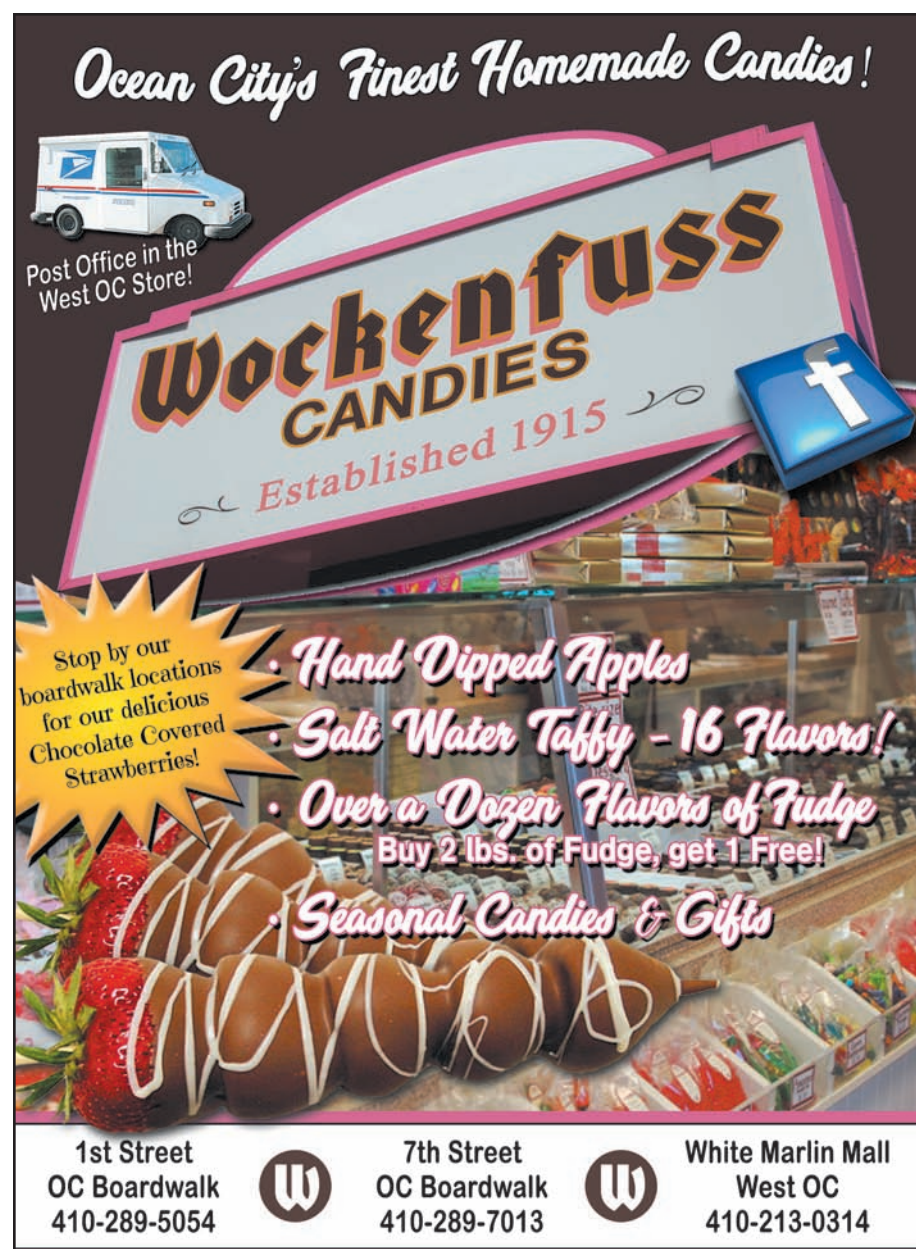
Remove the baking pan from oven and transfer fish to platter.

Pour remaining liquid into a small saucepan and reduce slightly.

Whisk in butter and spoon sauce over fish.

Garnish with orange slices and minced parsley.

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Anglers on the "Talkin Trash" took advantage of an outstanding tuna bite last Friday, returning to the Ocean City Fishing Center with 21 yellowfins, 3 "under" bluefins and a dolphin in the box. They also released a white marlin during the trip. Fishing with Capt. Chris Little and mate Keath Puller were Kevin Morton of Chester, MD, Andrew Carder of Bowleys Quarters, MD, Jon Williams of Essex, MD, Jordan Kimble of Centreville, MD, Joe Jernigan of Pasadena, MD and Steve Sylvester of Kent Island, MD. All of the fish were hooked on trolled ballyhoo in the Poor Man's Canyon.

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Dave Sallac caught this 39.6 lb. black drum in addition to a 34.2 pounder, while fishing with clams at the Coral Beds. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Normally when the guys on the "Jezebel" arrive at the dock they are loaded up with sea bass, but on this day Capt. Chester Sadowski pointed the bow towards the Poor Man's Canyon where they picked up a couple of yellowfins before heading to the Bow Mariner wreck for some sea bassing with fish up to 3 lbs. 10 oz. Fishing with Capt. Chester and mate Tim Kane were Don Riggins of West Ocean City, MD, Jason Courtney of Grasonville, MD and Jacob Wozar of Newark, DE. Pictured at Sunset Provisions.

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05/15 - 9/21 & 10/22 - 12/31



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



**COBIA**  
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**CROAKER**  
8" minimum  
No daily limit



**RED DRUM**  
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12" minimum  
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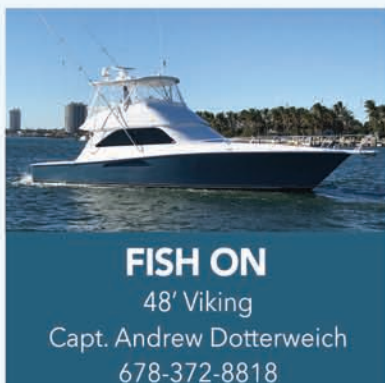
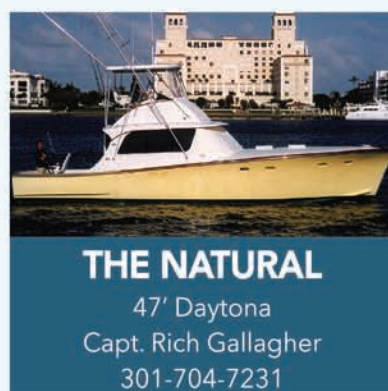


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Jesse Constantino was fishing at Sue's Reef, which is part of the Ocean City Reef Foundation, and caught this 30-inch flounder on a bucktail tipped with a Gulp artificial bait.



While deep dropping in the Baltimore Canyon from the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. D.J. Churchill and mate Mason Newsham, angler Saad Soliman captured this 36.4 lb. golden tilefish. Saad's group ended their day with 25 golden tilefish, 3 blueline tilefish, 15 blackbelly rosefish, 30 sea bass and 3 silver hake. Squid was the bait of choice for most of these fish.



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In an age of selfies, we are bound to get these types of pictures and on this day, Dave Neumayer couldn't find anyone to take a one of him with the 20-inch weakfish he caught while tossing a Roy Rig around the South Jetty one evening early last week. Beautiful fish!



Scottie Miller from Harrisburg, PA has to be ecstatic about catching this 2 lb. 8 oz. black sea bass while fishing on the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Dean Lo and Rich Fouts. The fish was caught on a natural ocean reef. The "Angler" sails out of Capt. Bill Bunting's Angler Dock in Ocean City, MD.

June 20, 2018 Coastal Fisherman Page 51

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Dan McGready from Bethany Beach, DE took top fish honors with a 5 lb. 15 oz. flounder caught on ocean structure during a trip aboard the headboat, "Thelma Dale" out of Lewes, DE. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.



Going after a 3 oz. bucktail tipped with a New Penny Gulp artificial bait being fished by Jason Hewes of Smyrna, DE was the downfall of this 6 lb. 6 oz. flounder. Jason hooked the flounder on ocean structure while fishing on the headboat, "Thelma Dale" with Capt. Rick Yakimowicz. The "Thelma Dale" is docked at Fisherman's Wharf in Lewes, DE. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.




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Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"
Blue Marlin **	Any Size	Any Size
Cobia	44"	45 lbs. or 48"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"
Red Drum *	36"	45"
Sailfish *	Any Size	-
Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"
Speckled Trout	24"	-
Striped Bass	40"	34 lbs. or 44"
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"

\* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program  
\*\*\* Use curved-fork-length measurements



	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u>
Shark:		
Blue Shark *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Hammerhead *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Mako *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Thresher *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Tiger *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size
Tilefish - Blueline		10 lbs. or 28"
Tilefish - Golden		35 lbs. or 40"
Tuna:		
Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lbs. or 32"
False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"
Bigeye ***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"
Bluefin ***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"
Yellowfin ***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"
Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"
Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"
White Marlin **	Any Size	Any Size

\*\* Only released fish are eligible in MD and DE programs



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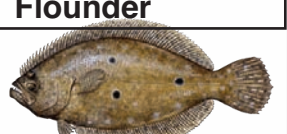








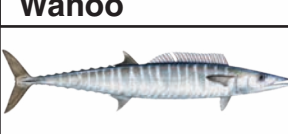




# 2018 Heaviest Fish of the Year

## COASTAL FISHERMAN



(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - TIES GO TO FIRST FISH REPORTED)

Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
<b>Bluefish</b> 	May 9, 2018 John Unkart Assateague Island 12 lbs.	May 30, 2018 John Douds Fenwick Surf 12 lbs. 3 oz.	<b>Mako Shark</b> <span style="color:red">NEW</span> 	June 16, 2018 Crew "Foolish Pleasures" 636 lbs.	No Weights Reported
<b>Black Drum</b> 	No Weights Reported	May 24, 2018 Trent Hill Coral Beds 66.5 lbs.	<b>Thresher Shark</b> 	June 2, 2018 Nick Skidmore Cigar 644.9 lbs.	June 7, 2018 Jamal Merrell "DB" Buoy 232.5 lbs.
<b>Cobia</b> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	<b>Bigeye Tuna</b> 	June 1, 2018 Tim Mollica "Marli" 176 lbs.	No Weights Reported
<b>Flounder</b> 	April 22, 2018 Allyson Airey Flats 7 lbs. 8 oz.	May 11, 2018 Sheila Stohler Delaware Bay 9 lbs. 13 oz.	<b>Bluefin Tuna</b> 	June 2, 2018 Jeff Greenwood Hot Dog 140 lbs.	June 2, 2018 Clay Viands Tea Cup 141.3 lbs.
<b>Sea Bass</b> 	May 19, 2018 Mark Curry "Morning Star" 4 lbs.	May 15, 2018 Charlotte Hughes "Katydid" 3 lbs. 10 oz.	<b>Longfin Tuna</b> 	June 10, 2018 Pete Gudaitis Wilmington Canyon 41 lbs.	No Weights Reported
<b>Sheepshead</b> 	June 8, 2018 Andrew Truitt South Jetty 15 lbs.	No Weights Reported	<b>Yellowfin Tuna</b> <span style="color:red">NEW</span> 	June 16, 2018 <span style="color:red">NEW</span> Christine Drummond Poor Man's Canyon 46.8 lbs.	June 16, 2018 Dylan Wiley Baltimore Canyon 80 lbs.
<b>Striped Bass</b> 	May 28, 2018 Rick Thomas Assateague Island 26 lbs. 12 oz.	May 24, 2018 Susan Krepshaw Indian River Inlet 31 lbs. 10 oz.	<b>Dolphin</b> <span style="color:red">NEW</span> 	June 17, 2018 Paul Kelly Washington Canyon 13.4 lbs.	No Weights Reported
<b>Tautog</b> 	April 18, 2018 Ron McClelland "Fish Bound" 23 lbs. 9 oz.	April 16, 2018 Paul Daisey Ocean Wreck 12 lbs.	<b>Wahoo</b> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
<b>Weakfish</b> 	No Weights Reported	June 2, 2018 Matt Boyer Indian River Inlet 6 lbs. 6 oz.	<b>White Marlin</b> <span style="color:red">NEW</span> 	<b>Most Releases in 1 Day (trolling only)</b>	
			June 13, 2018 "Stalker" 1 release	No Releases Reported	

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





Zach and Trevor Hanna joined Asher Corl, Mahlik Houtz, Eli Hanna and R.J. Shaffer for an offshore trip to the Baltimore Canyon where they caught a 33-inch bluefin, a 40-inch yellowfin and 4 skippies. The anglers were fishing on the "Six Fish Under II".



Ian Murphy from Wilmington, DE was fishing with bucktails in the Lewes Canal when he hooked a pair of twin 2.2 lb. flounder. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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## Can you hear me now?

While there are many options for communicating while on the water, the fixed mount VHF radio is the best way to communicate with others on land or water. Many boaters bring along cell phones, sat phones, Wi-Fi, inReach and EPIRB's on their voyage, these are good devices for many purposes but they should not replace marine VHF. Whether to find the best fishing spots, get a tow back to shore or help with a medical emergency, most maritime communication is conducted over the VHF radio.

There are many different varieties of VHF maritime radios, beginning at around \$100 for either a stationary radio (fixed mount) or a hand held VHF. Additional features, such as AIS and removable or remote microphones can bring up the costs to over \$500.

### VHF performance and use

A maritime VHF radio

transmits at a government regulated maximum of 25 watts, for an average range of about 25 miles between boats. A VHF radio signal transmits to the receiver radio by line-of sight, so the taller the antenna at each location, the farther the range. As many of you know the US Coast Guard has very tall VHF antenna's and operates with more power and special technology to send and receive communications over much larger distances than the average boater's VHF radio. There are 49 VHF channels authorized by the USCG and 7 weather channels used by NOAA Weather Radio. Each channel is assigned a unique frequency between 156 and 162 MHz.

In order for your VHF to send and receive properly, the radio needs to have a good source of power and a good antenna system. While a radio may function on a voltage lower than required, the transmit power output will be reduced and therefore the transmitting range will

be reduced also. For example, the popular ICOM M506's rated output is at a supply voltage of 13.8 volts.

The type, length and connections of the coax cable connecting the radio to the antenna can adversely affect the performance of your VHF radio. There are different types of coax available; generally upgraded coax cable is used for longer runs due to less signal loss.

As an example, high performance RG-8X coax has about a 20% less loss in dB (decibels) than RG-58. The connections in the VHF coax wire can dramatically reduce the power getting to your antenna. A single in-line connection in your coax run can reduce your performance by .5dB, so try to avoid any splices, and if needed, only one splice between the radio and the antenna.

The higher the VHF antenna is mounted above the water, the longer the range of your transmission and reception. Since VHF radio waves travel in a mostly straight line, if your antenna can "see" the other antenna then the radios should be able to send and receive with each other.

Many antennas advertise a "gain" in dB, or apparent increase in output power

resulting from efficiency and directivity of the radio waves. An antenna can't make more power than the VHF radio output, but it can focus the radio waves like a magnifying glass, into a narrow directional beam, effectively increasing the power in that narrow beam. This is great if that narrow beam points to the intended distant VHF radio. But if that narrow beam points up to the moon or down to the water when the boat is rocking on the waves, neighboring boats may not be able to communicate with you since there won't be much power output in their direction.

### Testing

There are a few performance tests a boater or technician can conduct. The first and easiest test is to use your VHF radio to call and talk to a friend on their VHF radio using a proper channel for ship-to-ship communications, but not on Channel 16. The other radio should be a meaningful distance away and known to be in good working order.

You should ask the other party how they hear you and you should listen to see if their signal is loud and clear on your radio. This tests both your send and receive functions along with your

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microphone and speaker.

You can use the NOAA weather transmission as a reception test too. In this area we get a few weather broadcasts on the VHF weather channels.

Be sure you can receive at least one weather station and you may need to compare your VHF radio reception with another nearby boaters VHF reception at the same time to get a worthy comparison. If you have poor reception and other boaters can hear the broadcast clearly, it could mean you have a radio or antenna problem and will need to look into the situation further.

If you even think you have a VHF problem, you should contact a professional technician who can test your VHF radio and antenna system with specialized equipment, and at a minimum, determine the output power of your radio in watts and check your antenna

system loss by calculating the VSWR.

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

The USCG states "In general, any vessel equipped with a VHF marine radio-telephone (whether voluntarily or required to) must maintain a watch on Channel 16 (156.800 MHz) whenever the radio-telephone is not being used to communicate." This is one of the reasons many boaters have two VHF radios. They can leave one VHF tuned to Channel 16 and the other can be used for recreational broadcasts.

An FCC ship station radio license is no longer required for any vessel traveling in United States waters that uses a VHF marine radio, radar or EPIRB, and is not required to carry radio equipment. If

your vessel travels outside the USA to a foreign port (including Bahamas, Mexico, etc) or is over 20 meters in length or falls into a few other classifications, you are required to obtain a "ship station license" from the FCC, using FCC Forms 159 and 605.

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

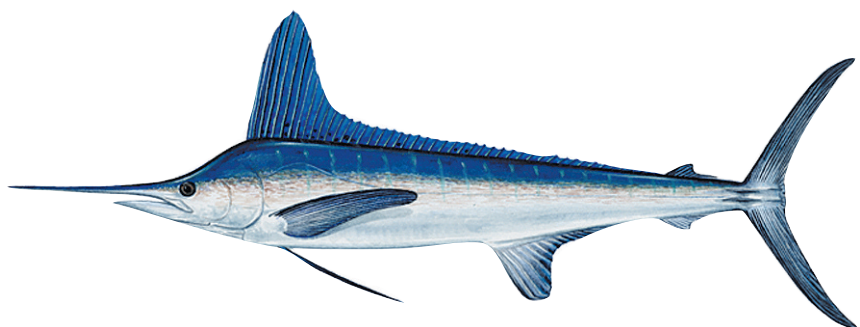
*Captain Steve Katz is the owner of Steve's Marine Service and holds NMEA, AMEI and NMEA2000 certificates along with ABYC Master Technician certification and factory training from many manufacturers. To reach Steve, call (631) 264-1600.*

June 20, 2018 Coastal Fisherman Page 57



Kim Zimmerman is all smiles as she puts the final touches on this catch of a bluefin tuna while fishing on the "Amanda May-Hem" with Elliott Pomeranz and George Whiteman. The bluefin was 1 of 3 hooked this day in the Poor Man's Canyon.

# White Marlin vs BlueMarlin



## Size

Commonly 5.5 feet up to 7.5 feet. Weight ranges from 55 lbs. up to over 90 lbs.

## Distinguishing Characteristics

- First anal, first dorsal and pectoral fins blunt or rounded at tips (first anal fin shape most consistent characteristic); most of first dorsal fin low.
- Pelvic fins short, extending no longer than length of pectoral fin.
- Lateral line single (not chainlike), arched over pectoral fins, then almost straight to caudal fin.
- First dorsal fin blue-black with small dark spots; other fins brown to black.

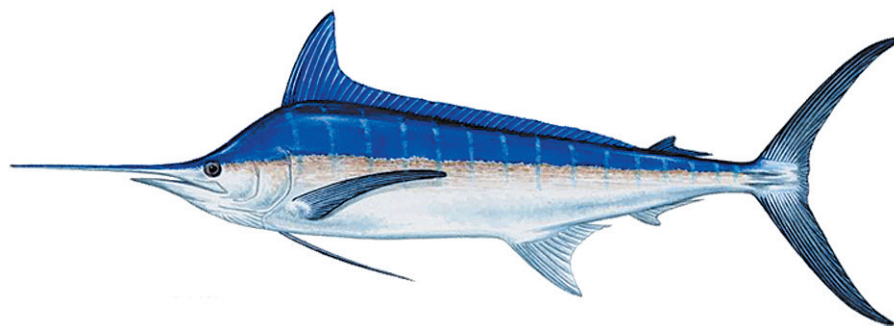
## Habitat

Offshore, usually upper 65-100 feet, depending on water temperature; associated with water temperature greater than 68-degrees

## Similar Species

**Blue marlin** - has first dorsal, pectoral and first anal fins with pointed tips; chainlike lateral line along body; lacks fin spots on first dorsal.

**Longbill spearfish** - has anus well in front of anal fins.



## Size

Commonly 8-9 feet up to 14.5 feet. Blue marlins over 350 lbs. are most likely female.

## Distinguishing Characteristics

- First anal, first dorsal and pectoral fins generally pointed at tips; most of first dorsal fin low
- Pelvic fins short, extending no longer than length of pectoral fins.
- First dorsal fin blue-black, lacking fin spots; other fins brown to black.
- Lateral line chainlike over entire body surface (rather than single line) in juveniles, unclear in adult.

## Habitat

Offshore; usually in surface water between 71 and 88-degrees.

## Similar Species

**White marlin** - has first dorsal, pectoral and first anal fins with rounded tips; spotted first dorsal membranes.

**Longbill spearfish** - has anus well in front of anal fins.



# Government report issued in 1940 on emerging white marlin fishery off Ocean City, Maryland

In 1940, Swepson Earle, formerly a Fishery Engineer for the Department of Fisheries, was commissioned to issue a report to Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior and Charles E. Jackson, Acting Commissioner of the Bureau of Fisheries about an emerging white marlin fishery off the coast of Ocean City, Maryland.

After the first white marlin was landed during the summer of 1935, there was an explosion in the number of white marlin caught in 1938 and beyond, causing much consternation with local sportsmen and charter boat captains, who were worried that the white marlin stock would "be thinned out to the point of destroying what had rapidly become a sport fishery of first rank."

Mr. Earle was asked to survey the fishery to determine if excessive pressure was being placed upon the white marlin fishery and to also determine whether it was worthwhile to implement programs to encourage anglers to release white marlin after being hooked.

The report not only contains a brief early history of the white marlin fishery, but also gives the reader an idea of where the fish were being caught, how they were being caught, the state of the charter boat industry in Ocean City, the methods used in tracking catches and the financial impact of the emerging fishery.

What you see on the following pages are replicas of the actual report submitted by Mr. Earle in 1940. Enjoy!

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF FISHERIES  
WASHINGTON

## THE WHITE MARLIN FISHERY OF OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

By

Swepson Earle, Formerly Fishery Engineer  
Bureau of Fisheries

### INTRODUCTION

The first white marlin to be taken off Ocean City, Maryland, was caught during the summer of 1935. At that time neither the charter boat captains nor the sportsmen who fished for bluefish and channel bass suspected that marlin would become the outstanding game fish of the Maryland sea coast. During the next two seasons, however, catches of 175 and 200 marlin, respectively, were made by sportsmen fishing out of this resort. When the 1938 catch jumped to a figure nearly four times as high as that of 1937, or 781 marlin, both sportsmen and boat captains began to fear that too many marlin were being caught, and that the supply might be thinned out to the point of destroying what had rapidly become a sport fishery of first rank. In 1939 a catch of 1,343 marlin practically doubled the previous year's record.

Through the efforts of charter boat captains and owners of private boats, the assistance of the Bureau of Fisheries in investigating the available supply of marlin was secured during the 1939 season. The writer of this report was detailed to Ocean City to make a preliminary survey of the fishery. This survey had several objectives. The first was to determine, if possible, whether the present sport fishery is taking an excessive toll of the total stock of marlin. The second was to discover whether it is worth while to encourage sportsmen to release the marlin after capture. A further aim was to determine as accurately as possible the value of the present marlin fishery.

The most direct and convenient way to answer the first two questions was believed to be by tagging. Methods of attaching durable tags to these large and vigorous game fish were developed by Robert A. Nesbit, in charge of the Middle and South Atlantic Fishery Investigations of the Bureau of Fisheries, and were successfully applied with the cooperation of charter boat captains and sportsmen. A total of 84 marlin were tagged and released during the 1939 season. Unfortunately, tagging proved less useful than was anticipated. As explained in the discussion of the tagging operations given in a later section of this report, the results of the experiment were inconclusive and have not as yet provided information on the size of the available stock of marlin and the percentage now being taken by fishermen.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Harold L. Ickes, Secretary  
BUREAU OF FISHERIES  
Charles E. Jackson, Acting Commissioner

Special Report

## THE WHITE MARLIN FISHERY OF OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

By

Swepson Earle

Washington, 1940

1-30-06  
Hi Harley,  
As you might know, John Morrison has retired. I've been calling through his stacks of Free-Bee reprints. Thought you might find this one interesting. I especially like the release technique on pg 11.

Best,  
Joe Smith

-2-

Since the most direct method of attack has not yielded the desired results, a more time-consuming and indirect method must be relied upon. If complete and accurate logs are kept by the captains of all vessels engaged in marlin fishing, it will be possible, after a period of several years, to determine whether any changes in the abundance of the stock are taking place. The type of records necessary for such a study are described in detail in a later section of this report. A sample page for a log is given as Figure 6 so that the records may be collected in a systematic and uniform manner. Every charter boat captain may do his part to protect this important fishery by seeing that his log is written up daily, and by making it available to state or government officials at the close of the fishing season.

Grateful acknowledgement is made of the cooperation in the marlin tagging work extended by the Game Fishermen's Association of Ocean City, charter boat captains, owners of private boats and other sportsmen, and the local press.

### THE MARLIN FISHERY

**Location.**— Ocean City, Maryland, is located on the strip of land known as Sinepuxent Beach, which separates the Atlantic Ocean from the inland bays of Worcester County, Maryland. Just south of and adjacent to the summer resort is Ocean City Inlet, which is the only navigable ocean entrance to the inside waters between Cape Henlopen and Chincoteague Inlet, and is about half way along this 61 mile stretch.

The present inlet was cut by the destructive storm of August, 1933, shortly after the State of Maryland, realizing the benefits to commercial and sport fishing that would result from the existence of a permanent inlet, had approved a half million dollar bond issue for this purpose. Through the cooperative efforts of the State and the War Department, the necessary jetties were built and dredging operations were carried on to make the inlet permanent.

At the time it was expected that the commercial fisheries, especially the shellfish industries of the inland bays, would receive the greatest benefit from the inlet. However, the white marlin fishery, which is directly dependent on the inlet, has developed during the short period of four years to a lucrative enterprise which is estimated to bring more than \$300,000 a year to Ocean City. Since it gives employment to commercial fishermen who man the charter boats carrying anglers to the fishing grounds, the marlin fishery has considerable commercial as well as recreational importance.

**The Jack Spot.**— The main fishing grounds of the marlin fishing fleet of Ocean City is a shoal 5 miles long and about 2 miles wide, called "The Jack Spot." This shoal lies 22½ miles southeast by south of Ocean City Inlet, and is about 11 miles northeast of Winter Quarter Shoal Lightship.



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An examination of the original hydrographic sheet of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey indicates that at one time the Jack Spot was a large shell rock, as broken shells are found around the shoal in depths up to 70 feet. The shoal is covered now with fine brown sand and lies at a depth of from 47 to 60 feet. Many finger shaped shoals lie inshore of the Jack Spot, with their long axes extending northeast and southwest, and some marlin have been caught on these shoals. However, more marlin are taken on the 10 square miles of the Jack Spot than on any other area off Ocean City, or within a radius of hundreds of miles. On July 28-30 of the 1939 fishing season the marlin schooled on the Jack Spot and were so plentiful every angler had more than one chance to land a fish. On July 29, 171 marlin were boated - the largest single day's white marlin catch in the history of the country.

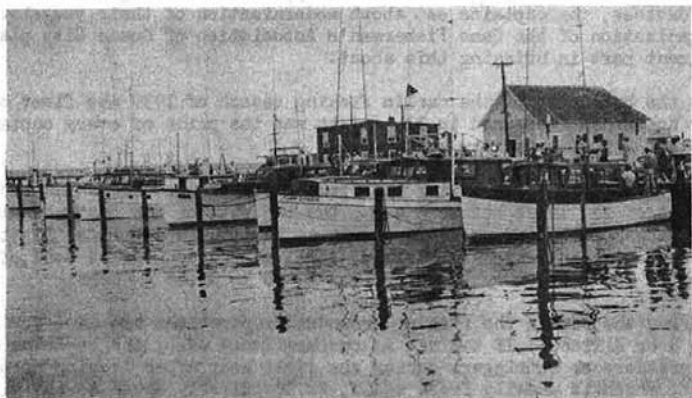


Figure 1. Part of Ocean City's marlin fleet.

While the Jack Spot may be termed the center of the white marlin fishing grounds off Ocean City, the fleet fishes from Winter Quarter Shoal Lightship to Fenwick Island Shoal Lightship, and both east and west of the main fishing spot. It is safe to say that the Ocean City Charter boats troll over 770 square miles of the waters off Ocean City during the marlin fishing season. (Figure 5)

The fish become very much scattered after a northeaster or following a drop of a few degrees in the temperature of the water. This was noted especially between July 8-15, 1939, following a sudden drop in the water temperatures. On July 7, 40 marlin were boated, which at that date was a record catch for Ocean City. The following day the water temperature dropped about 6 degrees and the fish seemed to vanish. The charter boat captains became uneasy after several blank days. On July 12, two of the larger boats

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made a run off shore for forty miles and encountered a school of marlin headed in the direction of the Jack Spot. On July 17, after the water temperature became normal, a catch of 35 marlin was recorded. Southerly winds continued, and with a rise in the water temperature larger catches of marlin were made.

**The Fishing Fleet.**- In 1936, when the small fleet of 12 seagoing boats made their first trips to the marlin fishing grounds, between twenty and twenty-five miles off shore, they were not well equipped to cope with the elements. Many "tender foot" sportsmen balked at having twenty miles of blue ocean water between their 40 foot boat and the nearest land. Some of the boats, equipped with only one engine, developed engine trouble from time to time, and this hurt the charter boat business. Realizing that their future depended upon able boats equipped with two engines and modern safety devices, the captains set about modernization of their vessels. The organization of the Game Fishermen's Association of Ocean City played a prominent part in bringing this about.

At the beginning of the marlin fishing season of 1939 the fleet of charter boats had increased to 39, and it was the pride of every captain to maintain a fast seaworthy boat.

**Methods of Fishing.**- During the fishing season the fleet as a whole passes out of the inlet before 5 a.m., the majority of the boats heading for the Jack Spot. Some go as far south as Winter Quarter Shoal Lightship, others as far north as Fenwick Island, still others some miles east of the Jack Spot. The boats vary in speed from 12 to 16 miles an hour.

During the run to the fishing grounds, preparations are made for fishing the 3 or 4 lines. If the sea is comparatively calm, the captains drop their spreaders or outriggers during the first hour after leaving port. The bait, which is usually fresh squid, is practically sewed to the wire leader, leaving two hooks exposed. By 7:30 a.m. most of the boats have their lines out trolling.

If four sportsmen are to fish, the two spreader lines are baited and drawn to the extreme end of the out-rigger and attached to snapper pins, permitting the bait to drag about 200 feet beyond the stern of the boat. The reel is adjusted for a pull of about 20 pounds. After the two outside lines are placed, the two rear center lines are made ready and adjusted to allow the bait to extend some 30 feet farther astern so as not to foul when the boat makes turns. A brightly painted piece of wood about a foot long, known as a teaser, is then dropped astern for a distance of about 100 feet. This jumping decoy often attracts the marlin. The two stern fishermen must hold their rods, using free spooling, until a strike is noted and the fish is on. Then the hook is set and the marlin is permitted to make a run of a hundred or more yards.

Since the marlin kills its food by spearing it, the lines extending from the spreaders permit the bait to float on the surface of the water like a dead fish for about ten seconds after a strike before the speed of

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the boat has taken up the slack. By that time the marlin has taken the bait in its mouth and started to run.

Most of the charter boats leave the fishing grounds around three or three thirty in the afternoon. This gives the sportsmen between seven and eight hours on the fishing grounds or, in other words, the fishing boat is gone a half day from the time it leaves port until it returns. Inexperienced fishermen may suffer from bad sunburns if they are not provided with long visor caps, sun glasses and face oil.

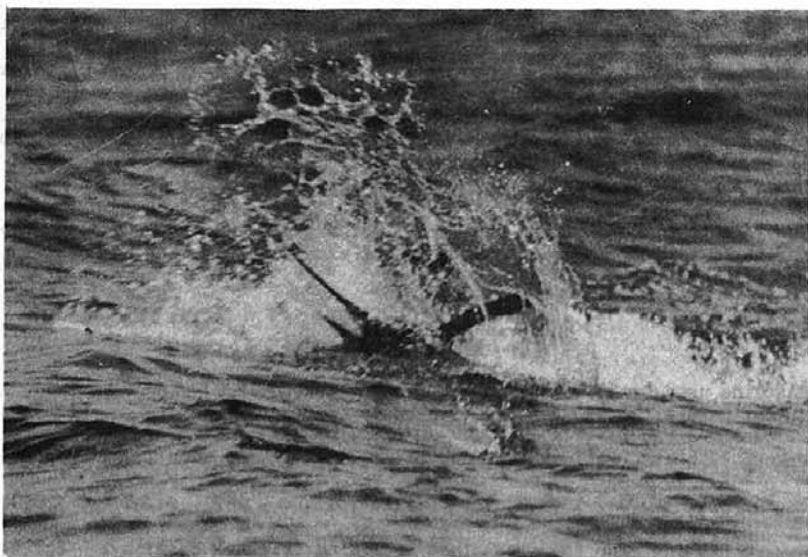


Figure 2. Marlin breaking water.

The charter boat captains and crews are busy from morning until night during the marlin fishing season. After the boats dock, the fish have to be weighed and measured, the boats gassed up for the following day, fresh bait secured, and the next day's charter definitely settled.

Most of the boats are booked well in advance and during the past season it was not difficult for a captain to make a new charter in a few hours when his fishing party was delayed by accident or emergency. During

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the last week in July and the first week in August premiums were offered for boats because of the unusual demand and a half dozen or more additional boats would have found employment, if they had been available.

During the past two fishing seasons at Ocean City the charter boat owners and captains have realized that they are engaged in a real business enterprise which requires bookkeeping methods. From this information which was generously put at the disposal of the writer, it has been possible to make a fair estimate of the cost of upkeep of the boats and the main items of expense.

**Value of the Fishery.**— Just how much money is invested in the fleet of charter boats engaged in marlin fishing from the port of Ocean City cannot be definitely stated, owing to the fact that many of the boats have made improvements, such as an additional engine for trolling, radio equipment and other aids to the seaworthiness of their craft. However, considerable information on the subject has been supplied by the boat owners, and it is conservative to state that at least \$175,000.00 has been invested in boats and equipment alone.

Although the captains charge \$35 for a day's charter of a boat, the margin of profit over maintenance is not excessive, as will be noted in the figures below.

#### Maintenance

Gasoline used by 37 boats (marlin fishing season 1939) was approximately 123,950 gallons (two boats of fleet Diesel) . . . \$22,311.00

Upkeep 39 boats, railway hauling, paint, etc. @ \$400 each . . . 15,600.00

Engine oil. . . . . 5,850.00

Upkeep fishing gear for fleet (not including original cost) . . . 2,925.00

Bait, chiefly fresh squid . . . . . 4,000.000  
\$50,686.00

#### Income from Marlin Fishing

The 39 boats receive direct from the sportsmen for daily charter, @ \$35.00 a boat, during the 57 fishing days (1939) . . \$77,805.00

It has been calculated from reliable sources that the average sportsman making a trip to Ocean City for marlin fishing spends from thirty-five to fifty dollars a day, exclusive of the charter boat.

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The amount of money spent by sportsmen in 1939 for general expenses, based on \$35.00 a day per fisherman, three men to a boat, (exclusive of all privately owned pleasure yachts, their owners and guests) is estimated at . . . . . \$233,415.00

Adding to this figure the money paid for charter boats gives a total of . . . . . \$311,220.00

Miss Elizabeth Henry, manager of the Eastern Shore Times, published at Berlin, Maryland, estimates that the marlin fishery has grown so in value that it is now worth half a million dollars to Ocean City.

**Records of the Marlin Catch.**— A careful check of all available sources of information indicates that catches of marlin during the past four years were as follows:

Year	Total Catch	Maximum Size
1936	175	112 lbs.
1937	200	130 lbs.
1938	781 1/2	118 1/2 lbs.
1939	1343	113 lbs.

Number charter boats marlin fishing 1936 - 12 to 23

Number charter boats marlin fishing 1939 - 39

Number privately owned boats fishing 1939 - 25

The years 1936-37 lack definite checks on number of marlin caught and weight and length of fish.

**Length of the Fishing Season.**— An examination of the fishing records since 1936 indicates that the marlin fishing season may be lengthened by starting in June and extending the season until after Labor Day, or if weather conditions warrant, until the middle of September.

It is the opinion of the charter boat captains that they have missed the first run of marlin. The catch records for the past two seasons would seem to substantiate this belief. In 1938 the first marlin was caught on June 23, although active fishing by the fleet did not start until the Fourth of July. From that date fishing was continuous, with the exception of some stormy days, until the fifth of September. During the past season, the records show that the first marlin was caught off Ocean City on June 15.

<sup>1</sup>For the year 1938, the figure commonly given for the total catch of marlin for the season is 910. However, there are no complete records on file to substantiate this figure. The Eastern Shore Times of Berlin, Maryland, published the weekly catch of marlin throughout the season of 1938, and as the published figures were never disputed they are made a part of this report. The total catch for that season is 781 marlin.

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Active fishing by the fleet was started June 22, and ran continuously until the northeaster which set in August 26. A long spell of bad weather had its effect on both the fish and the usual Labor Day fishermen. However, from past Weather Bureau records northeasters often strike the latter part of July and early in August, and then a spell of fine fishing weather will keep the sportsmen interested and the boats active.

It would seem feasible, therefore, to start the marlin fishing season about the middle of June, as many fishermen would like to get a few days at sea before the Fourth of July rush. Some of the hotels at Ocean City would be ready to care for guests as early as June 15. If the charter boats were fishing the last half of the month of June it would compensate them for such a spell of stormy weather as was experienced this past season. Under normal conditions it may be possible to extend the season from fifteen to thirty days.

#### METHODS OF DETERMINING THE CONDITION OF THE MARLIN FISHERY

The large catches of white marlin being made off Ocean City, Maryland, were first called to the attention of the Bureau of Fisheries during the latter part of July, 1938. Although a visit to the fishing grounds was made by Acting Commissioner Charles E. Jackson and Robert A. Nesbit, in charge of the Bureau's Middle and South Atlantic Fishery Investigations, it was considered too late in the season to begin an investigation of the status of the fishery. A survey was undertaken, however, in 1939.

**Tagging.**— Although the tagging of large game fish is still in an experimental stage, it was decided to try this direct method of attack in the hope that it would provide an early answer to the problems of the marlin fishery. If successful, the tagging would show approximately what proportion of the total stock of marlin is now being caught. It would also show whether releasing the marlin alive would improve present and future fishing by answering the question — will a marlin live if released after a long fight?

In order to determine whether tagging marlin is feasible, Mr. Nesbit and the writer visited Ocean City on July 5, 1939. Through the cooperation of Miss Elizabeth Henry, Manager of the Eastern Shore Times, Captain L. B. Raymond placed his boat, the LEV-LOU, at the service of the Bureau of Fisheries representatives on July 6. This day proved a blank, with not a strike recorded. Other boats fared little better, for the catch for the entire fleet that day was 20 marlin. The next day a trip was made on the MISS MARYLAND through the courtesy of Captain Wm. Bunting. Shortly before eight o'clock, the writer had the first strike, which proved to be one of the largest marlin caught during the season. When brought to the stern of the boat nearly an hour later it was still green. Following Captain Bunting's advice, the fish was brought close to the stern and was then

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By July 18 a sufficient number of the captains had been instructed and supplied with equipment. From that date until August 23, marlin were tagged and released until the total number reached 84. Just what per cent of these fish survived the fight with the angler and the tagging is not known. It is the writer's opinion that the chances of survival were good, as most of the fish were green when tagged and were observed to swim off after release. Another favorable circumstance is the fact that one boat, the HILDA, tagged and released 32 fish. The captain and mate became so expert in the work that the fish were landed in good condition after only a short fight and were tagged and released in an average time of two minutes.

Up to the present time (February 1940) no tags have been returned. There are three possible reasons for the lack of recoveries. First, the marlin may not have survived the ordeal of capture and tagging. Second, the number of fish actually caught may represent only an insignificant proportion of the total stock. Finally, the marlin taken on the Ocean City grounds may be migrating rapidly through the fishing area, so that there would be little opportunity for the same fish to be caught twice in one season. At the present time, it is impossible to choose among these explanations. It is still an open question, therefore, whether the marlin need protection, and whether releasing the fish after capture would afford protection. Whether a second or a third season of tagging will yield useful results is problematical. In any event, the lack of returns from the first season's tagging shows that it is wiser not to rely entirely upon this method, but to enlist the cooperation of boat captains in keeping the records described below.

**Records of the Fishery.**— Although slower and less direct than the tagging method, the keeping of complete and accurate logs by the captains of all vessels engaged in the marlin fishery is certain to yield information of value in determining the true status of the marlin fishery. These logs must record the number of marlin caught each day, the size of the individual fish, the number of days on which no fish were caught, the number of hours of fishing each day, and the condition of the weather.

With the information available at the present time, we are not able to determine either the condition of the resource or the intensity of the fishery. Although we know the total catch and the number of boats in the fleet, we have no record of the number of days each boat fished. In studies of this kind, it is just as important to have a record of the days on which a boat caught no fish as it is to know about the days on which the largest catches were made. If we know the average catch per boat per day, we can determine how much fishing effort is required, on the average, for the capture of a single marlin. If the necessary fishing effort increases sharply from one year to the next, we are safe in assuming that marlin have become less abundant.

This information on the number of blank days and the average amount of effort required to catch a marlin is of interest both to charter boat

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hauled aboard and the tail was successfully wedged. By slightly bending the fish's body and using the spike to manipulate it into position, the marlin was rendered practically motionless for tagging. (Figure 3)

First a rubber band tag was slipped over the spike as far as the mouth, care being taken not to get it far enough to interfere with free closing. The second operation was more tedious. An awl was used to make a small hole in the operculum or gill cover, then a reward tag was placed on the bottom of a nickel pin which was threaded through the hole. A numbered tag was then placed on the top of the operculum, the pin cut and turned down with pliers. The entire operation from the time the fish was brought on deck was less than 3 minutes. Care was exercised in releasing



Figure 3. Attaching a tag to the gill cover of a marlin. Notice rubber band tag already in place on snout.

the fish, as it still showed plenty of fight and swam off rapidly, appearing no worse for the adventure. Two more marlin were landed that day by Mr. Nesbit and both were tagged and released.

In order that between 50 and 100 marlin might be tagged during the season, it was decided to supply the captains of charter and private boats with tags and equipment and to instruct them in the Bureau's methods of tagging. It was necessary also to keep an accurate record of the tag numbers and to interest as many sportsmen as possible in tagging and releasing marlin. The writer was accordingly detailed to Ocean City for the balance of the marlin season to supervise the tagging work for the Bureau of Fisheries.

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captains and to sportsmen. No captain wants to return his party to port with nothing more to show for their day at sea than a dose of sunburn. He has a very practical interest in keeping the fishery at its present level of abundance. On the other hand, the sportsman who pays \$35 a day for the charter of a boat has a right to ask whether he has a fair chance



Figure 4. Releasing the marlin after tagging.

of landing his marlin during the first day out, or whether he is likely to be compelled to go out several days to catch a fish. While at the present time it is often said that an average day's fishing from Ocean City probably offers the big game angler a larger return on the dollar than a day anywhere

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else on the Atlantic Coast, we shall need to watch the records of the blank days on the logs in order to be forewarned in ample time should depletion set in.

A careful record of the size of all the marlin caught each season will give a second check on the condition of the fishery. If the average size of the fish declines consistently over a period of several years, this will be a warning of depletion.

Such complete records of the fishery, kept over a period of several seasons, will show whether any changes in the abundance of marlin are taking place, and will allow safeguards to be applied in time. The Bureau of Fisheries will undertake to analyze the data collected, but the complete cooperation of those interested in the maintenance of the fishery will be needed if useful records are to be obtained.

Table 1.  
WHITE MARLIN TAGGED OFF OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

1939	BOATS	NO.
July 7	MISS MARYLAND . . . . .	3
" 18	HILDA AND HILDA II . . . . .	2
" 21	HILDA II AND LEV-LOU . . . . .	2
" 26	HILDA . . . . .	2
" 27	HILDA - WITCHFIN - HAPPY DAYS - DODJIM . . . . .	9
" 28	HILDA - MISS MARYLAND - EM-PRIS II - LURE - CUTTY SARK - HILDA II . . . . .	10
" 29	WITCHFIN - CECIL B - HAPPY DAYS - TOROBILL - ALIBI - CUTTY SARK - HILDA - SEAGOIN . . . . .	16
" 30	HILDA - HILDA II - EM-PRIS II - WITCHFIN - TOROBILL - MISS OCEAN CITY - KATHERINE . . . . .	19
Aug. 3	HAPPY DAYS - SPLINTER - HILDA . . . . .	3
" 4	JESS . . . . .	1
" 6	JESS - HILDA - CUTTY SARK . . . . .	5
" 7	JACPAU III . . . . .	1
" 9	CUTTY SARK . . . . .	1
" 10	JIM-DANDIE . . . . .	1
" 11	HILDA . . . . .	3
" 12	HAPPY DAYS . . . . .	2
" 13	HILDA . . . . .	1
" 17	HILDA . . . . .	1
" 21	HILDA II . . . . .	1
" 23	JACPAU III . . . . .	1
Total		84

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Table 2.  
DATES MARLIN WERE CAUGHT, TAGGED AND RELEASED

1939	BOAT	CAPTAIN	SPORTSMAN	NO.
July 7	MISS MARYLAND	Bunting	R. A. Nesbit & S. Earle	3
" 18	HILDA II	Savage	B. P. McKenna	1
" 18	HILDA	Gray	J. Paul Blundon	1
" 21	HILDA II	Savage	Edw. A. Doff	1
" 21	LEV-LOU	Raymond	Dr. W. T. Burch	1
" 26	HILDA	Gray	G. E. Bartol, Jr.	1
" 26	HILDA	Gray	F. H. Bohlen	1
" 27	HILDA	Gray	Bohlen & R. F. Jefferys	4
" 27	WITCHFIN	Mathis	F. Doan & W. S. Mathis	2
" 27	HAPPY DAYS	Massey	R. M. Eaves & Dr. Wolfe	2
" 27	DODJIM	Taylor	S. D. Shuster	1
" 28	HILDA	Gray	G. E. Bartol, Jr. & Jefferys	5
" 28	MISS MARYLAND	Bunting	H. P. Metcalf	1
" 28	EM-PRIS II	Jim Whaley	J. E. Griffith, Jr.	1
" 28	LURE	H. Bunting, Jr.	N. E. Calhoun	1
" 28	CUTTY SARK	Hall	Dr. A. C. Gray	1
" 28	HILDA II	Savage	H. Cornett	1
" 29	WITCHFIN	Mathis	C. A. Bunting & G. V. Rogers	2
" 29	CECIL B.	T. Bunting	G. H. Puryear	1
" 29	HAPPY DAYS	Massey	C. M. Chafey	1
" 29	TOROBILL	Lance	James Cook	1
" 29	ALIBI	Fulton	James Dunn	1
" 29	CUTTY SARK	Hall	J. I. Hall	2
" 29	HILDA	Gray	R. T. Vavrina & J. Hoffman	2
" 29	HILDA	Gray	R. Hoffmeister	1
" 29	SEAGOIN	Madson	Mr. & Mrs. T. R. Mullen	2
" 29	SEAGOIN	Madson	C. Thos. Mullen	3
" 30	HILDA II	Savage	I. Feist & M. Meyer, Jr.	2
" 30	EM-PRIS II	Whaley	J. Riedman & H. Tietjen	2
" 30	HILDA	Gray	D. F. Walcott & S. Sussman	4
" 30	HILDA	Gray	H. Canby & E. Lord	4
" 30	WITCHFIN	Mathis	W. S. Mathis	2
" 30	TOROBILL	Lance	C. L. Parker	3
" 30	MISS OCEAN CITY	Bloxom	M. I. Harber	1
" 30	KATHERINE	Parsons	C. H. Mason	1
Aug. 3	HAPPY DAYS	Massey	G. O. Sutton	1
" 3	SPLINTER	Nichterlein	A. S. Woodruff	1
" 3	HILDA	Gray	G. H. Phillips	1
" 4	JESS	Kelly	Pa. Fishing Tackle Co.	1
" 6	HILDA	Gray	R. Hughes & T. Welling	2
" 6	CUTTY SARK	Hall	Dr. B. Jones & B. Jones	2
" 6	JESS	Kelly	V. Cook, Jr.	1
" 7	JACPAU III	Hatch	Lou Gherig	1
Carried forward				73

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Table 2 (Cont.)

1939	BOAT	CAPTAIN	SPORTSMAN	NO.
Carried forward				
Aug. 9	CUTTY SARK	Hall	J. I. Hall	1
" 10	JIM-DANDIE	Lombard	J. Lombard	1
" 11	HILDA	Gray	C. Kendig & C. G. Watt	2
" 11	HILDA	Gray	A. C. Darmstetter	1
" 12	HAPPY DAYS	Massey	A. J. Smith	1
" 13	HILDA	Gray	Mrs. N. Stevens & M. Beattie	2
" 17	HILDA	Gray	N. Ford	1
" 21	HILDA II	Savage	S. K. Mitchell	1
" 23	JACPAU III	Hatch	Bill Hatch	1
Total				84

Table 3.  
DAILY CATCH OF MARLIN FOR YEAR 1938 AT OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND  
FROM PUBLISHED RECORDS OF THE EASTERN SHORE TIMES, BERLIN, MD.

DATE	NO. FISH	DATE	NO. FISH	DATE	NO. FISH
June 23	1	July 25	21	Aug. 14	5
July 5	1	" 26	30	" 15	1
" 7	11	" 27	20	" 16	6
" 8	16	" 28	22	" 17	7
" 9	9	" 29	28	" 18	6
" 10	23	" 30	29	" 19	3
" 11	21	" 31	15	" 20	15
" 12	31	Aug. 1	9	" 21	0
" 13	24	" 2	13	" (Stormy)	
" 14	11	" 3	9	" 22	13
" 15	12	" 4	6	" 23	24
" 16	36	" 5	8	" 24	8
" 17	25	" 6	11	" 25	10
" 18	26	" 7	8	" 26	20
" 19	32	" 8	7	" 27	15
" 20	0	" 9	5	" 28	16
(Stormy - no catch)		" 10	3	" 29	2
" 21	37	" 11	1	" 30	4
" 22	22	" 12	0	" 31	5
" 23	17	" (16 Tuna)		Sept. 1	1
" 24	9	" 13	2	" 2	3
				" 3	3
				" 4	3

Total number of fish caught . . . . . 781  
First fish of season caught by privately owned boat, June 23 . . .  
Number of fishing days by charter boats . . . . . 61  
Stormy days when no boats were on fishing grounds . . . . . 2

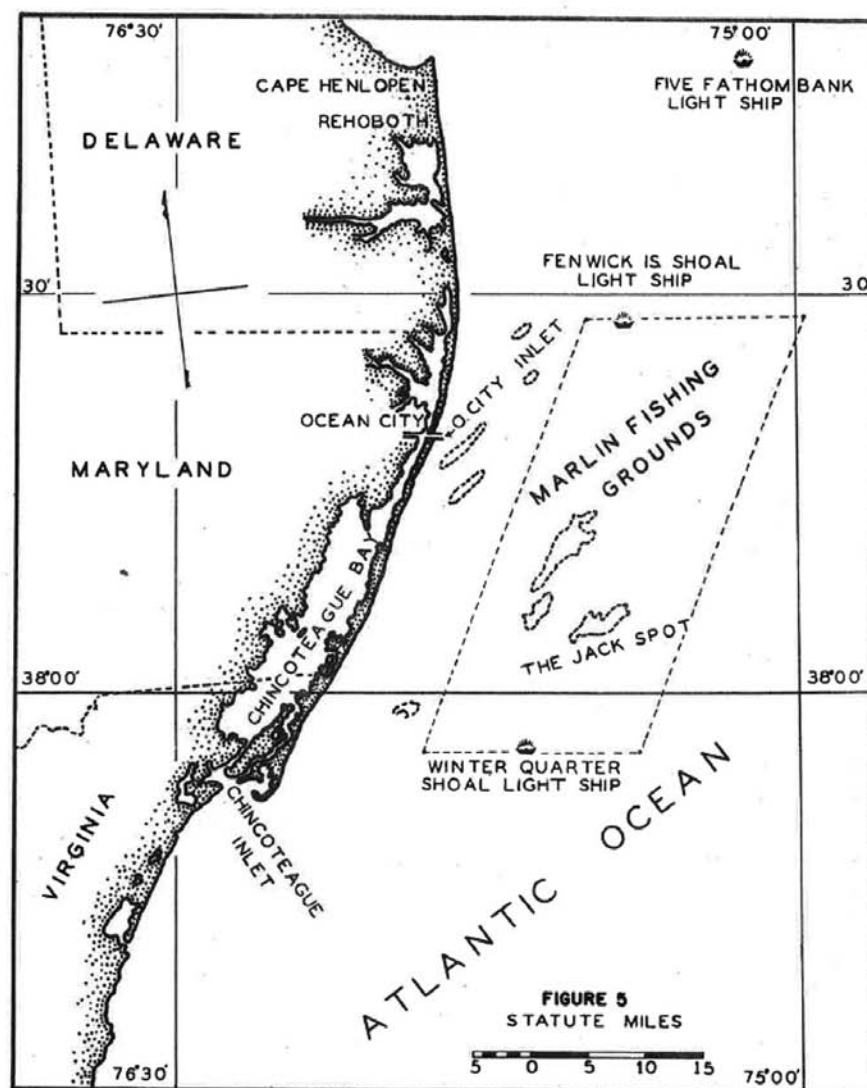


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Table 4.  
DAILY CATCH OF MARLIN FOR YEAR 1939 AT OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND  
FROM RECORDS OF GAME FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF OCEAN CITY, MD.

DATE	NO. FISH	DATE	NO. FISH	DATE	NO. FISH
June 16	1	July 19	14	Aug. 9	26
" 22	1	" 20	14	" 10	17
" 24	2	" 21	6	" 11	38
" 25	7	" 22 (stormy)	0	" 12	30
" 26	6	" 23	3	" 13	37
" 27	3	" 24	8	" 14	18
" 28	1	" 25	14	" 15	19
July 2	6	" 26	26	" 16	19
" 3	15	" 27	72	" 17	10
" 4	13	" 28	123	" 18	13
" 5	3	" 29	171	" 19 (stormy)	0
" 6	20	" 30	161	" 20	7
" 7	40	" 31	60	" 21	10
" 8	4	Aug. 1	21	" 22	6
" 10	1	" 2	19	" 23	12
" 12	5	" 3	22	" 24	10
" 13	1	" 4	8	" 25	11
" 15	2	" 5	9	" 26	1
" 16	8	" 6	49	" 27 (stormy)	0
" 17	35	" 7	24	" 28 (stormy)	0
" 18	23	" 8	38	" 29 (stormy)	0
				" 30 (stormy)	0
				" 31 (stormy)	0

Total number of fish caught . . . . . 1,343  
 First fish of season caught by privately owned boat, June 16  
 Number of fishing days by charter boats . . . . . 64  
 Stormy days when no boats were on fishing grounds . . . . . 7  
 Number of marlin tagged and released . . . . . 84



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2ND "SEACRAFT 23" 4.0 LBS.  
3RD "SEACRAFT 23" 3.8 LBS.

### SEA BASS

1ST "JEZEBEL" 1.6 LBS. \$390  
2ND "JEZEBEL" 1.6 LBS.  
3RD "JEZEBEL" 1.4 LBS.

### DALE BROWN AWARD - FISH MAGNET II

46 Boats Entered - Day 1 (38 Boats) Day 2 (8 Boats)

**Total Prize Money \$14,180**



First place in the Billfish Release Division of the 2018 Ocean City Marlin Club Small Boat Tournament was won by the anglers fishing on the "Joken" with a white marlin release recorded at 7:37 AM on the first day of the event. Casey Smith released the white marlin after hooking it on a trolled ballyhoo near the Triple O's while fishing with Ken Smith, Nathan Miller, Mike Haas (not pictured) and Bill Hunsberger (not pictured). The anglers also caught 5 yellowfins during their trip. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



The anglers on the "Offshore Hooker" had a Small Boat Tournament to remember, arriving at the scale on the first day with 3 bigeye tuna in the box that were caught in 330 fathoms in the Poor Man's Canyon. As is usually the case, the anglers got blitzed with 7 bigeyes and were able to get 3 into the boat. The tunas weighed 83.2, 92.0 and 98.6 lbs., good enough to give them 1st and 2nd places in the Tuna Division. Fishing on the "Offshore Hooker" were Brendan Hanley, Ian Hanley, Zeb Zebley, Colin Koveleski and Ron Faison. The guys earned \$5,382 for their 1st and 2nd place finishes and are pictured at Sunset Marina in West Ocean City.





On the first day of the 2018 Ocean City Marlin Club Small Boat Tournament, Chad Moser of York, PA captured a 5.2 lb. flounder and held on to win 1st place in the Flounder Division and a check for \$827. Chad hooked the winning flounder at Site 11 on a squid and minnow combination while fishing on the "Fish Magnet II" with Robin Ness, John Berl, Jonathan Cintron and Randy Graham. The anglers also caught 2 other flounder, weighing up to 2.0 lbs. and sea bass up to 1.2 lbs. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



Always a fan favorite when they arrive at the scales, anglers on the "Jezebel" caught flounder, sea bass and even a monkfish on the first day of the 2018 Ocean City Marlin Club Small Boat Tournament. Their largest sea bass weighed 1.4, 1.6 and 1.6 lbs. and were heavy enough to sweep the Sea Bass Division. The sea bass, part of a 25-fish haul, the 1.8 lb. flounder and the monkfish were all hooked on squid, clams and tuna belly at the DelJerseyLand Reef Site. Fishing with Capt. Chester Sadowski and mate Tim Kane were Chester Sadowski, Sr. (not pictured), Mike Fox, Jason Courtney, Don Riggins and Lisa Moore. For their sweep of the Sea Bass Division, the "Jezebel" team won \$390 in award money.



On opening day of the 39th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Small Boat Tournament, Jon Hartman caught and released a white marlin at 2:50 in the afternoon and held on to win 2nd place in the Billfish Release Division. Jon was fishing on the "De-Bait-Able" with Robert, Jeff and Sandy Hartman when he hooked the white marlin on a green machine in 100 fathoms in the Poor Man's Canyon. The anglers also caught a 38.4 lb. yellowfin tuna on a Squidnation Flippy Floppy during their trip. Weighed at Sunset Marina in West Ocean City, MD.



Of the 46 boats entered into this years Ocean City Marlin Club Small Boat Tournament, only 8 ventured out on Sunday and one of those was the "In the Black" with Andy Urban, Wade Fluckey, Paul Kelly and Kevin Sandleitner on board. Paul ended up catching a 13.4 lb. dolphin to win the Dolphin Division and a check for \$6,255. The fish was hooked on a skipjack tuna fillet while chunking between the Washington and Norfolk Canyons where the anglers also boated a yellowfin tuna during their trip. Pictured at Sunset Marina in West Ocean City, MD.





In the 2018 Ocean City Marlin Club Small Boat Tournament, the first boat to arrive at the scale was the "Sea Craft 23" with anglers Doug and Sharon Curtiss and Jay and Lynette Catha on board. They weighed a sea bass and 3 flounder, with the two largest weighing 3.8 and 4.0 lbs., good enough to earn them 2nd and 3rd place in the Flounder Division. The fish were caught on strip baits at the African Queen. Weighed at Sunset Marina.



One of the last boats to arrive at the scale on the first day of the 2018 Ocean City Marlin Club Small Boat Tournament was "Carol's Teakettle" with anglers Tim Brinker, Jim Brinker, Tom Brinker and Christine Drummond. Part of their catch was a 52.5-inch, 84 lb. bluefin tuna that ended up taking 3rd place in the Tuna Division. They also caught 4 yellowfins weighing up to 46.8 lbs. All the action came in 200 fathoms in the Poor Man's Canyon and earned the team \$873 in award money. Weighed at Sunset Marina.

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While fishing in the East Channel with Gulp and minnows, Scott Lenox on the "Hooked on OC" caught a pair of bluefish, weighing 1.8 and 2.4 lbs. to win 1st and 2nd place in the Bluefish Division of the 39th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Small Boat Tournament and a check for \$453. He also boated a pair of flounder weighing 2.0 and 2.8 lbs. Pictured at Sunset Marina.





Sunday was a tough day for most tuna fishermen, but anglers on the "Boss Hogg" ended up boating 9 yellowfins, going 8 for 10 right before heading home. The fish were caught on trolled ballyhoo and spreader bars in 300 fathoms in the Poor Man's Canyon. Fishing with Capt. Brian Porter and mates Rick Tshudy and Marshall Freng were Dan, Joyce and Roger Chabot, Dan and Linda Rohleder, Keith Scott, Scott Spencer and John Piwowski. Pictured back at the dock at Sunset Marina.



Bob Pino took some time off from his busy schedule providing locals with exceptional eye care at An Optical Galleria in West Ocean City to hit the bay on Monday morning and was rewarded with this 19-inch flounder caught on a Gulp and minnow combination. Bob and his wife, Niki also released a short flattie, all in their first 1/2 hour of fishing.



Bill Leash, Gary Stine, Jonny Barr, Paul Crampton, Jr. and Paul Crampton, III teamed up to capture 22 yellowfin tuna while fishing on the "C-Boys" with Capt. Luke Blume and mates Wyatt Melocik and Jon Henry. The bite came while trolling ballyhoo and spreader bars in 200 fathoms in the Poor Man's Canyon. Pictured at Sunset Marina in West Ocean City, MD.



# VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

by Dr. Julie Ball I.G.F.A Representative



July will host some of the hottest days of the year, but if you can take the heat, fishing can be off the charts throughout the month.

Cobia will continue to provide very good action for sightcasters most everywhere in the Chesapeake Bay, with some really big bruisers available in July. Remember, this year you can keep three fish per vessel at a minimum of 40-inches long, and one fish can measure over 50-inches. Gaffing is now permitted and you must still obtain a free permit and report all catch results.

Red drum action is always hot for casters this month, as pods of big drum find their way to the mouth of the bay and along the Virginia Beach oceanfront.

Big Spanish mackerel will

dominate the trolling scene along the oceanfront in July, but big smoker king mackerel are also a possibility in the same areas. Look for clean water and tide rips for the best action.

Spadefish are making an exceptional showing this year, with many large fish tipping the scales at over 9 lbs., awarding anglers with Virginia citations for the first time in years. Spadefish will remain available at the Chesapeake Light Tower, the Tower Reef, the CBBT and several inshore wrecks this month, but the action often slows towards the end of the month with the arrival of masses of jellyfish.

Sheepshead will also bite very well along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel pilings, with clams, crabs and

fiddlers being great options for these hard fighting bait stealers.

Triggerfish will also hit in many of these same areas throughout July, with squid a favorite bait.

Tautog are in season again this month, but most won't be interested.

July is a good month for flounder in the Chesapeake Bay, with jigging and live bait being effective methods for those anglers working their way around the four islands of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. Anglers drifting with strip baits and minnows often find luck with nice flat fish near the 4th Island, the Hampton Bar and the Thimble Shoal Channel. Both Lynnhaven and Rudee Inlets are also good spots to try this time of year. This year,

[www.coastalfisherman.net](http://www.coastalfisherman.net) regulations allow four fish per person at a minimum of 16 1/2-inches.

July may be hot, but the heat won't deter dozens of croaker fanatics as they crowd into Oyster to get in on the big yearly croaker ritual. It even gets better as the size of the hardheads increase throughout the month. In lower bay waters, croaker can be found everywhere and the size varies with the location. Kiptopeke State Park is still a favorite location, often hosting some nicer fish.

Sea mullet can also be found lurking off Kiptopeke near the Concrete Ships throughout the summer. Puppy drum are still around in July in most backwater locations and inlets, along with some speckled trout.

Tarpon will remain active on the Eastern Shore until September. The hope of landing an elusive Silver King keeps tarpon hunters content in the back waters of Oyster, as long as they can endure the blazing heat and biting flies.

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**BLACK SEA BASS**  
12.5" minimum  
15 per person/day  
05/15 - 9/21 & 10/22 - 12/31



**BLUEFISH**  
No minimum size  
10 per person/day



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



**COBIA**  
40" minimum  
1 per person/day or 3 per boat/day  
6/1 - 9/30



**CROAKER**  
No limits



**RED DRUM**  
18" - 26"  
3 per person/day



**SHEEPSHEAD**  
No minimum size limit  
4 per person



**SPECKLED TROUT**  
14" minimum  
5 per person/day (only 1 > 24")



**STRIPED BASS**  
28" minimum  
1 per person/day



**TAUTOG**  
Closed 5/16-6/30



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



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



www.coastalfisherman.net

Amberjack will be offering powerful fights on many offshore wrecks and at the Southern Towers. Deep dropping is also a good option in July with decent hauls of the usual blueline tilefish, golden tilefish, an occasional grouper and a side-catch of nice sea bass.

The offshore scene can be explosive in July, but this depends on the location and accessibility of favorable water. Tuna fishing can be solid this month, with yellowfin and bigeye tuna often busting spreads. Mahi are also crowd pleasers, with some large gaffers still around this time of year. Some nice wahoo, king mackerel and scattered mako sharks can also keep anglers content. Billfish will also begin showing this month with livebaiters having an edge early in the season.

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



While fishing on the "Boy's Toy", this group of anglers put 3 tuna in the box, including a 107 lb. bluefin that was caught on a spreader bar outside the Tea Cup. Fishing on the "Boy's Toy" were Tom Gessler, Jr., Tom Gessler, Sr., Josh Gessler, Mary Gessler, Francesca Gessler, Angela Gessler, Johnny Horning and Freddy Wetzstein. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.

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## Tides & Moon Phases OCEAN CITY INLET

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Thurs. June 21	Low 09:17 am Low 09:47 pm	High 03:18 am High 04:06 pm
Fri. June 22	Low 10:10 am Low 10:50 pm	High 04:17 am High 05:06 pm
Sat. June 23	Low 11:01 am Low 11:49 pm	High 05:10 am High 05:59 pm
Sun. June 24	Low 11:50 am Low -----	High 05:56 am High 06:46 pm
Mon. June 25	Low 12:43 am Low 12:35 pm	High 06:37 am High 07:29 pm
Tues. June 26	Low 01:31 am Low 01:17 pm	High 07:17 am High 08:08 pm
Wed. June 27	Low 02:14 am Low 01:55 pm	High 07:57 am High 08:44 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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## .. JULY ..

### SOUTH JERSEY YACHT SALES OFFSHORE SHOWDOWN

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### OCEAN CITY TUNA TOURNAMENT

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JULY 21-22 • OC MARLIN CLUB • 410-213-1613

### 4TH ANNUAL BIG FISH CLASSIC

JULY 27-29 • TALBOT STREET PIER • 410-213-0325

## .. AUGUST ..

### 10TH ANNUAL MARLIN CLUB LADIES TOURNAMENT

AUGUST 3-4 • OC MARLIN CLUB • 410-213-1613

### 10TH ANNUAL OCEAN PINES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FLOUNDER TOURNAMENT

AUGUST 4 • PINES POINT MARINA • 410-641-5306

### 45TH ANNUAL WHITE MARLIN OPEN

AUGUST 6-10 • HARBOUR ISLAND MARINA • 410-289-9229

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### 25TH ANNUAL CAPT. STEVE HARMAN POOR GIRL'S OPEN

AUGUST 16-18 • BAHIA MARINA • 410-289-7438

### 27TH ANNUAL THE MIDATLANTIC

AUGUST 20-24 • CAPE MAY, NJ & OCEAN CITY, MD

### 60TH ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT

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## .. SEPTEMBER ..

### 3RD ANNUAL

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