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COASTAL FISHERMAN

2022 HIGHLIGHT REEL EDITION



*Living the
Coastal Life!*

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MAY 11

Angler Calvin Malone from Willards, MD got the surprise of a lifetime when he was fishing on Assateague Island on April 23th! He was looking for some drum or rockfish action with some Fishbites when something much larger took the line. After a struggle he pulled in this 5' shortnose sturgeon. These are a protected species and extremely rare in our waters, so he kept the fish wet long enough for a pic and sent her back to the deep! Thanks to Brenda Malone for sharing the catch.



JUNE 8

Capt. Dean Metcalf caught something different on this trip when he landed the Baltimore Ravens Cheerleaders on his charter boat "Jacked Up" at the Bahia Marina. The squad was in town for the annual Baltimore Raven's Parade in Ocean City and I doubt he threw any back.

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JUNE 15

You need a long stick to show off that many flounder! Wow, just wow. Brian Murdaugh, Tyler Parsons, Steve Hooven and Jim Welsh hit the Old Grounds hard last Friday. They caught this 4 man limit of 16 flounder up to 23" using a combination of Gulp and minnows. They even kept a ribbonfish for good luck. Pictured at Rick's Bait and Tackle.

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This Week Last Year

- Lots of bigeye tuna were being caught in the Baltimore Canyon with several boats catching pairs. The "Boss Hogg" caught a 209 lb. eyeball and followed that up a few days later with a pair at 177 and 202 lbs. The "Talkin' Trash" was one of a few boats that braved the weather later in the week and were rewarded with 2 bigeyes at 198 lbs. each.
- The marlin were biting in the Norfolk Canyon. The "Bar South" had a trip there and released 13 white marlin. The "Big Stick" reported 4 white released as well as a sailfish. The "Pumpin' Hard" had back to back trips where they went 4 for 5 on whites on both days.

The blow early last week must have done something. It was followed by beautiful weather and the offshore fishing has lit up! Most notable over the past week has been the bigeye tuna action as well as the swordfish catch.

Over the weekend we got several nice reports, mainly from the Washington Canyon of great trips on the rip. Friday saw the "Cabana" return from there with 5 swordfish on board! The weekend saw the "Restless Lady II" return to the Talbot Street Pier with 2 swordfish, some chunky yellowfin tuna and a mess of mahi. The "Boss Hogg" got on the meat as well catching a bigeye tuna along with a wahoo, mahi and tilefish on their trio Saturday. They were also in the Washington. No report this week would be complete without sharing the overnight trip last weekend on the "Instigator".

When they returned on Sunday they unloaded 6 bigeyes with the largest at 243 lbs. As if that were not enough, they also caught 2 swordfish and a nice wahoo. That was a trip of a lifetime!

It is September and the marlin were cooperating, which was great given the slow season overall. The Washington Canyon was the spot over the weekend for them as well as with lots of boats reporting multiple releases. Both the "Seven" and "Showtime" came in with 5 release flags flying on Friday. Lots of over single reports for whites and a few blue marlins also came in.

Those looking for table fare were not disappointed either. The docks were covered in mahi. Capt. Joe Drosey on the charter boat "Rhonda's Osprey" reported one of the largest catches Saturday with just about 20 good sized dolphin and as many blueline tilefish. The "Primary Search" returned to Sunset Marina on Sunday with a 51" swordfish and over 150 lbs. of mahi.

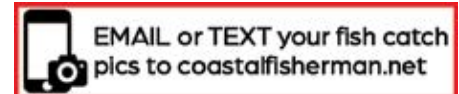
It does however look like the wind will kick up thru Friday with Saturday potentially fishable before the wind comes back on Sunday. So far it looks like September fishing is strong, so get out there if you can!

This is also the last issue of the Coastal Fisherman for the 2022 summer season, so we once again highlight the summer that was. While in general the offshore fishing was challenging to say the least, there were still many great catches and stories, so we hope you enjoy a small recap.

I would also like to take a moment to thank all the people who make the Coastal Fisherman possible. Our graphic artist Tom Jock is much more than that and not only lays out the paper each week to ensure a good balance of advertising and content, but also designs and updates weekly most of the advertisements and info graphics you see in the paper. My wife, Chef Christine works every week to curate interesting recipes with an eye to what is currently being caught. In addition she and her 'gal pals' Fran Kern and Brenda Hossick along with a host of others hold court each week to process and mail the paper to our many subscribers. Thanks also to our contributors Mark Sampson and Steve Katz. Week in and week out they work to inform and entertain us. And of course what would the paper be without fishing reports. Capt. BJ Pietryak keeps his pulse on the inshore and bay action for Maryland and Delaware so we know the hot spots and tackle. New for 2022 was the addition of Capt. Matt Abell from SeaHawk Sports sharing the action from the Virginia peninsula. It has been a great addition!

Of course the biggest thanks go to our advertisers, readers and those who share their catches and stories with us weekly. The paper would simply not exist without all three of these groups. So as always we ask our readers to support our advertisers and to keep sharing what we all love about the coastal lifestyle!

Next up for us is the Big Winter Edition that we publish in early January, so keep sharing your fall fishing action as well as any action from trips south for the winter months! §



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LARRY BUDD • Editor & Publisher
CHRISTINE BUDD • Vice President
TOM JOCK • Graphic Design

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Upcoming Tournaments

• Old Inlet Bait & Tackle hosts the **Delaware Seashore Fall Surf Fishing Classic** on September 24th & 25th. This event offers over \$15,000 in cash and prizes and the very coveted bronze trophies! More at OldInlet.com

• The last offshore tournament of the year is the **3rd Annual Rena Bishop Broadbill Bash** that will be held from October 13th thru 16th. This event raises awareness and funds for the Burbage Regional Cancer Care Center. The primary focus is on swordfish, but also has calcuttas for Heaviest Tuna and Stringer. Weigh ins are held from 5:30PM to 8:30PM at Sunset Marina's Tournament Scale located behind Sunset Grille. More at ocbroadbillbash.com.

• The **Lewes Harbour Marina** will hold its month long **Tautog Tournament** from October 22 to November 20. For more info call (302) 645-6227.



It was an epic trip on the "Instigator" for anglers Alan Pullin, Erik Farley, Josh Wilet, Larry Armell, Lindsay Armell and Annalee Werelius. They went on an overnight trip with Capt. Steve Smith and mates Steve & Matt Magassy and fished from the Washington to the Norfolk Canyon returning to the docks at Sunset Marina with 6 bigeye tunas ranging from 177 to 243 lbs! They also landed 2 swordfish and a wahoo. One for the memory books for sure.



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AUGUST 24



The gang at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina got a big surprise when the "Reel Ledo" rolled in with this 151.6 lb. Allison tuna. Anglers Ian Beall and JR Spies hooked up with the monster with a naked ballyhoo in 800 fathoms on a Penn International 16 reel. The fight lasted for 5 hours! The boys along with Garth Beall, Tom Sheehan, Jamie Beall and John Quatlebaum also boated 116 lbs. of mahi.















JUNE 22

The first marlins of the season release are a special event for anglers. They mark bragging rights and signal the start of some nice fishing. The first blue marlin released for 2022 was on the charter boat "Rhonda's Osprey" with Capt. Joe Drosey. Anglers Ray, Darrell and Kevin with 495 Trucking all fought the estimated 500 lb. blue before releasing it in the Poor Man's Canyon.

2022 DELAWARE REGULATIONS

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 <p>CROAKER 8" Minimum • No Limit</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 20-27" minimum 5 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD No limit</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 12" minimum No creel limit</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 28-35" except 20-25" only from 7/1 - 8/31 in DE Bay 1 per person/day <u>Catch & Release only from 4/1 - 5/31 on Spawning Grounds</u></p>	 <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 16" minimum 4 per person/day</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

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AUGUST 17



The 49th Annual White Marlin Open will be one to remember for some time for both the amazing payouts and the hard work it took to get them. The billfish bites were hard to find, even with 408 boats fishing and some of the best captains and crews in the world. Only 2 qualifying white marlin made it to the scales over the 5 day event and with those two on the last days. Capt. Jon Duffie with the crew of Jeremy, Luke, Jonathan & Judy Duffie, Billy Gerlach, Danny Gough, Chip Fleming and Chris Weyandt along with mates Noah McVicker & Will Lamberson spent most of the tournament in deep water outside the canyons. On the final day they were 90 miles out in 1,500 fathoms east of the Baltimore Canyon, releasing a white marlin in the morning and then connecting with this marlin caught by Jeremy Duffie. Once to the scales it measured 71" with a girth of 26" and tipped the scales at 77.5 lbs. moving into the top slot! Overall, this crew released 4 white marlin, 2 blue marlin and boated the winning fish. This earned the title of Top Boat, Heaviest White Marlin and White Marlin Winner Take All earning a combined payout of \$4,536,926 in prize money, the single biggest payout in tournament history.

OCEAN CITY FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Last week saw a few cold nights, and although the water temp remains in the 70's the fishing has slowed. Flounder are still around but it was harder to find the big doormats we saw a few weeks ago. Sea bass remain very strong despite the warm water. Deeper wrecks such as those at the Jack Spot and Great Eastern Reef are the prime areas.

Near Shore Wrecks & Reefs

The reefs saw a definite slow down in the number of fish caught. The water remains warm at a temperature around 72 degrees. Mahi are still on the sea bass balls near the lightship, however many of the mahi have

moved further offshore near the Great Eastern Reef. Chase was out with his Pop Pop, Capt, Gordy Kautz and his mother Kandace Dascosta and caught some nice size sea bass at both the Jack Spot and Great Eastern Reef. Most of the fish were caught on fresh clam, but the biggest one was caught on a jig. Capt. Kautz reports it was flat calm with lots of sea life on display such as sea turtles and dolphin. Dewayne Anderson of Harrisburg, PA, caught a nice flounder in the deep water while using a chartreuse Gulp on a jighead. The "Ocean Princess" was out last week and said their full day trips have been very productive

for their anglers with most returning to the dock with plenty of fish for dinner. The "Judy V" also had some nice trips and brought home big knothead sea bass and a few flounder. The ribbonfish are still around as well. I was told by a boat out of Ocean City on Saturday, they caught a 45" ribbon while drifting the bottom for bass. This year has supplied us with some of the biggest ribbon fish I have ever seen. I don't believe had any trips this past summer that at least one ribbon wasn't caught. Many people have never tried eating these fish. They are great smoked for fish dip as well as fried for fish tacos. They are also some of the prettiest fish you will ever catch. Just beware of their big row of sharp teeth!. Closer inshore Nash Rogers, Nate Sepsi, and Clifton Rodgers were trolling Clark Spoons in front of Assateague Island on the "Truly Fair" and caught several nice sized spanish mackerel. As the temps get lower the inshore trolling should pick up for both mackerel and bluefish. I have seen several schools of skippies within 7 miles of the beach.

Janet Rupp had a great day live lining and caught some big spanish. They also had 3 big redfish and a giant cobia that pulled the hook at the boat on a 15 lb. line. Matt Marine was also out trolling and returned to the docks with a few spanish mackerel. They were caught at sunset while trolling out front of Ocean

www.coastalfisherman.net City. The "Angler", out of OC caught a fantastic 40 pound cobia on a flounder rig. Guess you just never know what you are going to catch on an Ocean City headboat!

"Bottom Bouncer Fishing" was out and had an awesome day as they crushed both the sea bass as well as some doormat flounder.

"Bad Wind Charters" was at it again this past week bringing boat loads of big knot head sea bass as well as some huge flatfish back to the dock for their clients. This group really knows where the big fish live!

John Forman caught a big blue runner while out last week. It's been a few years since I've seen blue runners caught. This year continues to be a year of new species caught this far north of fish that typically swim in the Florida waters. We have seen dropdown fish, ribbonfish, redfish, tarpon and blue runners. These changes have afforded new opportunities for anglers, many of whom have never seen one of these fish let alone caught one.

Back Bay Fishing

The back bays of Ocean City slowed some this past week, but quality fish could be found if you put in the time and effort. David Borrell of Enola, PA was fishing near the airport and caught 3 keeper flounders around 17 inches. The biggest one measured 19" caught on a new penny Gulp.

John Thomas was fishing on his kayak near north Harbor Island and caught a 22 inch fluke on a white Gulp. The fish weighed 4.30 lbs. Shawn Flaherty caught a nice 15.4 lb. bluefish



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near the Rt. 50 Bridge on a diving plug. As the water cools the big slammer blues should be more readily available for anglers. Brad Richwine was fishing on the "PA Posse" and caught a nice 22" flattie on a minnow. Brad was fishing in front of the airport. Capt. Kerry Harrington of Sea Born Seafood showed off his 13.37 lb. flounder caught in the commercial net just outside of the OC Inlet. Although not a hook and line catch, still a huge doormat of a flounder. Just goes to show, we have fish over 13 lbs. close to shore!

Surf Fishing




As the fall months approach many will begin to target the surf of Assateague Island for big red and black drum. Using fresh peeler crabs or sand fleas is a great way to get in on the action. If you have an Off Road Permit for the federal part of the park, the areas near the Virginia line have always been the most productive, with a sunrise or sunset near high tide being the best times. For those without a 4 wheel drive vehicle, the parks do allow surf fishing from the beaches on the north end. Using a cart is the best way to transport your gear to the beach. Local tackle shops in OC sell them as well as offer insight on how to catch these trophy fish. The past few years have been slow for rockfish in the surf with the newer slot limits, but again they are still a great fishing and fun fish to catch.

Be sure to catch the Coastal Fisherman's winter addition on January 1st to see a recap of this past year's report and until next spring...

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Another state record bites the dust! This time it is the Delaware State record for tautog. Capt. Brent Wiest of the charter boat "Katydid" out of Lewes headed out on May 5th to do a little fishing for himself and landed a beauty. These fish are difficult to catch, especially the larger ones but Capt. Brent is an expert here! This blackfish tipped the scales at 21.48 lbs. beating the previous record set in 2005 by over 3 ozs.



Bob Haltmeier is not only the webmaster for the Oceanic Fishing Pier at the Ocean City Inlet, he is also a frequent customer! He caught these 2 matching 23" bluefish in the fog using cut bunker.

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AUGUST 31



The "Special Situation" did in fact bring something special to the scales during the 31st Annual MidAtlantic Tournament! They were trolling for marlin in the Spencer Canyon when angler Charlie Phelam connected with this 104 lb. wahoo jumping easily into 1st Place for the Heaviest Wahoo in several calcuttas earning a cool \$65,729 in prize money. Fishing with Charlie were Hunter Petrackis, John Floyd, Ryan Mahoney, Anthony Pino, Alan Wooten, Jed Silver, Donald Mahoney, Andrew Swanson, Fuller Vachel and Capt. Tucker Calhoun.

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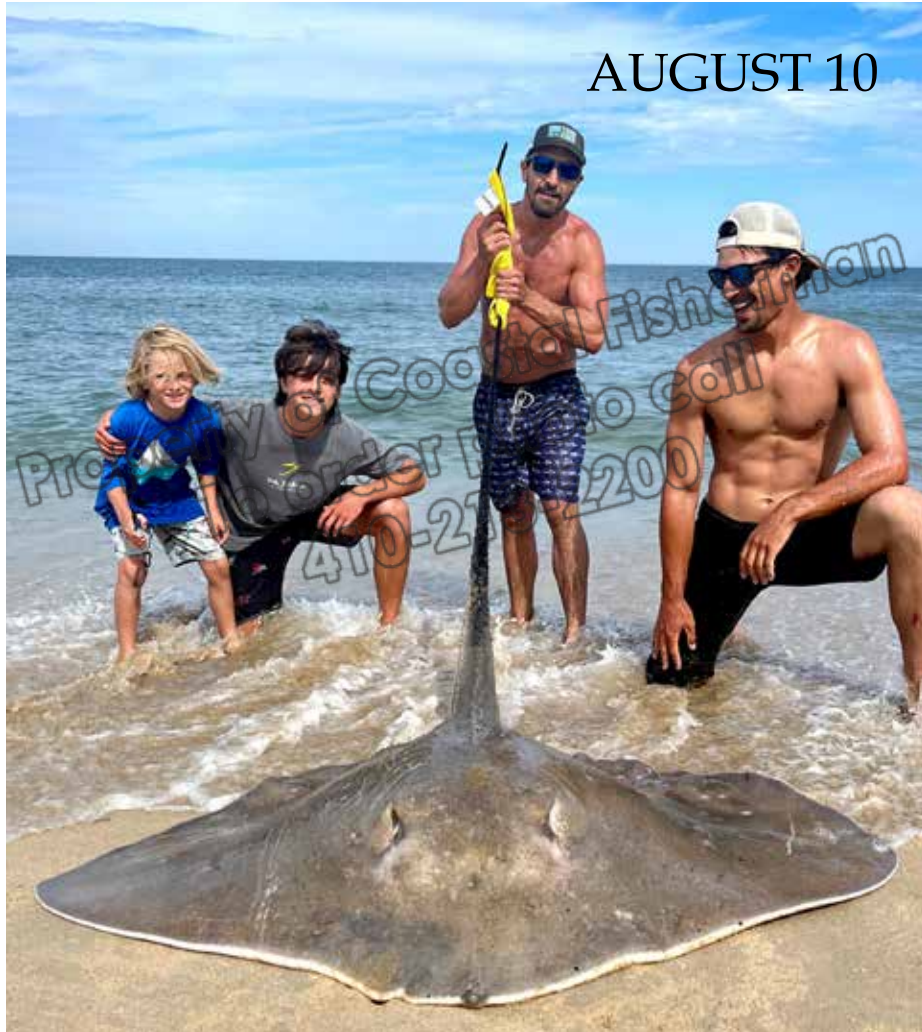
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OC POWDER COATINGS



AUGUST 10















JUNE 15

I don't think that this group from Media, PA expected anything like this when they decided to fish the surf at Fenwick Island! Numen Bilal with his son Evren and friends Quinn Finnegan and Max Sontag spent 45 minutes fighting this southern ray on a spinning reel with 50 lb. braid after it swallowed their fresh whole bunker. After a few gasps and pictures it was released to swim another day.

The first swordfish of the 2022 summer season has hit the docks! Capt. Sylvain Côté on the charter boat "Espadon" with mate James Côté took a trip to the Rockpile on June 4th to get some tilefish and then did some deep dropping in the southern Poor Man's Canyon. Angler LP got the honors using an electric reel to bring this sword up from the deep.

2022 MARYLAND REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - December 11</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH 8" minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day Charter</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day up to 6 per boat/day</p>	 <p>COBIA 40" minimum 1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/15 Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers</p>
 <p>CROAKER 9" minimum 25 per person/day</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 18-27" minimum 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD 4 per person/day</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 4 per person/day</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 28-35" Less than 3 miles from shore 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 16" minimum 4 per person/day</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 2 per person/day 7/1 - 10/31 4 per person/day 11/1 - 12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

eregulations.com

JULY 27



Mike Bostic (far right) and his Church Hill, MD crew had an epic day onboard his charter boat "MARLI" with Capt. Mark Hoos and mates Jake Pilkerton and Jax (the cactus kid) Moore. Mike and crew boxed 18 yellowfin tunas and released another 50+. The sharks also had their way by snacking on 10 additional tunas. Overall the crew encountered 75+ bites. The Penn rods and reels, and Sterling Tackle got a workout.

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FISHING CHARTERS



It was a busy day for Mathew Seeley, Dave Seeley, Chris Binder, Jonathan Drake and Savanna Seeley from Pine City, NY. They headed out to the Twin Wrecks in the charter boat "Green Reaper" and caught 15 keeper sea bass and many more throwbacks using sand fleas. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Sarah Alles got herself a citation sized sheepshead last week while fishing on the headboat "Judith M" out of Bahia Marina. The fish measured 23.5" and weighed 8.9 lbs, well above the 20" citation minimum for Maryland!

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FISHING CHARTERS



JULY 20



The party boat "Thelma Dale IV" was running full day trips from Fisherman's Wharf in Lewes, DE. This trip saw a slow start, but the day ended with several anglers at their limits of flounder. Looks like Capt. Parker Powell is on the hook to go again tomorrow!

SEPT 7



Capt. Chris Mizurak on the headboat "Angler" reporter the sea bass bite over the weekend was tough, however later in the day the flounder bite came on strong with some fish almost 5 lbs.

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FISHING CHARTERS



SEPT 14

It was white marlin madness for Greg Beane, Brian Gearhart, Jack Gearhart and crew while fishing on the charter boat "Boss Hogg". Capt. Alex Beane with Mate Jack Hannum had them east of the Baltimore Canyon on the 1000 fathom line where they released 4 white marlin as well as getting 2 chunky yellowfin tuna in the box.



AUGUST 10

The tuna were snapping in the Baltimore Canyon last week. Capt. Chris Watkowski of "Spring Mix II" with mate Jacob Bialk set the troll with ballyhoo and plastic baits and got anglers Capt. Nick Korenowski, Paul Jones, Zach Klina, Alex Wiggs, Josh Romito and Tammy Gleim onto 4 heavy yellowfins with the largest at 81 lbs. They also snagged 13 peanut mahi.

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FISHING CHARTERS



SEPT 7

AUGUST 31

PA anglers Paul Unangst and Morgan McCollian killed it last week fishing with Capt. Dave Caffrey on the charter boat "On the Run". They took two trips to inshore reef sites and caught a combined total of 11 keeper flounder up to 23 1/2" and 15 mahi. Pictured at Bahia Marina.

It was an epic day for New Jersey based anglers Jen Porcelli, Jay Saredy, Nick Vasquez, Stephen Lane and Ken Funkhouser. They were fishing on the charter boat "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford and mates Ethan Nock & Jonas Cole and caught 17 keeper flounder using minnows and green & white Split Long Otter Tail strips! All came from the East Channel with the heaviest at 5.5 lbs and 3 others at 4.5 lbs.

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FISHING CHARTERS



JUNE 15



Another charter boat made their first trip of the season to the canyons last week. While this crew of Jimmy Wenner from Haggerstown, MD, Harold Shipe, Noah Cornish and James Shipe of Frederick, MD, along with Mike Ronundo and Ed Bajkowski from Bel Air, MD originally scheduled a trip on the "BossHogg", mechanical issues shifted them to the "Pumpin' Hard" with Capt. Mike Burt at the wheel. They were fishing in the Baltimore Canyon and raised these 5 yellowfin tuna as well as a good sized gaffer mahi. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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FISHING CHARTERS

MAY 18



Avid fisherman Norman Katrabos was on the front cover of our 1st issue this year with tog! He went out again before the blow on the "Capt. Bob II" with Capt. Bert Adams and scored these blackfish using green crab at Site 10.

JUNE 29



Fishing should be fun and create big smiles! This angler on the headboat "Bay Bee" from the Ocean City Fishing Center caught this sea robin and other anglers jigged up flounders.

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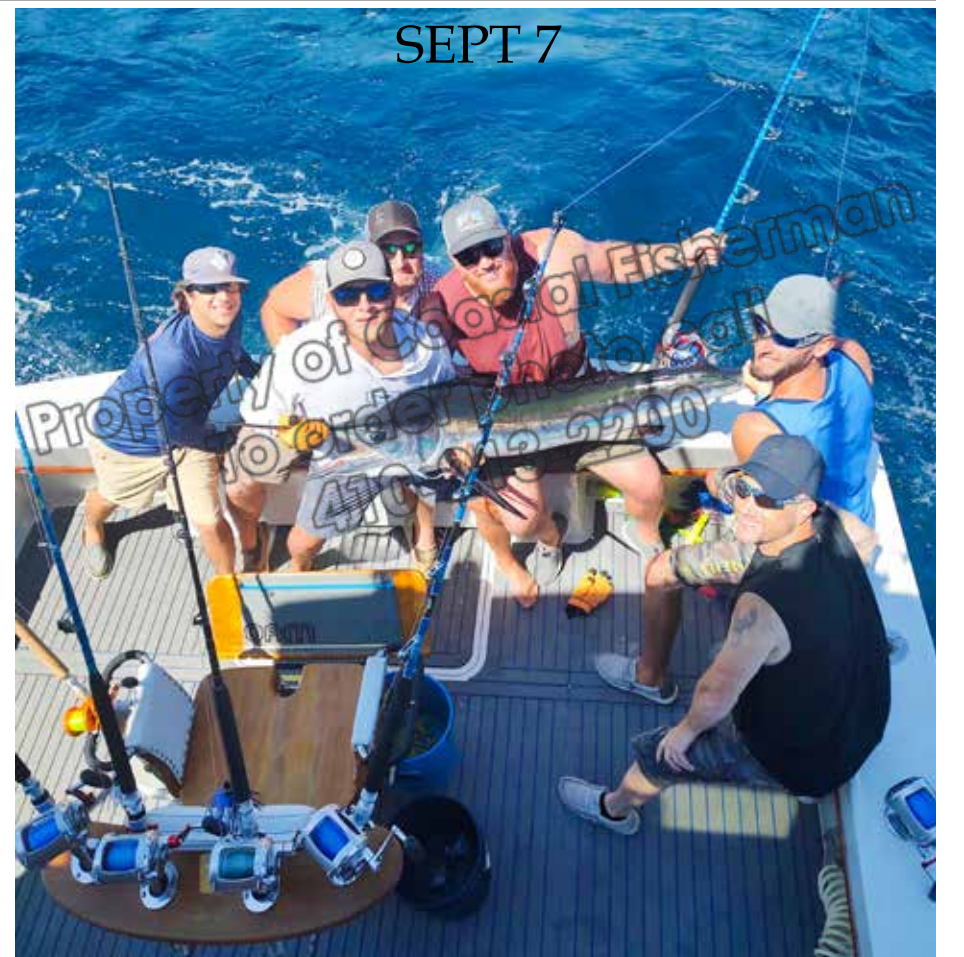
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FISHING CHARTERS



JULY 27

It was a day for family on the charter boat "Wrangler". Capt. Craig Mercier took his 90 year old father, retired Colonel Charles Robert Mercier out to the Washington Canyon with Joe Chvati & Chuckie Mercier, and he out fished them all! The Colonel is a Vietnam war hero who survived being shot down several times, receiving a Purple Heart and earned a Flying Cross Bronze Star.



SEPT 7

Chris Frazier and his crew had a good day with Capt. Dave Midgett and mate Hunter Gilmore on the charter boat "All In". They trolled in the Baltimore Canyon and raised this white marlin that was released as well as getting 13 mahi in the box!

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MAY 4



The Mother's Day Nor'Easter of 2022 will be one for the record books. Like the big one in March of 1962, this storm languished on the coast for almost 5 days causing serious beach erosion especially in Delaware. Coastal Fisherman mascot Marlin ponders the damage to the dune in South Bethany, DE.

AUGUST 10



The 31.2 lb. bull mahi that Alissa Bramble caught during the 14th Annual OCMC Ladies Tournament, "Heels & Reels", not only took first place in the Dolphin Division earning \$19, 822, it has also set the record for the Heaviest Mahi for the season! Alissa was fishing with Renee Finnegan, Victoria Sperry, Olivia Popovitch and Gab Popovitch with Capt. Charlie Vanderbeck on the "Following Seas" in the Poor Man's Canyon.



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AUGUST 24

It was a day of bonding and reflection for these veterans participating with Platoon 22 and their Platoon Outdoors program. Platoon 22 is a non profit that assists vets to transition back to civilian life and Platoon Outdoors is one of their programs for vets to spend time together. Anglers Brennan Hammett, Andre Kersey, Joshua Sandes, Matt Harmon, Dennis Harmon and Michael Falzone took an overnight trip on the charter boat "Restless Lady" with Capt. Todd Kurtz and mate Kevin Kurtz to the Baltimore Canyon. Overall they boated 5 yellowfin tuna, a mess of tilefish, released a hammerhead shark and boated this 102" blue marlin that did not survive the fight to the boat. Pictured at the Talbot Street Pier.

2022 FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles

 BLUE MARLIN 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit	 YELLOWFIN TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day	 BIGEYE TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit	 GOLDEN TILEFISH No minimum • 8 per person/day
 WHITE MARLIN 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit	 BLUEFIN TUNA 27" to <47" curved fork length 2 per vessel/day or trip 47" to < 73" curved fork length 1 per vessel/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 3 per Charter/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 6 per Headboat/day or trip 47" to < 73" curved fork length 2 per Headboat/day or trip	 SWORDFISH 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter) 1 per person / 15 per Headboat	 BLUELINE TILEFISH 5/1 - 10/31 3 per person (Recreational) 5 per person Uninspected (Charter) 7 per person Inspected (Charter)
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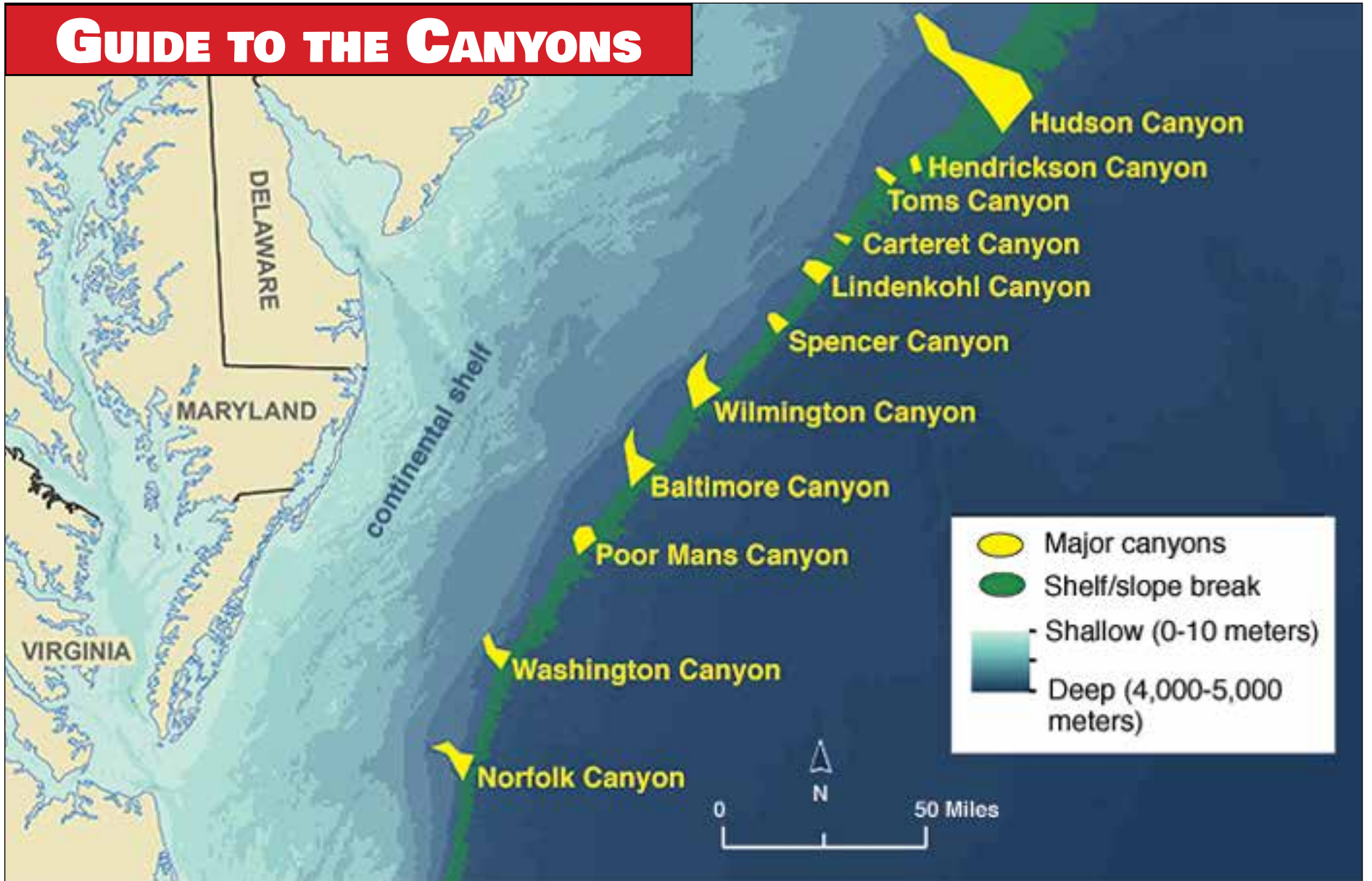
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Chum Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson

As you're flipping around this - the last issue of the Coastal Fisherman for the 2022 season, you might notice that the "Shark School" ad I run for my Ocean City charter boat "Fish Finder" has been replaced with a promotion for the fishing trips we run down in the Lower Florida Keys in the late winter and early spring. You'll also notice that at 17-foot, the boat I run down there is substantially smaller than the 40-foot boat I drive up here.

Yeah, it's a very different deal down there from what we do here on Delmarva. Different type of boat, techniques, different tackle, different waters, different scenery and of course a whole lot of different fish than what we have up here. In fact, people who have never done it are always asking me about what that type of fishing is like and how it compares to what we have up here. But fishing in the backcountry of the Florida Keys is so dramatically different from anything that's done here on Delmarva that there's really nothing to compare it to, so let me run through some highlights of a

typical trip to give interested parties an idea about what a flats fishing trip can be like.

The backcountry waters of the Lower Keys is a maze of uninhabited mangrove islands many of which have no solid ground but are simply mangroves trees growing out of the water. Some of the larger islands will have solid ground in their interior portions but much of that is only exposed during low tides. Solid ground or not, the nice thing about having so many islands is that they provide a lot of sheltered water to fish over when the wind is blowing hard. And we certainly get our share of windy days down there! But because of all the islands, we can just about always find protected places to fish, and it's pretty rare that we get "blown out" from fishing altogether.

Besides the mangrove islands, the backcountry waters are one huge chunk of shallow water flats that are broken up by a spider web of relatively shallow (5-12 foot deep) channels. The composition of the bottom might be soft mud, hard mud, hard sand, soft white sand, hard rock-

like limestone, or coral reef. The bottom might be covered with sponges, grass, hard and soft corals, rocks, shells, or any combination of all. On an average low tide, parts of some flats will be out of the water while others areas might be up to three feet deep.

So when we're actually up on a flat we will usually be in 1-3 feet of water, which is plenty deep enough to float the boat and shallow enough to be able to see our quarry.

Prior to a trip I'll be in touch with the clients to get an idea about who and how many will be coming. Since the boat is small I can only take two anglers and it's helpful to have an idea about the experience and skill levels of any men, women, or children who will be coming along. Have they done this type of file before? Do they wish to use spinning or fly tackle? Will they be bringing any of their own tackle? How much casting experience do they have? What hand do they prefer to cast with and crank the reel with? Is there a specific type of fish they would really like to catch? Knowing those kinds of details allows me to

www.coastalfisherman.net meet the specific needs of the anglers and ensure that the boat will be equipped with the proper bait and tackle to target the fish we hope to catch.

By keeping the boat on its trailer every night we have the flexibility of launching each day at whatever boat ramp will put us closest to the areas we wish to fish. Therefore, after looking at the latest weather predictions and tide schedules we can put together a plan of where and when to meet the anglers. We'll usually launch somewhere between Big Pine Key and Key West, and meet up at the boat ramp.

Because most of what we do is "sight fishing" and we need the sun to be up high enough that we can see into the water without the glare, there's seldom an advantage to heading out at first light, so we usually depart somewhere between 8am and 10am depending upon how the tides are working that day.

After departing from the ramp, we'll typically run 2-6 miles to where we start fishing. The trip out will probably have us weaving around and between islands, through cuts in the flats and across various channels. The backcountry is vast so we won't likely see a lot of other boats along the way, and as we approach a flat we're going to fish, we'll shut

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down well before it so as not to spook fish that might be on it. We'll also try to approach from a direction that will have the sun, and hopefully the wind, at our backs. I'll shut the engine off, tilt the motor, grab the 22-foot push-pole and hop up on the poling platform as the anglers step up on the casting platform at the bow. Then the hunt begins!

The boat has storage for eight rods, and if we're spin-fishing we'll have that many aboard, all rigged and ready for just about any size and type of fish we might encounter. The lightest rods will be set up for bonefish and small barracuda. Slightly heavier rods will be rigged for permit and very small sharks. The next rod size up will be rigged with poppers for jacks and big barracuda and something to throw to medium size tarpon. Finally, two heavy spinners will be rigged for large sharks and big tarpon.

As we hunt a flat, the anglers

up on the bow will be scanning the water ahead for any signs of life as I do so from the elevated platform behind them. If I spot the fish first I'll call out the direction (2-o'clock, 10-o'clock etc.) distance from the boat (in yards) and probably the direction the fish is facing so the angler will know just where to place the cast. As I start maneuvering the boat to have us in the best position for the cast, I'll also make sure the angler has selected the right rod to cast to that particular fish so no one makes the mistake of casting a tarpon bait to a bonefish or a shark bait to a barracuda!

Depending upon where we are, what type of fish we expect might be in the area and the state of the tide, we might sometimes anchor or stake-out the boat for a little while so that we can hold in one area and let the fish come to us. But we seldom stay on one flat for very long before it's time to pick up and run for another

that might be more favorable with the changing tide. Such a move might take us a few hundred yards or a few miles away.

Besides the beauty of the clear waters and the many islands they surround, the most intriguing attribute of fishing the backcountry is witnessing and sometimes hooking into the incredible diversity of size and type of fish that can be encountered in less than 3-feet of water. From 6-pound bonefish to 100-pound tarpon, hefty jack's that will readily attack a surface popper to sharks so big you might seriously start to think that we might "need a bigger boat", 4-foot barracuda, permit, redfish, snapper - some or all of these fish (and more) might be encountered on any given trip.

Of course, standing for hours on the bow of a boat under a hot Florida sun is not for everyone, and like most other types of fishing, patience is a

necessity ingredient. His type of fishing also requires a lot of preparation (my job) and a level of constant vigilance by the anglers, so that when they hear "Three bonefish, 11 o'clock, 20-yards, moving left!" They can react quickly to spot the fish, fire off a cast, and seal the deal. It's so dramatically different from any type of fishing we do up here on Delmarva that I would encourage anyone who might find themselves in the Florida Keys this winter to hire a flats fishing guide and give it a try. This may be the last issue of the year for the Coastal Fisherman but the season is far from over, and I hope that all Delmarva anglers are able to finish strong and end up with more than just a few fillets in their freezer. And if you find yourself needing a break from shoveling snow this winter, keep in mind that there's a very unique experience waiting in the shallow waters of the Florida Keys. §

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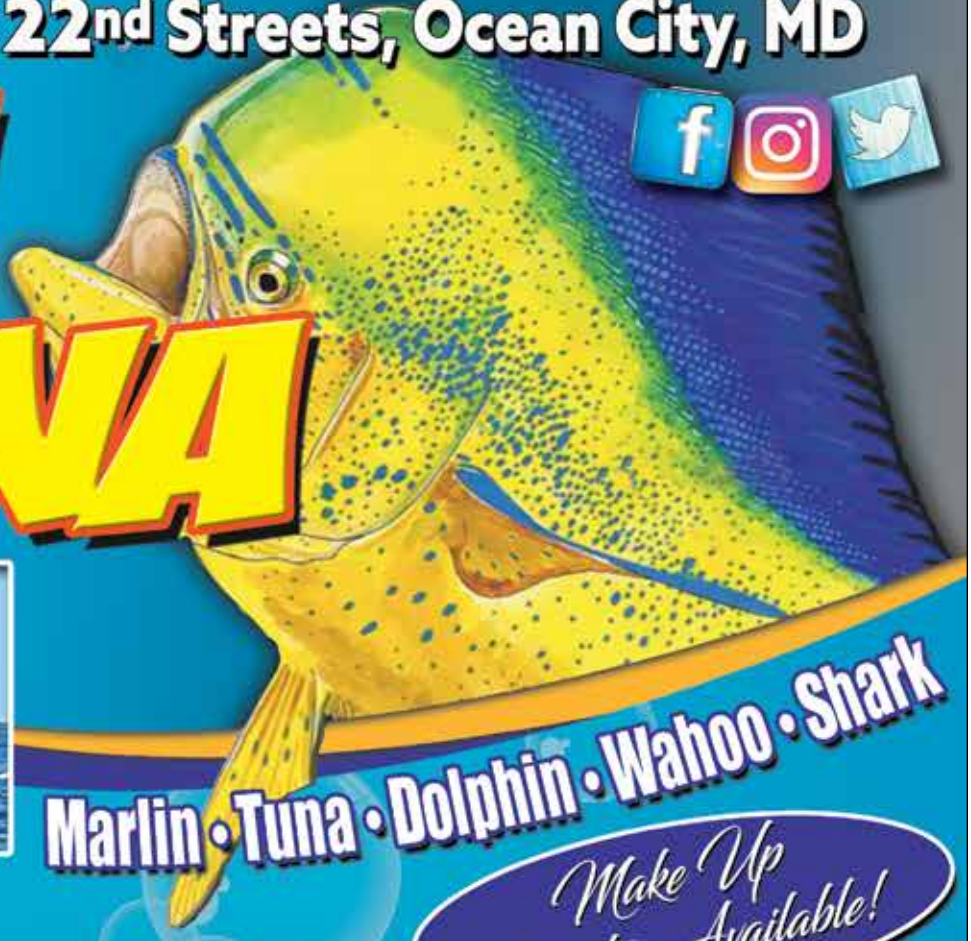
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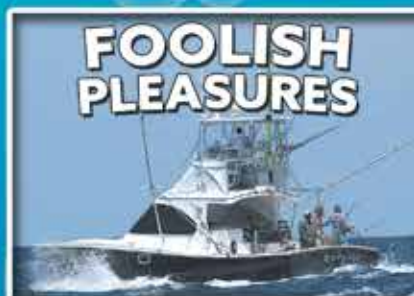
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Species	2022	2021	Species	2022	2021
 Bluefish	April 26 Morgan Mericle South OC Jetty	May 8 Gavin Murray Gull Island	 Thresher Shark	May 20 Mike Eid "HotLine" Fingers	May 22, 2021 Patrick Snell "MAKO me CRAZY" Twin Wrecks
 Black Drum	March 29 Jay Phillips Assateague Island	March 31 Allen Sklar Assateague Island	 Bigeye Tuna	June 12 Richie Widmayer "HotLine" Baltimore Canyon	May 28 Pete Gudiatas "Blood Money" Poor Man's
 Cobia	June 11 Numen Bilal Fenwick Beach Island	June 17 Shannon Pickens South OC Inlet	 Bluefin Tuna	May 17 Andrew Dietz "Take Em" SE Poor Man's	May 7 James Hammond "Hot Lick" Norfolk
 Flounder	April 3 Scott Lenox Thorofare	April 18 Danny Cox Rt. 90 Bridge	 Longfin Tuna	June 5 Chad Tingle "Sea Bear" Wilmington Canyon	July 17 Morgan Michael "Reel Fun" Baltimore Canyon
 Sea Bass	May 15 Jeremy Michalski Jack Spot	April 12 Camryn Baeder Inshore Wreck	 Yellowfin Tuna	May 17 James Haren "Take Em" SE Poor Man's	May 28 Bill Pino "Blood Money" Poor Man's
 Sheepshead	June 4 Blake Gunther OC Inlet	June 17 Veronica Cannuli Outside OC Inlet	 Dolphin	May 29 Adam Davidson "HotLine" East of Poor Man's	June 10 Michael Seicke "Second Chance" S. Poor Man's
 Striped Bass	April 20 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	May 6 Buddy Martin East Channel	 Swordfish	June 4 The Crew "Espadon" Poor Man's Canyon	New Category for 2022
 Tautog	March 27 Michael Guigley Stinky Beach	January 1 Mike Sadowski "Tide Runner" Ocean Structure	 Blue Marlin	June 13 The Crew "Rhonda's Osprey" Poor Man's Canyon	New Category for 2022
 Wahoo	June 30 Tim McCartney "Chasin Tides" Hot Dog	June 17 Gary Welch Washington Canyon	 White Marlin	June 6 Kevin Gibb "WRECKER" Baltimore Canyon	June 13 Brad Young "TUNAFOWL" Washington Canyon

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AUGUST 3



They call it the Big Fish Classic for a reason, it's all about big fish! The crew of the "Gret's Three J's" understood this well and brought a 436 lb. blue marlin to the scales on Day 3 of the event. Capt. John Griffith had the boat in the Baltimore Canyon trolling in 50 fathoms when the blue hit just one hour before lines out. Angler Mike Tenuto got it to the boat in only 20 minutes as the big fish stayed on top and Capt. John backed down on it hard. Rounding out the crew were owner John Conrad, James (JR) Bilney and Sean Davie. This was the Biggest Fish and Winner Take All for Billfish earning a combined total of \$201,885.




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DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



We saw some cool mornings last week with many early temperatures in the upper 50's and low 60's. This shift in overnight temperatures signals the end of summer and our journey into the fall fishing season. Big flounder and even some mahi are still around, but with cooler temps many will begin changing their targets to rockfish as well as black and red drum.

Near Shore Wrecks & Coral Areas

The near shore wrecks have slowed down significantly. Many anglers found flounder not as ready to bite a bait. Even still, a few flatties were caught. Captain Chris Mizurak of the "Angler" told me that fishing was tough the past week, with the flounder just not ready and willing to bite baits put before them. Despite this, some anglers, including

Ted Proseus caught a nice 6 lb. flounder on one of his newly designed jigs with a white Gulp bait. Several other nice fish were caught on the "Angler" in the 20" range, however the overall numbers were down from past weeks. They also managed to find a few lookdown fish. The coral near A Buoy as well as Site 11 remained your top fishing spots last week. Live spot and 6" Gulp were the best baits. Jiggging on some wrecks has also produced some decent fish, however most wrecks are now being inundated by small sea bass. Better numbers of keeper sea bass were reported as water cools and fish return inshore. Tracy and Art Donovan Smith were out at the Coral Grounds and found a nice limit of flounder to take home as well as a few bass pots filled with small mahi. Sounds like they will have a freezer full of fillets for the winter.

Jonathan Fazekas of "Bottom Line Sportfishing" said they still have a few dates open for mahi pot hoppin' and light tackle fishing before the fish move back offshore. In recent weeks the report from this boat has always provided lots of pictures of some nice inshore mahi.

The "Bill Slayer" was also on the nearshore bass pot balls and found their share of juvenile mahi ready to bite. Chris Ragni and Bill Wallace returned to the dock with plenty of mahi to fill the freezer. The last report I received on Friday was that the mahi were east of Site 11 and starting to move deep. I received a few reports earlier last week that fish were seen near the lightship but would not bite anything trolled past them or thrown at them. As sea bass began to move back inshore, fresh clam is a must to weed through the smaller fish. Jigs and sand fleas can also be

very productive this time of year. Considering that we've had a very productive summer for bass despite the warm water, this fall should be spectacular.

Back Bay Areas

At Indian River the main focus is still on fluke, however many anglers are switching to tog and sheepshead fishing at the inlet which has really turned on lately. Sheepshead caught on jigs tipped with sand fleas is the best option for targeting these fish, nicknamed the "poor man's lobster". Jim Grill pulled 2 nice sheepies off the rocks at the inlet last Wednesday. Both fish were about 18". Karen Hocker was fishing at the Indian River inlet on a high tide with sand fleas. She fought a nice fish but lost it near the rocks. A few minutes later she hooked the same fish and landed it! The fish even had the split shot and hook she had broken off when she hooked it the first time. Goes to show you, persistence pays off!

Christopher Singer also got in on the sheepshead catch at the inlet catching a nice 21 incher.



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Julia May Mister was fishing the outer wall in Lewes with sand fleas and caught a big sheep as well as 3 keeper tog. The biggest tog measured 21". She was fishing with Billy Mister who is often featured in this article.

David Gill was fishing with his buddy Joe and landed a 4 ft. sandbar shark from the mouth of the Indian River Inlet.

Victor was fishing Bowers Beach and took a nice sea trout off the jetty.

Aiden Sparino got a nice trophy fishing the pier tournament at the Cape Henlopen Pier. The tournament was run by Lighthouse View Bait and Tackle.

Changing of the Seasons

Last Saturday Samantha and I were out fishing for bass and flatfish. I heard several reports of big fish ripping off line and digging bottom on the near shore ground. It was later confirmed that many of the big fish were trophy overslot redfish. As the water cools we should see more and more of these fish in the nearshore waters as well as puppy drum in the back bays.

For the offshore big ones, cut bait on a circle with a heavy fluorocarbon leader is the best way to target them.

While drifting for flounder or bass, drop a big bait down and let it stay just a couple feet off the bottom.

Redfish in Delaware must be between the slot of 18 inches up to 26 inches. Many of these ocean fish will be way over slot but are still a blast to hook and fight. In the back bays, the redfish should be in within the next month. Big Bird's Roy Rigs have always been a favorite of mine for fall puppy drum fishing. The shorter shank and red head jig just seem to have a better hook up ration than standard swim jigs. Any paddle tail or swim jig will work, just make sure you're casting right next to the jetty or structure and fish the bottom. Swimming the jig even 3 feet off the bottom will often result in no bites. As Big Bird always tells me "if you're not bouncing bottom and losing an occasional rig, you're not catching!"

Until next spring... Keep those lines tight and the fins up!

AUGUST 10



Another speedster hit the docks at Hook'em & Cook'em located at Indian River Marina. Anglers Aaron Sanders, Eddie Bishop, Curtis Ball, Frank Geck, Paul Tutsi and Lou Fisher caught this 55 lb. wahoo and two yellowfin tuna while trolling ballyhoo just south of the Poor Man's Canyon.

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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



Oyster Stew

Ingredients:

- 4 tablespoons butter
 - 3 tablespoons flour
 - 1 small onion chopped
 - 1 small bell pepper, chopped. Use jalapenos for a spicier version
 - 1 stalk celery chopped
 - 1 tablespoon Cajun seasonings
 - 2 cups milk
 - 1/4 cup oyster liquor reserved from the shucked oysters
 - Salt and pepper to taste
 - 1/4 cup chopped parsley
 - 1/4 cup chopped green onions
 - 3 cloves garlic minced
 - Dash of hot sauce
 - 2 dozen oysters shucked and drained (you can use canned oysters)
- For Serving: Extra chopped parsley pads of butter (optional),



chili flake, extra hot sauce, soda crackers or oyster crackers

Directions:

Melt 1/4 cup butter in a large pan or pot over medium high heat. Stir in the flour to make the roux. Stir

constantly for 5 minutes to make a blonde roux, which is light brown in color.

Stir in the onion, peppers and celery. Cook for 2 minutes.

Stir in the milk, oyster liquor, Cajun seasonings and salt and pepper to taste. Cook, stirring constantly, for 3-4 minutes, or until the mixture thickens slightly.

Stir in the parsley, green onions, garlic, hot sauce and oysters. Bring to a boil and cook for 3-4 minutes, or until the oysters cook through and their edges curl.

Remove from heat. Garnish with chopped parsley, small chips of extra butter (if desired), chili flakes and a dash of sauce if desired. Don't forget the crackers!

Linguine with Clams

Ingredients:

- Kosher salt
- 1 pound linguine
- 6 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 cup finely chopped shallots, from 2 shallots
- 6 cloves garlic, coarsely chopped
- 1 cup dry white wine, such as Pinot Grigio, Chardonnay or Sauvignon Blanc (see note)
- 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 2 pounds littleneck clams (40 to 45), scrubbed
- 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons fresh

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flat-leaf parsley, finely chopped

3 tablespoons unsalted butter

1 teaspoon lemon zest, from 1 lemon, plus more to taste

1 tablespoon lemon juice, from 1 lemon, plus more to taste

Directions:

In large pot over high heat, bring 4 quarts of water and 2 tablespoons of kosher salt to a boil. Add the linguine and cook according to the package directions until just shy of al dente (the pasta should still be firm to the bite since it will cook another minute or two in the sauce).

Meanwhile, in a very large sauté pan over medium-high heat, heat the olive oil until hot but not smoking. Add the shallots and garlic and sauté until just golden, about 30 seconds. Add the wine, red pepper flakes, 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt, clams, and 1/4 cup of the parsley; bring to a simmer and cook, covered, until the clams open, 6 to 8 minutes. Discard any unopened clams.

Reserving 1/2 cup of the cooking water, drain the linguine in a colander (do not rinse). Add the pasta to the sauté pan with the clams. (If you don't have room for everything in one pan, transfer the clams to a plate and cover to keep warm. When ready to serve, add them back to the pasta on a serving platter). Increase the heat to medium and cook the linguine with the clams, tossing occasionally, until the pasta absorbs most of the sauce and is just tender, 1 to 2 minutes. If necessary, add some of reserved cooking water to keep moist. Remove the pan from the heat. Add the butter, lemon zest,



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lemon juice, and the remaining 2 tablespoons of parsley; toss to coat. Taste and adjust the seasoning with more salt, lemon zest and/or lemon juice, if necessary. Transfer to a serving dish or bowls and serve.

Note: When cooking with wine, select a bottle that is inexpensive (under \$10) but still good enough to drink. Avoid "cooking wines," which are salty and include additives.

Black Drum Amandine with Crabmeat

Ingredients:

- 8 (4 - 6 oz.) fillets of black drum, skin removed
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tbsp. Cajun seasoning
- 1 cup half-and-half
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 sticks unsalted butter
- 3/4 cup sliced almonds
- 1 tbsp. finely minced garlic
- 1/2 lemon, juiced
- 1/2 lemon, zested



- 1 lb fresh jumbo lump crab meat
- 2 tbsp chopped flat leaf parsley
- 4 lemon wedges

Directions:

Remove the fish fillets to a cutting board and inspect them carefully, removing any small bones. Place them in a covered container and refrigerate.

In a shallow container, add the flour and Cajun seasoning, and blend together.

In a shallow container, add the half and half.

Remove the fish fillets and sprinkle lightly with salt and pepper. Place the fillets in the half and half and then add to the seasoned flour. Roll them to coat on both sides.

In a large skillet over medium-high heat, melt the stick of butter. Shake any excess flour off each fillet and place in the hot skillet

being careful not to crowd the pan. Sauté the fillets until browned on both sides, about 2 to 3 minutes. Remove to a platter and keep warm. Repeat until all the fish is cooked.

In the same skillet on low heat, add the remaining stick of butter along with the almonds. Stir the mixture careful and watch as both the almonds and the butter begin to brown, about 3 to 5 minutes. Turn the heat off and add the garlic along with the lemon juice and lemon zest. Stir the sauce mixture as it continues to cook and then pour over the fish fillets.

Wipe the pan clean using paper towel and place the pan on low heat. Add the crab meat along with the chopped parsley and being careful not to break up the lumps, gently toss until warmed through, about 1 minute. Remove the pan from the heat.

For plating, place two sautéed fish fillets in the center of the plate and spoon over the almond butter sauce. Top with a portion of the crab meat and serve with a lemon wedge on the side.

Notes:

I urge you to find black drum for

this dish, but if you must, any white flaky fish fillet (flounder or trout) will work. Most crab meat is clean of any shell pieces, but always inspect it before serving. Your guests will appreciate the attention to detail. Go upscale and use fresh quality butter in this dish, not the run-of-the-mill variety. Be sure to use the sliced almonds rather than slivered. There is a big difference in how the almonds will brown in this dish.

Pan-Seared Rockfish with Brown Butter Sauce

Ingredients:

- 4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) unsalted butter
- 1 small shallot
- 1/4 bunch fresh parsley
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 pound rockfish fillets
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt, plus more as needed
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, plus more as needed
- 1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons neutral oil, such as canola
- 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika

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2 tablespoons sherry vinegar

Directions:

Cut 4 tablespoons unsalted butter into cubes. Finely chop 1 small shallot until you have 2 tablespoons shallot. Pick and finely chop the leaves from 1/4 bunch fresh parsley until you have 2 tablespoons. Measure and have ready 2 tablespoons sherry vinegar and 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika.

Place 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour and 2 tablespoons cornstarch in a pie plate or shallow bowl and stir to combine. Pat 1 pound rockfish fillets dry with paper towels. Cut crosswise into 4-ounce

portions if needed. Season all over with 1 teaspoon of the kosher salt and 1/4 teaspoon of the black pepper. Dredge the fish in the flour mixture, patting off any excess. Place on a plate.

Heat 1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons neutral oil in a large nonstick or cast iron skillet over medium-high heat until shimmering. Carefully add the fish and cook until browned on bottom and they release easily from the pan, about 3 minutes. Flip the fish and cook until cooked through and easily flaking at the thickest part, 2 to 4 minutes. Transfer to a clean plate.

Reduce the heat to medium. Add the butter and stir to help butter melt evenly, scraping up any bits stuck to the bottom of the pan. When the butter starts to smell nutty and turn brown, after about 30 seconds, reduce the heat to low and immediately add the shallot, smoked paprika, and a pinch of kosher salt. Cook, stirring and scraping the bottom of the pan until the shallot softens and is fragrant, about 1 minute. Add the sherry vinegar and cook until the strong vinegar scent has cooked off, 30 seconds to 1 minute. Taste and season with more kosher salt

and black pepper as needed.

Pour the sauce over the fish, taking care to scrape the bits from the bottom of the pan. Sprinkle with the parsley.

Grilled Vegetable & Swordfish Kebabs

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup olive oil, plus more for oiling the grill grates
- 1 tablespoon grated garlic
- 1 tablespoon grated ginger
- Zest of 1 lemon
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 pounds swordfish, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 4 to 6 mini bell peppers of varying colors
- 1 medium red onion, cut into 1-inch pieces, ends kept on
- 1 medium zucchini, cut into 3/4" thick rounds
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes

parsley, for garnish

Directions:

Special equipment: 10 (12-inch) metal or wooden skewers

For the Kebabs: Whisk together the olive oil, garlic, ginger, lemon zest and some salt and pepper in a small bowl. Put the swordfish in a large bowl. Put the peppers, onions, zucchini and tomatoes in another large bowl. Evenly divide the olive oil mixture between the two bowls and toss to coat. Cover and let marinate for about 30 minutes to 1 hour at room temperature.

For the Garlic Aioli: Meanwhile, whisk together the lemon juice, mayonnaise, cilantro, parsley, garlic, mustard, vinegar and hot sauce in a medium bowl. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use.

When the fish and vegetables are ready, preheat a grill over medium-high heat. (If using wooden skewers, soak in water for at least 30 minutes before grilling.)

Meanwhile, thread the swordfish onto six 12-inch skewers. Thread



Garlic Aioli:

- Juice of 1 lemon
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon sherry vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon hot sauce
- 8 pieces of pita toasted on the grill
- Chopped fresh cilantro and

the peppers, onions, zucchini and tomatoes onto individual skewers.

Brush the grill grates with oil. Place the kebabs on the grill, sprinkle with salt and pepper, and grill until lightly charred and grill-marked and the swordfish is cooked through, 3 to 5 minutes per side.

To serve, spread 1 to 2 teaspoons of garlic aioli on top of each pita. Place the swordfish and vegetables on top, drizzle with more garlic aioli, and sprinkle with cilantro and parsley. §

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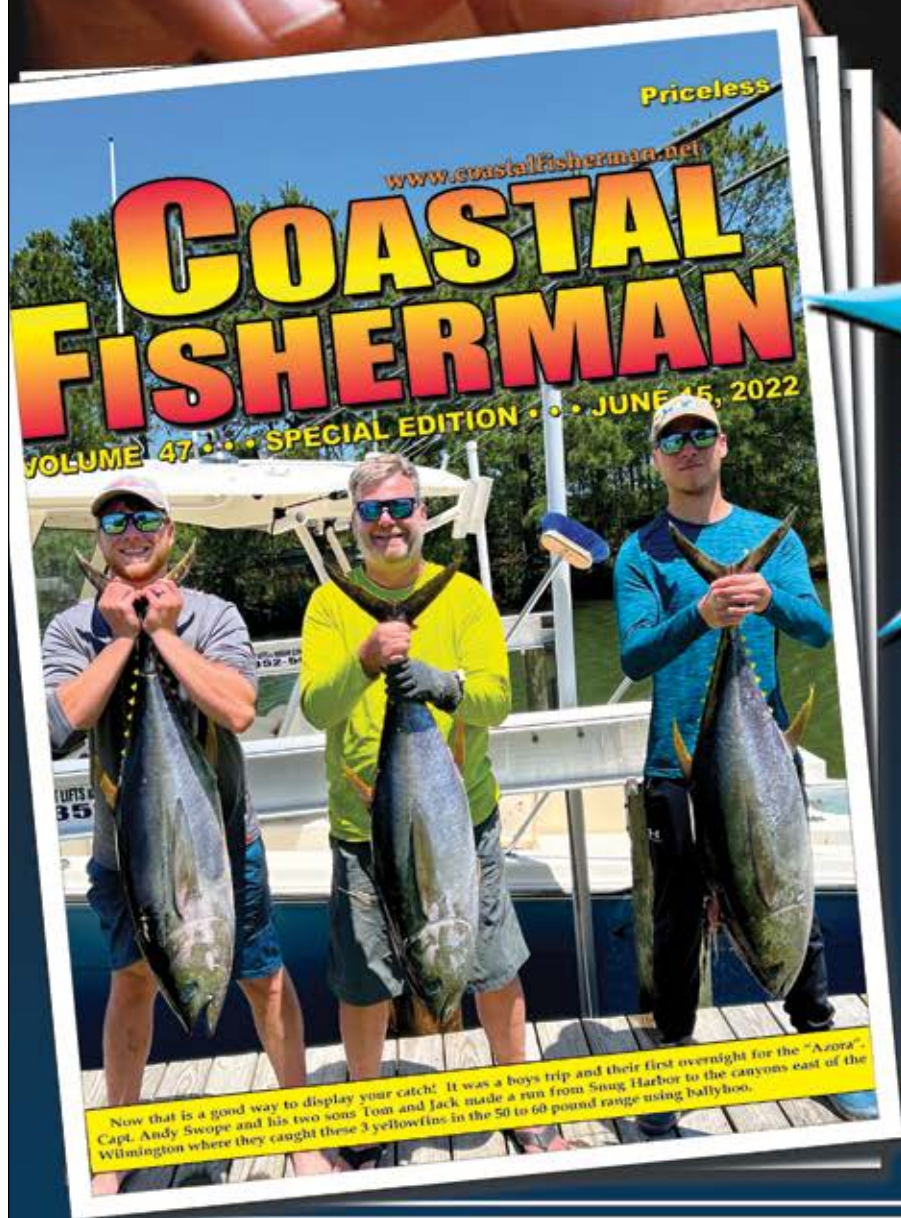
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JULY 20

This crew on the "Blood Money" were waiting for favorable conditions to take their first marlin trip of the season. Anglers Bob Pino, Rachel Wisniewski, Bill Keller and Rod Taylor with Capt. Anthony Pino and mate Ayrton Pryor felt it was time last Thursday. They headed out for an overnight trip well East of the Washington Canyon and fished in 100 fathoms. They hit the dock Friday after going 3 for 4 on white marlin, 1 for 1 on a sailfish and boated a yellowfin tuna and mahi. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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STEVE'S MARINE SERVICE
by Steve Katz



Summer Summary

Another season of the Coastal Fisherman has flown by. Thankfully, there is still more fishing season remaining, along with less crowded waterways.

At this Mid-Atlantic seasonal crossroads, some boaters and anglers schedule trips to the Chesapeake Bay or even further destinations that are less crowded in the off season, such as New York and Massachusetts or southern destinations such as the Carolinas, and Charleston SC - a trending layover destination for those heading to Florida.

The remaining local boaters and anglers look forward to enjoying the waterways in our area as long as possible - until it gets too cold, or the fishing slows to a nibble.

Most of the tournament sportfish boats have a year-

round itinerary that guides them to tournaments in a multitude of destinations. These boats usually schedule a "yard" period in the fall. This is when the boat is hauled out of the water for maintenance and upgrades in the shoulder season.

Even if you do not have a tournament sportfish, the fall is the best season to work on maintenance and upgrades on your own boat. Compared to the spring, the fall weather is often much more pleasant for outdoor boat projects, and you are not in such a rush to get the boat ready for the summer.

What are some of the best off season projects?

Keeping your boat seaworthy should always be top priority. Engine and propulsion systems need to operate in tip top condition for enjoyable and safe boating. The hull and

topside structures should be tended to, whether just cleaning, painting or even repairing areas due to age, stress or damage. The electrical and plumbing systems are always a viable candidate for a refresh or upgrade.

Recently, I worked with a customer who has a low voltage error on the primary Garmin multifunction display (MFD). He thought he had a major electrical problem and started replacing batteries and cleaning connections, working his way to the helm. Through detailed troubleshooting we found a bad circuit on a fuse block. How did this happen? That single fuse and socket had some light corrosion causing the low voltage condition. That one bad circuit is an indication that the remaining 11 circuits are probably not far behind

in becoming a problem. This fuse block and wiring is now scheduled for replacement during winter maintenance.

Plumbing systems include important bilge pumps, engine cooling systems, seawater circulation systems, fresh water and of course, black water or sewage plumbing. Hoses, fittings, and clamps do not last forever. A quick inspection usually reveals any needed maintenance. Tip - when replacing hoses, investigate using silicone hose. Silicone rubber will remain flexible and ageless after prolonged exposure to extreme temperatures, weather, or ozone - it will stay soft and pliable after years of use as compared to traditional rubber which will harden and crack.

Recently I worked with a captain who was battling (potable water) freshwater pump problems, this was important and immediately noticeable when you spend the day offshore. Unusual water pressure problems plagued all connected systems. After

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a review and testing of the system, we found that both accumulators tanks were defective. One accumulator failed in the past and was not too noticeable, then the second accumulator failed recently and

suddenly lots of problems arose. Replacing both accumulators allowed the freshwater system to work like new. Checking your systems in the offseason or boatyard can help eliminate maintenance

surprises during fishing season.

If you want to continue with upgrades and add-ons and need some ideas, the fall and winter boat shows are always a fun place to see almost everything there

is for boating and fishing. Mark your calendars for these popular boat shows below:

I am honored to be part of the Coastal Fisherman and thankful for Larry Budd and his crew for their hard work every week. Thank you to all the readers and advertisers of the Coastal Fisherman and also my customers and friends who often unknowingly provide the real-world content for these articles.

Each summer week, I still have the same anticipation I had as a kid in OC, awaiting the next delivery of the Coastal Fisherman to Shanty Town Marina, waiting to see who and what was on the cover, and of course reading each issue front to back. §

Local Boat Shows

Annapolis United States Power Boat Show October 6-9, 2022

Richmond Fishing Expo January 20-22, 2023

New York Boat Show® January 25-29, 2023

Atlantic City Boat Show March 1-5, 2023

Bay Bridge Boat Show April 13-16, 2023


Major Boat Shows

Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show October 26-30, 2022

Miami International Boat Show February 15-19, 2023

Palm Beach International Boat Show March 23-26 2023

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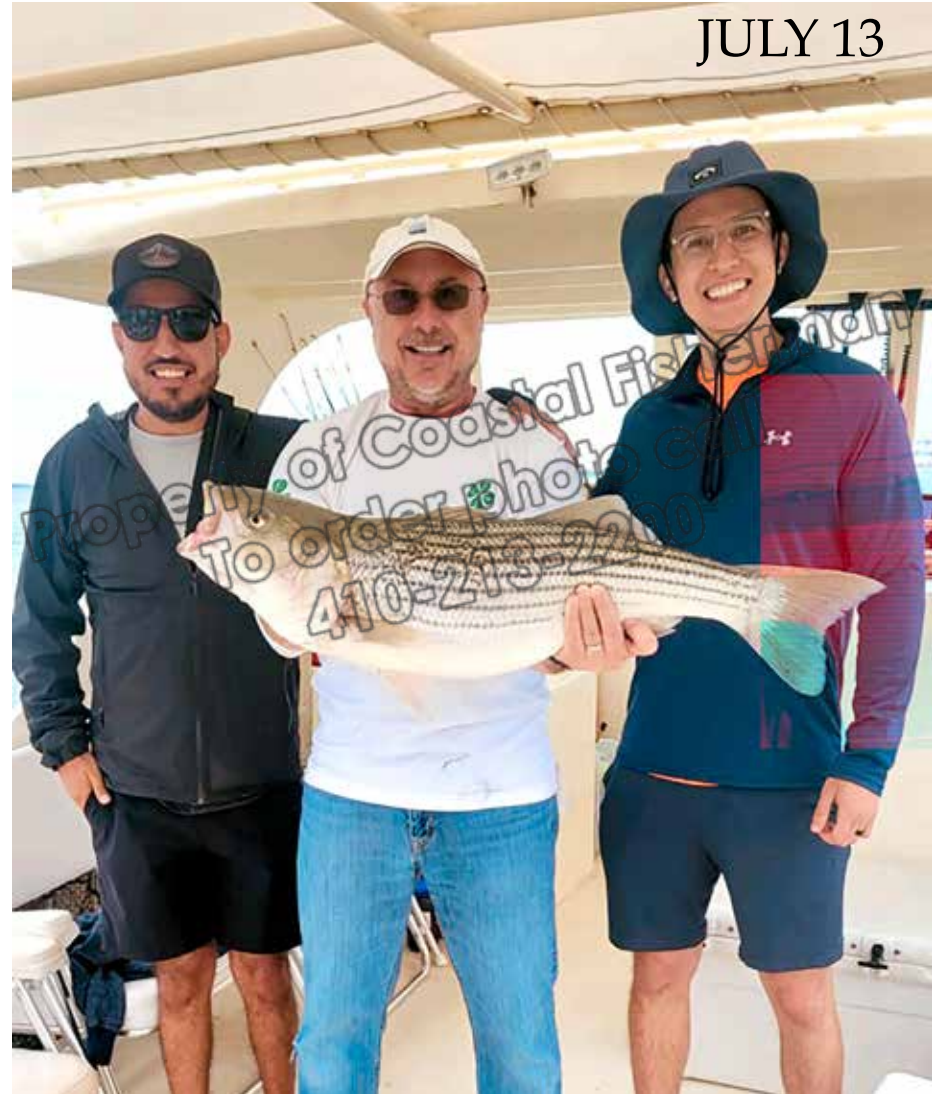
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It was family time for Bluewater Advisory owner Mark Debinski. He chartered Capt. Jason Mumford and the "Lucky Break" with his brother Adrian and son in law Francisco Romero and found this 'in the slot' 15 lb. keeper rockfish at the Rt. 50 Bridge.

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. SEPT 21	High 05:06 am High 06:02 pm	Low 11:01 am Low -----
THUR. SEPT 22	High 05:55 am High 06:40 pm	Low 12:17 am Low 11:53 pm
FRI. SEPT 23	High 06:41 am High 07:17 pm	Low 12:54 am Low 12:40 pm
SAT. SEPT 24	High 07:24 am High 07:54 pm	Low 01:27 am Low 01:23 pm
SUN. SEPT 25 New Moon	High 08:07 am High 08:31 pm	Low 01:56 am Low 02:04 pm
MON. SEPT 26	High 08:48 am High 09:08 pm	Low 02:27 am Low 02:46 pm
TUE. SEPT 27	High 09:30 am High 09:47 pm	Low 03:00 am Low 03:29 am
WED. SEPT 28	High 10:11 am High 10:26 pm	Low 03:36 am Low 04:15 pm

source:usharbors.com

Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge.
 Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high tide
 Delaware Bay Entrance - subtract 1 hour 25 minutes to high tide
 - subtract 45 minutes to low tide
 Wachapreague, VA - add 4 minutes for high tide - 21 minutes for low tide
 Quinby Inlet, VA - subtract 6 minutes for high tide

These tides are only meant to be a guide, as tides can be affected by storms and weather fronts.



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JUNE 1



Capt. Richard Harpel of "Flip N Fins" looks like a character from Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea"! He took this john boat out to the Coral Beds from Lewes, DE and locked onto this brute using fresh clams on a top and bottom drum rig with 5/0 circle hooks and a 5 oz. sinker. The fight took about 40 minutes and the fish was release shortly thereafter. Check out the YouTube video using the QR code to the right!



SEPT 7

Kai Cropper and crew were at it again, spear fishing on a shallow nearshore wreck in about 30' of warm 76° water when something unusual came into view, a cubera snapper. Kai was quick to action using his 90cm speargun to capture the 66.5 lb. fish. These snapper are rare but not unprecedented in Maryland waters and can be found as far north as Nova Scotia. Kai and Dominic Catrino, Travis Baker, Kyle Baker, Nick Smallwood, Jon Bayly and Jason Whaley also caught a 63 lb. cobia, not a bad day!

VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



Ask any old salt, a running tide is typically more productive than a slack or changing tide. As the ESVA cools down, much like the change of tide, warm humid weather is ushered out and cool crisp autumn air floods in. Fishing techniques and targeted species change as well. However, with warm days and cool nights, we on the lower shore are immersed in a figurative slack tide and are anxiously waiting for the flood of cooler fall weather to get us back on a good drift. (If you get my drift!)

The fairly breezy conditions have slowed the flounder bite by introducing turbid water that decimates the ability for these sight feeding doormats to partake in our dinner plans. Luckily the seaside spec bite

has continued to improve as anglers cast popping corks with real or artificial shrimp as well as paddle tails on 1/8 - 1/4 ounce jigheads around the shallow grass beds and oyster rocks behind the VA barrier islands. Along with the specs there has also been a few opportunities for puppies that have been seen tailing about. These spot tails have not been as numerous, but when located, eagerly inhale gold spinner baits with a paddle tail trailer. Don't forget to take your castnet along. Nothing compliments a fantastic fillet of trout better than a handful of fresh caught succulent shrimp snatched up from the same waters.... Gosh we live in an awesome place!!

The middle Chesapeake has

started to produce some striped and spotted shallow sportfishing. Rock, reds and specs suck up and assortment of soft and hardbaits as well as chunks of crab and cut spot or mullet soaked in the shallows of the Tangier and Pocomoke sounds. If you are in the need for fast fun action that will put some stretch in your line and a bend in your rod, then cast some x-raps around structure like the target ships. Aggressive blues will soon provide you with airborne acrobatic fights that bring a smile to whoever is cranking on the other side.

The lower bay has produced some pretty strong structure activity. The reef sites and the CBBT have yielded some nice sheepshead along with reds and a few blacks. Most

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fish have been taking chunks of crab fished on sweeper jigs and t&b rigs. There has still been a few Cobia available for catch and release so keep an eye out for the man in the brown suit, it could put the icing on the cake to an already fun trip.

The surf has been the scene for more than suds and sand. Along with spot and kingfish a few puppies and blues are starting to show up in the wash. Mullet chunks on fireball rigs and modified fishfinders have been the bait of choice. As the days get shorter and the water cools down the action will just get hotter.

While I am finishing up my weekly report and hopefully Sammy is getting the boat ready for a quick afternoon casting trip, I realize how lucky we are and how sometimes we take our way of life for granted. It would be awfully hard to imagine a day without this wonderful place we call home! §



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JULY 20

Paul Skibicki and his daughter Kimberly Pokoiski had a nice father daughter day fishing off of Cape Charles, VA around Buoy 36A. They were using bunker and had the baits on the bottom where Kimberly caught this 44" cobia and another 41 incher as well.



JULY 13

Christina and Chase from California lucked into some fine weather for their trip on the headboat "Morning Star" last week. After pushing some reef blocks off the boat for Capt. Monty Hawkins and the OC Reef Foundation, they got into some nice sea bass and Christina even took the pool for the day!

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AUGUST 17



The shark fishing off the beaches up and down the shoreline has been good the past couple of weeks. Most find black tips and sandbar sharks, catching them mostly at night. Angler Chris Whiteman shared something more unique from his trip to Assateague Island with Kenneth Sullivan. They were fishing during the day using stingray for bait when Chris connected with this 10 foot, 4 inch tiger shark! These are not unusual for the region and this one is more than likely a juvenile based on it's length and dark stripes that give the fish it's name. The stripes tend to fade as they age. While this shark would have been legal to keep, after a few pics this one was revived and released!

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AUGUST 10



Capt. Mike Halsey of Chesapeake Medical Systems ran his wife and friends down to Cape Charles to chase cobias. Over their three days site fishing they were able to hook 4 but reported they must have thrown baits at over 100 fish and spotted even more! This 46" man in the brown suit hit on a live eel. Fishing with Mike were Centreville, MD anglers Bryanna Halsey, Matt Pinder. Megan Pinder, Lindsay Newcomb and Lawson Newcomb.

JUNE 15



It took until June 7th this year for the first white marlin of the season to be released. Kevin Gibbs was the lucky angler releasing this one in the Baltimore Canyon while fishing with Kevin Gibbs, Johnny Moore, Jake Howe, India O'Boyle and Capt. Bobby Layton with mates Cody Smith & Austin Bowden on the charter boat "Wrecker".

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MAY 11



Avid surf fisherman Allen Sklar shared this image of Dennis Ruhl releasing a 46" rockfish he caught off of the Maryland part of Assateague Island on May 4th using sand fleas.

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JULY 27



Records are made to be broken and the crew of the "Wrecker" did just that this summer. Capt. Bobby Layton had the boat in the Washington Canyon when the fish hit on a Tiagra 50 LRS with 60 lb. fluorocarbon line. The crew of Charlie Golden, Jamie Nickerson, Adam May, Bubba Burroughs, Travis Pyle and Nelson Bunting all worked together for 2.5 hours to get the fish to the boat and they also boated 6 yellowfins. The 276 lb.w eyeball holds the record as the Heaviest Tuna for the season!

MAY 11



Big Bird Cropper gets out on the water it seems like everyday! It payed off in late April when he caught this rare 32" pollock in the Ocean City Inlet. He and Shaun Flaherty with Morgan Mericle also caught all the throwback rockfish they wanted as well as getting a few keeper bluefish.

The 2022 fishing season is here and we are excited to capture the moments in the COASTAL FISHERMAN! Whether it's surf fishing, a private boat or charter service, send us your catch for us to review.

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Email it to coastalfisherman@comcast.net
410-213-2200

INCLUDE IN THE EMAIL:

- Angler's full name and town
 - Names & towns of others in photo
 - Weight and/or length of fish
 - Bait/lure used
 - Location of catch
 - Name of boat, if any
- Please do not compress the photo and do not run it through any photo software.

- Have the angler facing into the sun to minimize shadows
- Make sure the side of the fish is facing flat towards the camera
- 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 & always Smile!

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.



We are excited to announce the addition of the Pursuit Boats lineup to our offerings for the 2023 model year!

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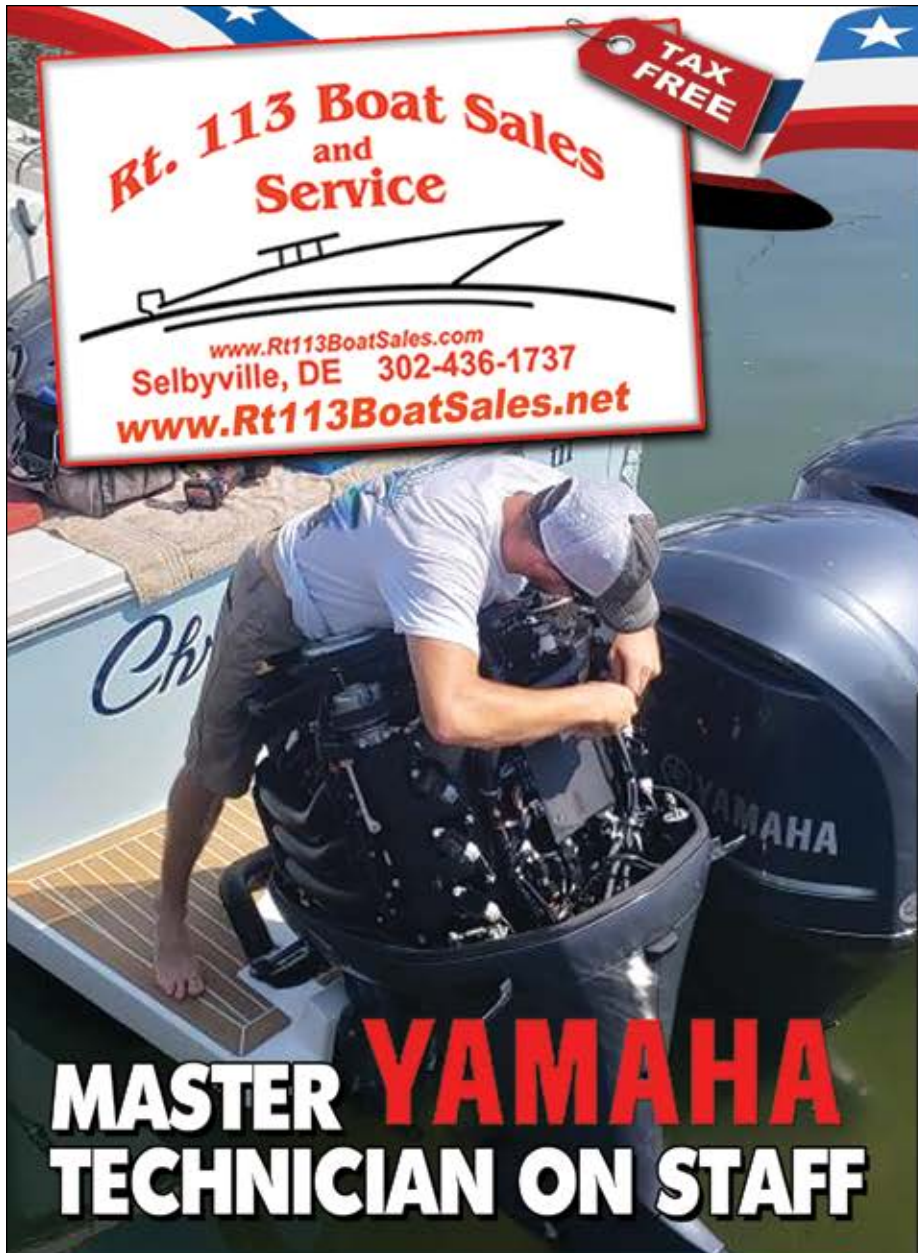
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- Cobia 350 CC - **JUST ARRIVED!**
- Cobia 320 CC - In-Coming November
- Cobia 301 CC - In-Coming December
- Cobia 280 CC - In-Coming September
- Cobia 280 DC - In-Coming December
- Cobia 262 CC - **JUST ARRIVED!**
- Cobia 240 CC - In-Coming September
- Cobia 220 CC - **JUST ARRIVED!**
- Pathfinder 2700 Open - Available September
- Pathfinder 2600 TRS - Available October

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- 2018 Cobia 261 CC Twin F150XB w/ 1,135 Hours, Trailer included • \$107,500 Bring Offers!
- 2018 Cobia 344 CC w/ Triple 300's, 183 Hours, Yamaha Warranty, No Trailer• \$300,000
- 2021 Regulator 26XO Yamaha XF425XTO w/ 255 Hours, Trailer Included \$220,000
- 2008 Edgewater 228 CC Yamaha F250 w/ 1071 Hours, Trailer Included \$47,500
- 2019 Pathfinder 2005 Yamaha VF 115, 22 hours, Trailer included • \$47,500
- 2017 Cobia 277 w/ Twin Yamaha F200XCA \$150,000 • **SOLD!**
- 2019 Cobia 240 CC w/ Twin F150's Trailer Included • **SOLD!**
- 2014 Tidewater 230 LXF • **PENDING**

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It was a long day for this motley crew on the "Restless Lady". Anglers Michael Thiel & Connor Speaker from West Chester PA joined Nolan Soulas and Amanda Pasquale of Ocean View, DE, Karly Soulas from Nashville, TN and South Bethany based Northwestern Mutual Certified Financial Planner Steve Soulas felt the full brunt of the slow tuna bite in late June. Capt. Todd Kurtz is known for his tuna finding skills, but they could only find one bite that day in the Washington Canyon. The group is pictured with Karly's son Colin at Talbot Street Pier.



Kelly Langion-Milano of North Babylon, NY traveled down to OC to try for tog with Capt. Chase Eberle on "Chasin' Tides". While only fishing for tog a few times before, she hit paydirt in late April boating this 18 lb whopper and potentially setting a new IGFA world record for women! She was fishing with husband James Milano, Jason Larson, Bruce Stout Jr., James Graham and Richie Negron with mate Tanner Virden. All caught some nice size tog using white crab with all released except Kelly's.

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- 6 - Wheelhouse Bar & Grill - 302.291.2163
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- 19 - Tail Chasers - 443.664.7075
- 20 - Ocean Pines Yacht Club - 410.641.7501





Bluefish exploded at the Cape Henlopen State Park Pier over the weekend! Anglers Ryan Kapocsi from Bethany Beach, DE, Jessica Byrne and Jeff Taviano from Wilmington, DE rushed into the Lewes Harbour Marina late last Saturday to share these 4 fish they caught using mullet with top water lures.



When not making sure your packages are absolutely getting to you on time, FedEx driver Morgan Mericle likes to fish. Despite 20+ mph winds he reeled in this 34" striper from the Rt. 50 bridge on a swimbait in the last days of April using his new Daiwa Prorex 400 with an 11' Penn Battalion casting rod.

2022 MARYLAND & DELAWARE CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES

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

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

AUGUST 24



This crew on the "Boss Hogg" brought the fish and the fun to the 29th Annual Capt. Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open! On the first of the event anglers Jackie Pickering, Lori Middleton, Gina Dean, Dawn Bahen, Debra Alms and Sydney Sebold with Capt. Brian Porter and mates Alex Beane & Jack Hannum rolled into the scales with a chunky 72.4 lb. yellowfin tuna caught by Jackie in the Poor Man's Canyon in 120 fathoms. Despite numerous challenges over the next 2 days, the big fish finished the tournament in 1st Place in the Tuna Division earning the team \$12,300 in award money. Pictured at Bahia Marina.

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3rd Annual Bishop Broadbill Bash
Oct 13-16 • Sunset Marina • 410-213-9600

Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament
October 22 - November 20 • Lewes, DE • 302-645-6227

For complete tournament coverage results, pick up the Coastal Fisherman every week from May through September or go to our website at www.coastalfisherman.net



AUGUST 31

Day 3 of the 31st Annual MidAtlantic Tournament turned out to be all about blue marlin! One of the first to the scales was this 607 lb. and 119" blue caught by Andrew Kinsley on the "Kilo Charlie". Capt. Howard Lynch had the crew in deep water on the 1000 fathom line well north in the Lindenkohl Canyon. After it hit on an artificial lure the big blue got tail wrapped taking 3 hours to get to the boat and finished the tournament in 3rd Place for Heaviest Blue Marlin. Andrew with owner Chris Kinsley and fellow anglers Zeb Zebley and Scott Dolmetsch and mates Burri Gonzalez & Pete Pendleton also released 8 white marlin over the event earning them a combined purse of \$580,120, the 4th largest payout this year.

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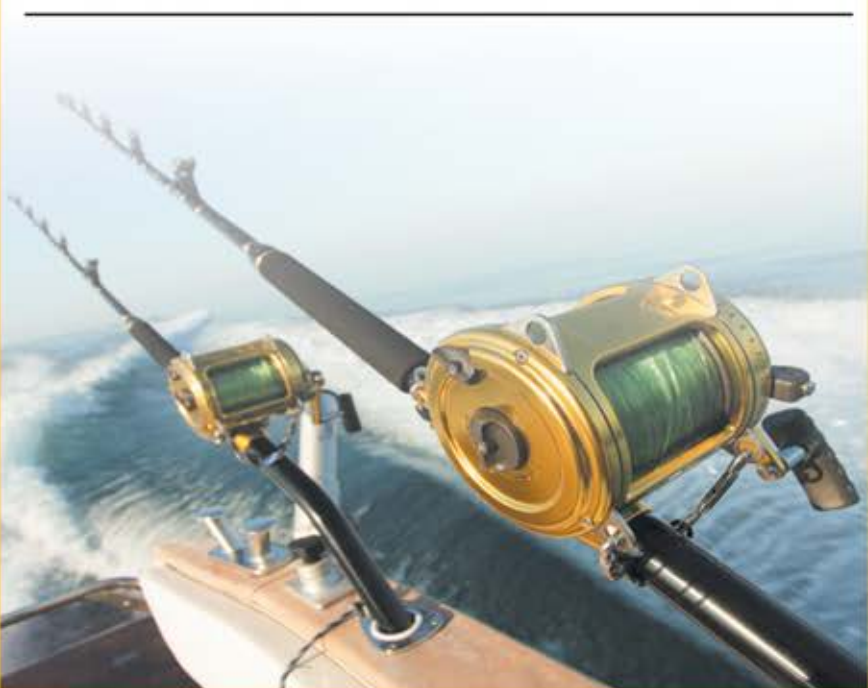
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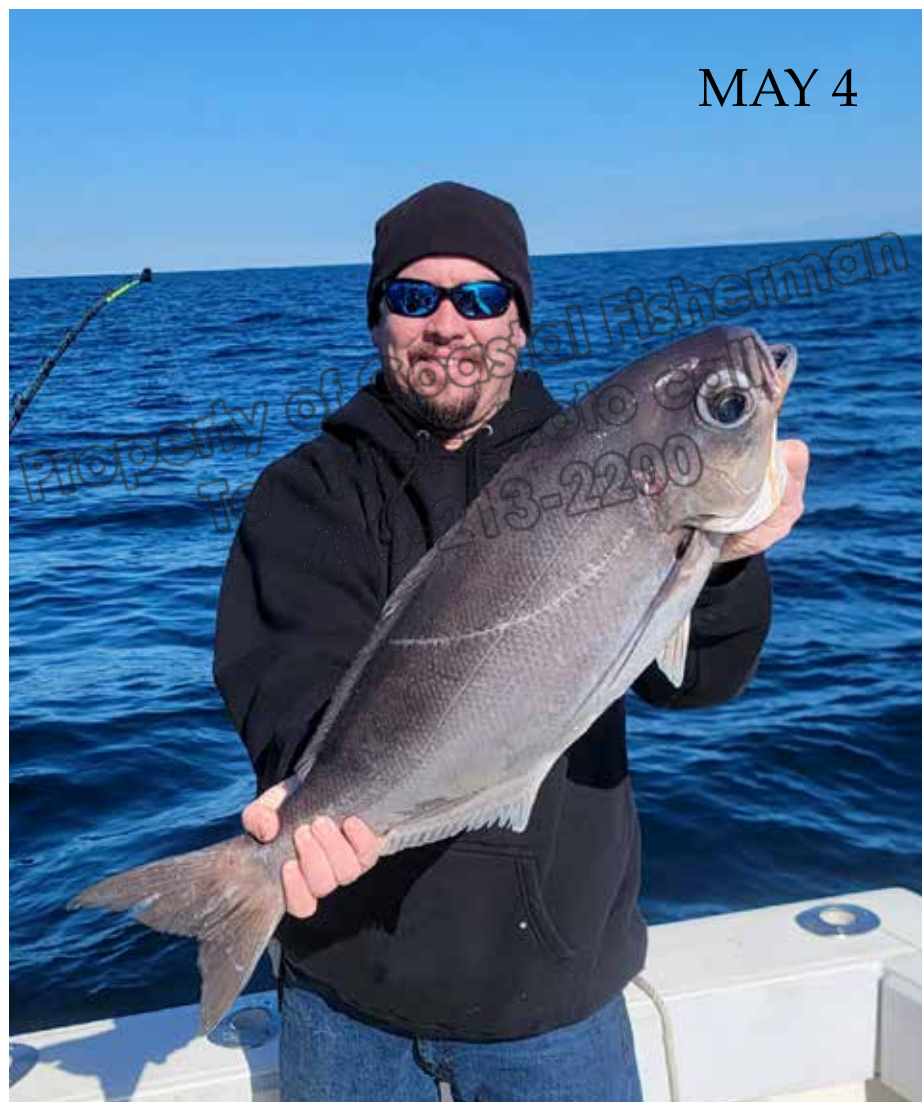
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AUGUST 31

Property of Coastal Fisherman
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Skylar Snead headed out to the Ocean City Inlet for some spearfishing. While he was diving, Jaxon Snead stayed on the boat down current fishing with Fishbites Artificial Bloodworms and reeled in this triggerfish and some small sea bass.



MAY 4

Property of Coastal Fisherman
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Anglers Don Mauzy and Kyle Krabill had quite the trip in early February! They made a run to the Norfolk Canyon on the "Never Enough" to find some warmer water and were rewarded with this unusual catch barrel fish as well as nice mako shark.

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MAY 4



We got a frantic call from Bob Hudson of Ocean Pines on April 20th about a really big perch he caught! It was huge but he did not have a scale, so we told him to bring it down to the office and we weighted it at 1 lb, 14 oz on our unofficial scale. That put this mighty fish as a contender for a new Maryland State record, well over the 1.7 lbs existing one from 2016. He found this one in the Thorofare around 54th Street when he saw some moving water and tossed in his Roy Rig. Thanks to Crabs to Go in Berlin for providing the certified scale weight of 1.85 lbs for the Maryland DNR.

MAY 25



The leaderboard filled up early during the Joe Morris Memorial Flounder Tournament! By a little after 10AM there was already a 4 pounder in the lead. That held throughout the morning until Matt Moffa slammed this 4.15 lb. fish from the Lewes Canal on the scale sliding into 1st place and holding off all subsequent challengers to win overall.

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Fish of the Year

2022



(AS REPORTED TO THE COASTAL FISHERMAN - TIES GO TO FIRST FISH REPORTED. HOOK & LINE ONLY)

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
 Bluefish	September 10 Stacy Schindler Rt. 50 Bridge 15.5 lbs.	July 18 Tommy Schlauch Jr. Fenwick Ditch 12 lbs. 3 Oz.	 Thresher Shark	May 30 Dan Cavey Fingers 373 lbs.	
 Black Drum	April 16 CW Wells Assateague Island 70 lbs.	May 22 Mike Strain Coral Beds 78 lbs.	 Bigeye Tuna	July 23 Crew - Wrecker Washington Canyon 276 lbs.	July 4 Crew "Reel Fast" Washington Canyon 220 lbs.
 Cobia	August 17 Kai Cropper Inshore Shoal 77 lbs.	July 15 Scott Brooks Off Bethany Beach 89.2 lbs.	 Bluefin Tuna	June 10 Corey Healy Baltimore Canyon 243 lbs.	
 Flounder	July 29 Mike Brockmeyer East Channel 7.85 lbs.	July 20 Jesse Norman Ocean Structure 10.4 lbs.	 Longfin Tuna	July 31 Zach Bower Wilmington Canyon 38.5 lbs.	June 5 Chad Tingle Wilmington Canyon 49.5 lbs.
 Sea Bass	May 31 Justin Eddy Poor Man's 4.7 lbs.	May 26 Kase Andrews Ocean Structure 3.125 lbs.	 Yellowfin Tuna	July 22 Jim Clarke Massey's Canyon 89.2 lbs.	August 27 Ian Beall 800 Fathom Line 151.6 lbs.
 Sheepshead	June 27 JC Dennis OC Inlet 13.75 lbs.	August 18 Vee Sisounthone Lewes Wall 16 lbs.	 Dolphin	August 11 Frank Sinita Jr. Poor Man's Canyon 59.5 lbs.	
 Striped Bass	May 20 Bud Martin Rt. 50 Bridge 17.19 lbs.		 Swordfish	June 30 Steve Stallings Poor Man's Canyon 288 lbs.	
 Tautog	April 22 Kelly Langion-Milano Artificial Reef 18 lbs.	April 22 Billy Thornatore Ocean Wreck 7.5 lbs.	 Blue Marlin	August 24 Andrew Kinsley Lindenohl Canyon 607 lbs.	
 Wahoo	August 26 Charlie Phelan Spencer Canyon 104 lbs.		 White Marlin	August 12 Jeremy Duffie Baltimore Canyon 77.5 lbs.	

To report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200 or email to coastalfisherman@comcast.net

SEPT 14



The crew of the "Knot Again" had an epic overnight trip over the Labor Day weekend. Capt. Darryl Scuse with owner Richard Mumford with anglers Cross Fierro, Nick Fierro, Butch Brooks, Brandon Brooks, Max Robichaud and mate Colin Koveieski released 10 white marlin at the Dumpsite 20 miles east of the Baltimore Canyon. Overall they had 16 bites and landed 2 yellowfin tuna.

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MAY 18



In the 'you never know what you're going to catch' category, we present this monkfish that Mike Frezza caught while tog fishing on the charter boat "No Limits". This poor man's lobster fell for a Magictail Bucktail Tog Jig tipped with white crab at an Ocean Structure. Mike did find his tog, a 13 lb. fish that was released.



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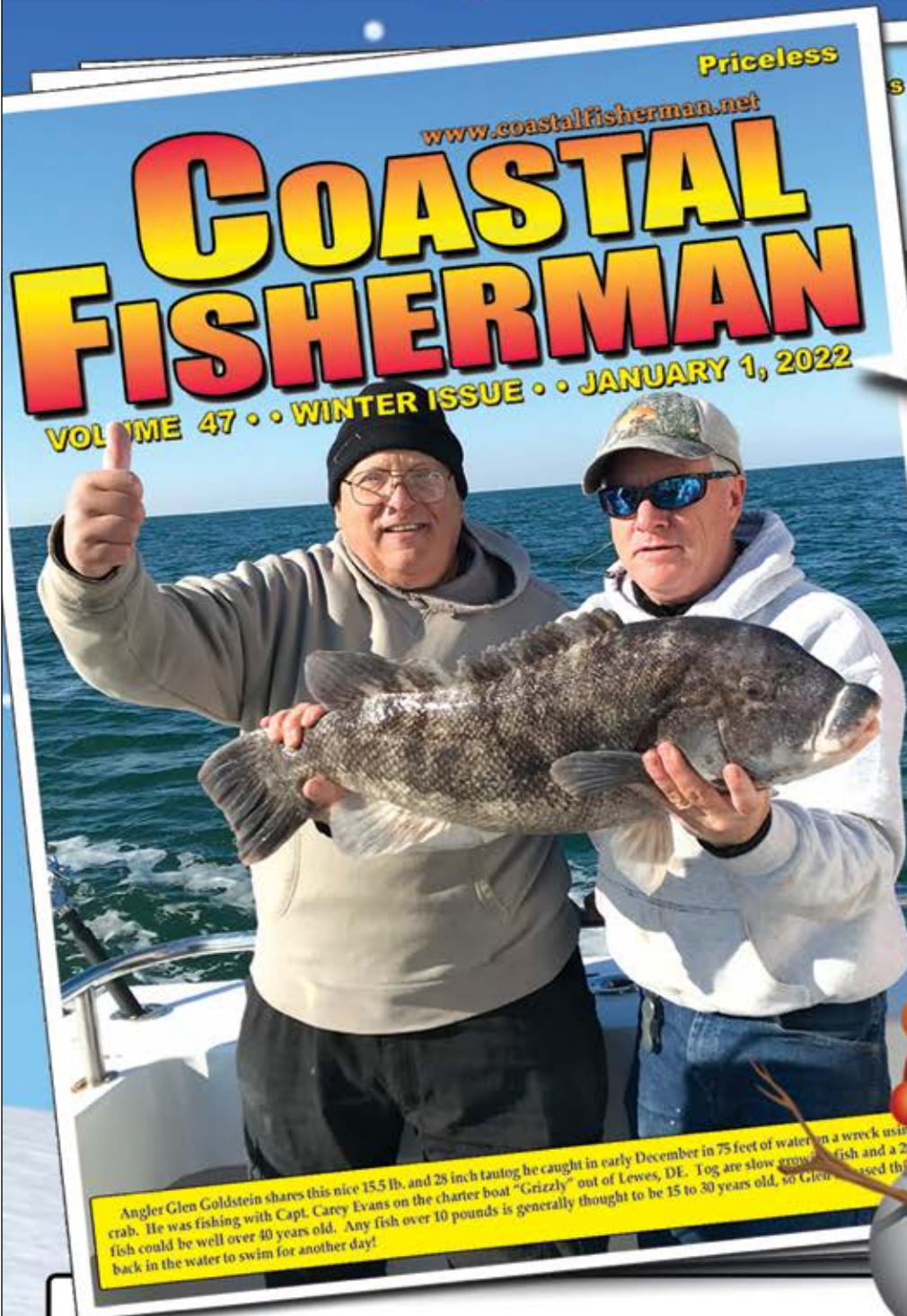
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