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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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Master angler Shaun Flaherty was back on the water with Big Bird Cropper to work the Rt. 50 Bridge. It was only a short run from the West Ocean City Public Boat Ramp on Bird's "Lost Time" and the pair wasted no time getting on the fish. They were using a dredge method to push a stretch 20 lure deep under the bridge raising this big rockfish that Shaun caught. Overall, they caught 7 strippers and 5 weakfish.



The "Boss Hogg" with Capt. Alex Beane and mate Jack Hannum headed to the Poor Man's Canyon where their crew went 6 for 12 on white marlin and broke off on a blue marlin. The also put a 6 man limit of 60 mahi on ice!

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This Week Last Year

- The "Buckshot" won the Billfish Release Division of the 64th Annual Marlin Club Labor Day White Marlin Tournament with a total of 7 white marlin released offshore of the Poor Man's Canyon, including going 5 for 8 on day 2 around the 160 line.
- Kai Cropper speared a rare 66 lb. cubera snapper in about 30' of water at an inshore wreck.
- There were a lot of white marlin releases in deep water east of the canyons from the Wilmington down to the northern parts of the Poor Man's. The "Reel Joy" released 7 in one day.

Storms, winds, billfish and mahi were the dominant headlines for last week offshore. Winds this summer are nothing new, however we have entered into a fairly active hurricane season as demonstrated last week with not 1 but 2 systems traveling north. Fortunately for us they were pretty far offshore, but their effect was present in both sea conditions in the canyons and notable erosion on the beaches. It was enough though for the Ocean City Marlin Club to cancel their Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament. It would have been their 64th. There were nonetheless a few days of manageable weather and anglers were seeing some of the best marlin fishing of the season!

Even so, tuna were more elusive,

and those that did find some had to fight sharks to get most or any of it to the boat. All the same, most trips came back with a lot of meat as dolphin were abundant offshore and inshore.

Billfish

The week started out strong with whites and blues being released mainly offshore of the Baltimore Canyon around 600 fathoms. Capt. Luke Blume had the charter boat "C-Boys" there and went 1 for 2 on blue marlin as well as filling the box with mahi. The "Pumpin' Hard" with Capt. Mike Burt out of Sunset Marina hit the dock with 3 white marlin and 1 blue marlin flags flying. They went 3 for 5 on whites. Jim Ramos from Mount Vernon, WA found some luck a little closer. He released a 65" and 71 lb. white in the area of the Hambone that hit on a pink skirted ballyhoo.

Weather then cooled the action for most of the weekdays with boats finally getting out over the weekend. Sunday in particular saw a flurry of action across the southern canyons. Capt. Joe Drosey on the charter boat "Rhonda's Osprey" called to let us know he would be at his slip at Fisherman's Wharf with a nice catch of mahi, a tuna and both a white and blue marlin release from the Washington Canyon. A nice day on the rip for sure, but more was to come. The charter boat "Turnin' Fins" with Capt. Jake Shaffer was

also in the Washington and its anglers Alyssa Leandra & Jenna Robinson released 3 whites. This included a first release for both girls! They also tossed some mahi in the cooler.

Further north was hot as well. The "Boss Hogg" with Capt. Alex Beane headed to the Poor Man's Canyon where their crew went 6 for 12 on white marlin and broke off on a blue marlin. They also put a 6 man limit of 60 fish on ice! The private boat "Kilo Charlie" saw Capt. Howard Lynch run further north to troll in the southern waters of the Spencer Canyon. Steve Henry caught his first white marlin after it hit on a naked ballyhoo.

Other billfish were in the mix. Capt. Bobby Layton of the "Wrecker" chose to work the canyons north of the Baltimore and he and his crew were rewarded with 2 swordfish. They were deep dropping for these swords and the largest was 150 lbs.

Tuna and Tuna Parts

We have been reporting that shark attacks on hooked tuna have been a problem over the past few weeks, specifically for yellowfin. It did not seem that they were as aggressive with bigeye tuna. Perhaps due to their size. That changed a little this past week. Capt. Dave Midgett on the "All In" returned to the Ocean City Fishing Center last week after an overnight trip to the Washington Canyon at the bigeye hole. They had numerous bites but could only manage to get 2 eyeballs to the boat before sharks completely destroyed them. Even one of the bigeyes boated had some

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Brandon Kohler and friends definitely scored big when they won a trip on the charter boat “Bill Slayer” during the Starboard’s ‘Dewey Goes Pink’ Breast Cancer Fundraiser in 2022. They cashed in the award last week spending the day with Capt. Chris Ragni in the Baltimore Canyon. Once back to the dock at the Indian River Marina, the crew threw 2 yellowfin tuna on the dock along with a mess of mahi and blueline tilefish.

damage by the tail. The “Ro Sham Bo” with Capt. Willie Zimmerman did an overnight trip in the Washington as well. They too hit the fishing center with 2 yellowfin tuna, a white marlin release and a boat limit of over 50 dolphin.

Earlier in the week Capt. Mark Hoos on the “MARLI” took a group out to the Washington Canyon. They had 16 bites overall including one cover up on 10 rods. They hit the dock at Sunset Marina with 4 yellowfins intact and 3 heads! The sharks got the rest.

Capt. Chris Ragni on the “Bill Slayer” took a different tact for his trip. He was fishing the Baltimore Canyon and after getting a couple yellowfins aboard along with over 30 mahi in the box, he switched to tile

fishing. They raised over 25 using Nomad Design Tackle Streaker jigs.

What Else Was Out There?

You can see from the report so far that dolphin ruled the catch offshore for quantity. You didn’t need to fish the canyons either. Blue water was at the reefs and wrecks with private and charter boats making major hauls. Capt. Monty Hawkins on the headboat “Morning Star” got out midweek and was not having success finding sea bass or flounder willing to bite. So, he ‘paddled’ out a little further offshore and got his first boat limit catch of the season, on mahi! The “If Knot 4 U” dealt with some salty seas last Friday to fish the Jack Spot, but got their limit of taco meat! The charter boat “No Limit” out of

the Indian River Marina worked Reef Site 11 and got a gaffer to top off a limit catch of flounder.

False albacore have also been in the mix. The “100% on Board” headed out only 3 to 5 miles and caught over 30 bonito using small spoons and cut bait.

Late summer and fall is actually a great time to get offshore. Typically, the marlin bite is stronger and with less boats fishing the pressure is less. Fall is also time for sword fishing and a number of fall inshore events and surf tournaments.

That seems about it for this week, so keep sharing what you find on the rip.

Until next week I will see you at the docks! \$

Upcoming Tournaments

- The **22nd Annual Memorial Spot Tournament** will be held on September 10th. This family event focuses on fishing from the docks at the Ocean City Fishing Center with categories for spot and other fish. No skill is needed and the entry fee is only \$5. Awards at 5PM. For more info call 410-213-1121.













- The **Bahia Marina Flounder Pounder** is next Sunday, September 10th and is hosted at Fish Tales in Ocean City. This fun tournament is great for families, kids and serious bay anglers. More info at BahiaMarina.com under tournaments.



The marlin bite ticked up a bit in late August and Jim Ramos from Mount Vernon, WA took full advantage. He was fishing on the "Fraydknot" out of Bridgeville, DE in the area of the Hambone when this thick 71 lb. and 65" white marlin hit on a pink skirted ballyhoo.

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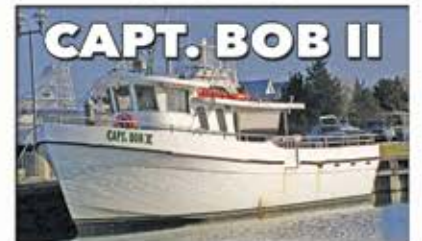
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Ocean City based Nevin King was fishing the rocks at the south Ocean City Jetty with Dylan Post where he tricked this sheephead using sand fleas.

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We can only believe Kieran Treece could not believe his eyes when he caught this 30" striper, so he closed them! Kieren was fishing with Big Bird Cropper 'dredging' with stretch lures to catch this keeper, his first.



Michael Jones from Wilmington, DE took his 21' walk around out to an ocean structure and snared this 26" flounder using a 6" Gulp Swimming Mullet on a bucktail.





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OCEAN CITY

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



It seems to be the main story line for the summer of 2023, storms!. Last week saw storms to the south and to the east make boating a nightmare inshore. On the few days that anglers could get offshore, flounder and sea bass were still very abundant and more than willing to bite a hook. Closer to shore, big redfish are in the surf at Assateague Island. The mahi bite is also very strong with many around the Bass Pots as well as the Fenwick and the Marine Electric Shoals. In the back bays, juvenile redfish and smaller rockfish are along the docks and bridge pilings. The docks are also full of spot fish as well as sea trout feeding on them.

Nearshore Wrecks & Reefs

The strong winds and rough seas kept most boats at the dock. The high swells of two offshore hurricanes made even the most seasoned angler pucker a little when heading offshore to the Bass Grounds! There were a few days that were manageable and the sea bass bite on the inshore wrecks was surprisingly good with quality fish hitting the coolers. Flounder too were cooperating. We have reports of

some of the biggest fish we have seen in years with many anglers returning to the docks with limits of fish over 20 inches. The headboat "Judith M" slipped out too on the good days and their crews were greeted with fast, hot action at several reefs and natural bottom sites. Many anglers had big flounder, and even a few with some big sea bass. Captain Eric reported big schools of bait are all around and fish are steadily feeding, making the catches very good. The deep sea fishing vessel "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak shared that the sea bass were a little pickier last week on his trips, but the flounder chewed every trip, making anglers very happy to bring these tasty fish home for dinner. Many of the headboats will return to a full day, eight and/or ten hour schedule after the holiday weekend, however check their websites and social media for exact days as they move into their fall schedules. As the weather cools the bass fishing should begin to really turn on and deliver more quality fish for anglers. With the longer trips, headboats can also venture out further to less pressured wrecks. The knotheads are not alone either. Cutlassfish,

otherwise known as ribbonfish, are still on many of the wrecks along with some stud redfish, sheepshead and spadefish. Michael Kapsak was out and returned from the Bass Grounds with a couple big flounder along with a couple keeper sea bass. "Double Trouble Charters" with Captain D.J. Churchill said when the weather didn't keep them at bay, the sea bass and flounder bite was very good. Captain D.J. also reported a few big sheepshead off the wrecks along with triggerfish to delight the anglers. Chris Fontana trolled within ten miles of land and had a plethora of fish which included spanish mackerel, bonito and dolphin. Trolling small spoons as well as chugger plugs were most effective. They also shared that once they found the schools the action was non stop! The big story for the week however was dolphin. Blue water has finally moved inshore with many good sized mahi found on the nearshore bass markers as well as around the wrecks. The past few years the inshore pelagic bite has been some of the best we have seen. Brian Trumbull got in on the mahi action. He reported lines went in the water at 5:30 am and

they had their first mahi on the line before the second line was even set. They ended up with 17, including one big bull, even after losing over 20 fish at the boat due to hooks being pulled at the last minute from rough seas. He further stated that many times they had 3-4 rods hooked up at a time.

The "Ocean City Girl" ended their trip to the pots with a boat limit of 54 mahi and 4 albacores. They also had multiple hook ups during the trip. The coming week is forecasting temperatures in the 90's so the water should remain warm enough to keep the mahi around at least for another week or two. This is the time to get out and fish the wrecks and bass pots and cash in on some of these delicious fish.

Back Bays & Inlet Fishing

The back bays are alive with spot and other bait fish. Flounder remains the main catch, however redfish and rockfish are also being caught off the docks as well as the Rt. 50 Bridge. At the inlet, sheepshead are in the rocks along with some big redfish. A great way to get out on the bay is to book one of the 2 or 3 hour trips on the various bay boats. The "Bay Bee" out of the Ocean City Fishing Center for example said luck has been on their side, with many anglers catching big fluke along the main channels of Ocean City. Anglers are catching

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 big fish for dinner and having a blast seeing the back bays of the city. The "Miss Ocean City" also had some good trips with large flatfish coming on board. With most of the schools back in session, the bay boats are way less crowded, giving anglers a lot more room to fish.

Rich Fior had a big doormat that he caught in the Thorofare using Gulp bait. Aidan McDevitt fished the outgoing tide and landed several fluke as well as some decent sized blues at the Rt. 50 Bridge. He also managed a nice sized rockfish. John Mech, Jr. had a good night at the bridge bringing in 14 rockfish, however only one would measure for a keeper. Joe Bish also fished the bridge and landed several nice sized bluefish as well as a few rockfish. Craig Cropper was out with Kieran and helped him land his first keeper rockfish using a stretch lure. The group also landed a few other rockfish along with blues.

At the Inlet Lenny Gilliar was lucky enough to hook a big sheepshead along the rocks. This was Lenny's first keeper sheepshead and his smile showed off his excitement. Larry Hall also fished the inlet and landed himself a nice sheepshead. Sand fleas always do the trick.

Surf Fishing, Clams & Crabs

Scott Wagner had some good luck bringing in several big redfish between 11 and 18 pounds from the suds off of Assateague. He reportedly caught all the fish in a 45 minute time frame. Acie Mankins went there too and happened upon a big 36 inch redfish. He also caught spot, kingfish and a small flounder. Carl Littleton reports crabbing in Assawoman Bay has been producing around 4-5 dozen crabs per outing. Bunker bait is working the best in around 8-10 feet of water.

Clamming on the island remains good however, many of the spots have been heavily picked over leaving only larger clams to be found.

Until next week...
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Brody Onley from Middletown, DE shows off his first keeper flounder with his twin brother Brayden. He was fishing on the "Lady D" with his uncle Capt. Bob Stokes and his aunt, first mate Donna Stokes when he caught the 17" fish using white Gulp.



Mike Ardente of Limerick, PA had a good day with Capt. Jason Mumford on the charter boat "Lucky Break". They fished the south Jetty at the Ocean City Inlet using sand fleas and Mike got his limit of 4 in the box.



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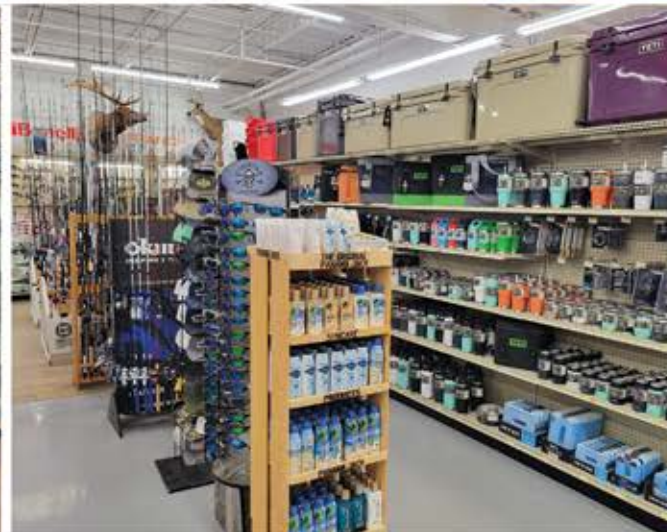


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2023



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

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
 Bluefish	May 19 Rich Daiker OC Jetty 14.5 lbs.	June 8 Dexter Long Indian River Inlet 12 lbs.	 Thresher Shark		
 Black Drum	April 4 Tom Berry Assateague 19 lbs.	May 19 Eric Feinauer Delaware Bay 53 lbs.	 Bigeye Tuna	August 11 Brian Stewart Washington Canyon 265 lbs.	July 1 Crew "Reel Passion" Washington Canyon 234 lbs.
 Cobia	July 8 Nick Smallwood Little Gull 39 lbs.	August 21 Jon Davis Fenwick Shoal 47.7 lbs.	 Bluefin Tuna	May 29 Crew "Marli" Baltimore Canyon 216 lbs.	July 31 Eric Widland 19 Fathom Lump 89 lbs.
 Summer Flounder	July 26 Capt. Dave Caffrey Reef Structure 8.25 lbs.	June 26 Mike Lewis Old Grounds 9.6 lbs.	 Longfin Tuna		
 Sea Bass	May 20 Wayne Small Ocean Structure 5 lbs.	May 22 Richard Krauss Ocean Structure 4.3 lbs.	 Yellowfin Tuna	August 9 Ed Quick Poorman's Canyon 162.5 lbs.	July 30 Crew "Fish Whistle" Norfolk Canyon 132 lbs.
 Sheepshead	June 24 Rob English Ocean City Jetty 14 lbs.	June 5 Paul Mathews Outer Wall 13.78 lbs.	 Dolphin	August 1 Jack Hannum Poorman's Canyon 65 lbs.	 August 22 Ralph Redden Inshore Lump 43 lbs.
 Striped Bass	June 1 Buddy Martin Rt. 50 Bridge 12 lbs.	May 22 Chic Stearrett Bethany Beach 18.7 lbs.	 Swordfish	July 11 Crew "Marli" Poor Man's Canyon 284 lbs.	
 Tautog		May 6 James Milano Ocean Structure 22.9 lbs.	 Blue Marlin	August 23 Andy Confortini Linden Kohl Canyon 889 lbs.	
 Wahoo	August 22 Auston Burnley Poorman's Canyon 80 lbs.		 White Marlin	August 24 Mike Dahl Linden Kohl Canyon 76 lbs.	

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



The reds are running down south, and they are big. Robin Hagy from Ocean View, DE fished the lower Chesapeake Bay on the boat "The Gray Boys" and hooked this 48" red drum using a live kingfish.

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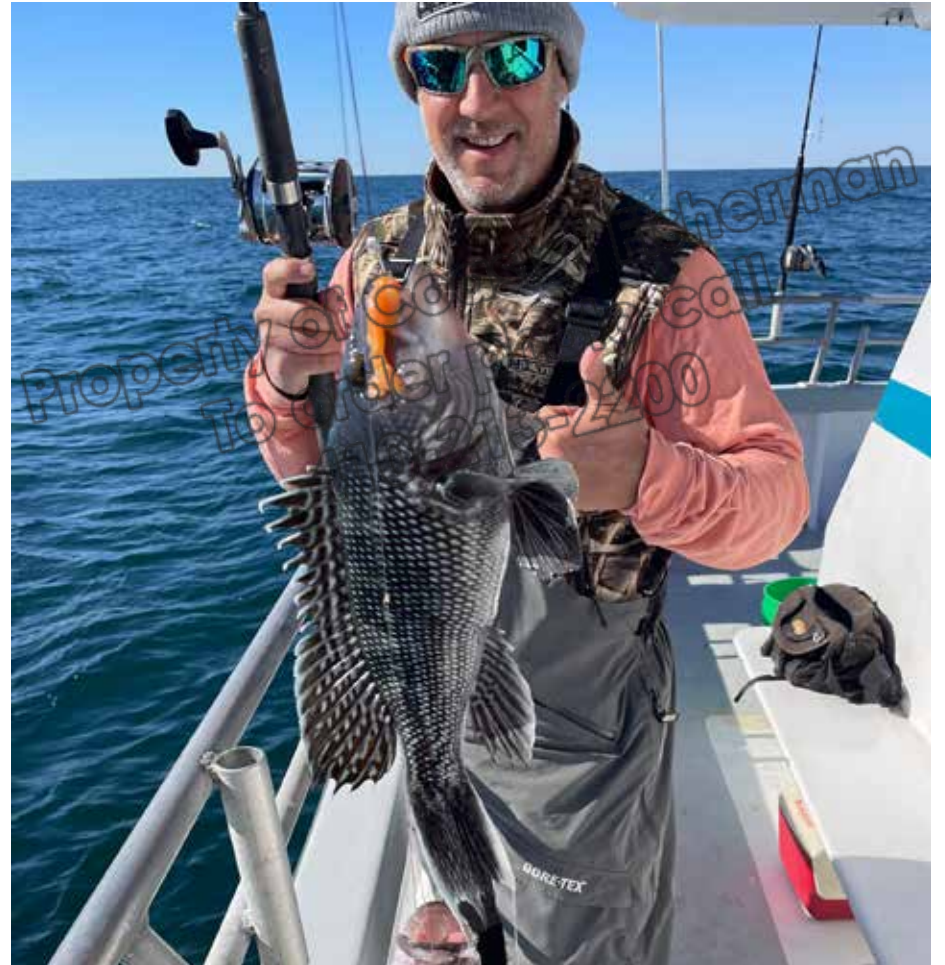
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FISHING CHARTERS



The two hurricanes that passed by last week kept a number of boats nestled in their slips until last Saturday. Before the blow the headboat "Judith M" was still reporting good flounder action and some chunky sea bass coming over the rail from inshore wrecks and reefs. This is the last of their weekly schedule and then they will be moving to a fall schedule of full day trips on Friday, Saturday & Sundays for the rest of the season.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Chris Watkowski with mate Chase Porter got this crew of Lisa Raley, Cody Meade, Dan Sage (flag), Jimmy Briddell III, Jimmy Briddell Jr. and Rantz Purcell their boat limit of 54 mahi as well as releasing a sailfish for the day in the Baltimore Canyon! Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Rod Runshaw, Justin Mellot, Rich Haden, George Glore, David Torres and Jose Rivera had a productive day on the charter boat "C-Boys". Capt. Luke Blume with mates Nate Lang & Josh Blume had them set up in 600 fathoms in the Baltimore Canyon where they went 1 for 2 on blue marlin and filled the box with mahi. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Sharks had an impact on this trip on the charter boat "MARLI" last week. Capt. Mark Hoos took anglers Ross Beiler, Chuck Durr, Dean Miller, Jesse Stubbs, Carl LaPorte and Bill LaPorte out to the Washington Canyon and put them on some meat. They had 16 tuna bites with a full cover up on 10 rods at one point. They got 4 whole ones to the boat and lost 3 as a toothy snack. They were also just shy of their boat limit of mahi with 50. The mates for the day were Jake Pilkerton and Jax Moore. Pictures at Sunset Marina.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Grandpa Bob showed his grandson Garrison how to get on the flounder while fishing on the bay boat "Bay Bee" out of the Ocean City Fishing Center. Grandpa Bob even shared his lucky rod with others on the trip!



The sea bass and flounder were just not cooperating off the reefs on this trip aboard the headboat "Morning Star", so Capt. Monty Hawkins ran to a little deeper water and got his boat limit of mahi, his first full boat limit of the year!

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The Pugh Family and their friends got a real taste of the marlin fishing we have seen recently. They were fishing with Capt. Mike Burt on the charter boat "Pumpin' Hard" offshore of the Baltimore Canyon where Capt. Mike reported the boats first blue marlin release of the season as well as the crew going 3 for 5 on whites. Pictured in their slip at the Sunset Marina.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Knotheads and fatties abounded on recent trips aboard the deep sea fishing vessel "Angler" before the hurricanes blew by. Capt. Chris Mizurak reported some slow picks, but anglers did not have to deal with a lot of shorts. Young Jake on the left reeled in a fat sea bass and Tim Price on the right made short work of catching two keeper flounder.

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It was good to get a report from Big Bird Cropper, we had not heard from him in a while! Bird landed this huge 31" bluefish at the Rt. 50 Bridge while fishing with Shaun Flaherty. Overall they caught 7 stripers plus 5 weakfish.



Capt. Al Rittmeyer reported his best sea bass trip for the season last weekend! He and Brent Loung got their 2 man limit of 30 knotheads in less than 2 hours at the San Gill wreck site in about 125'.

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It was a beautiful Sunday for Kelly Rhoten & Lilly Saunders with Dave Brown and Doug Rhoten aboard the charter boat "Rhonda's Osprey"! They spent the day with Capt. Joe Drosey in the Washington Canyon releasing both a white and blue marlin as well as getting a yellowfin tuna and a mess of mahi in the box.

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FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Weather raised its ugly head again last week with not one, but 2 hurricanes stirring things up! Sure feels like strong winds have been a theme this summer. Still there were a few days that allowed some of our more hearty anglers to try their luck. Big flounder continue to come up from the inshore reefs & wrecks. Sea bass are still being found with some days offering anglers their limits of keepers. The back bays are yielding a surprising number of sea trout and even some redfish are beginning to show up with the rockfish bite remaining consistent.

Nearshore Reefs & Wrecks

The sea was very angry the past week my friends, with the high winds from the hurricane just off our coast! Then the

one to the south really turned up the northeast wind and added to the mayhem. Most of our beaches have seen massive erosion and often the beach started and ended at the dunes with big drop offs of up to 6 feet. The point at Cape Henlopen opened this past week, however, many times, there was no way to get to it with the beaches washed out. However for those that found an open window of weather to venture to the near shore wrecks and reefs, the fishing remained strong with big flounder still being caught both at the Old Grounds as well as on the wrecks. Big Gulp baits remain the best along with squid and minnow combos. Spot are all over the back bays and in the surf.

When used as live bait, the produce some trophy sized fluke.

Captain Brin on the "Thelma Dale IV" out of Lewes had to contend with the strong winds and rough seas but when they did get out, they found flounder and even some big sea bass ready to eat. The "Judy V" and the "Captain Bob" at the Indian River Marina also spent days waiting for the seas to calm but did manage a few trips with good catches of sea bass and flounder. They reported when they got on to the Old Grounds the fishing was pretty steady and fast with fish constantly biting. White Gulp was the best bait for them this past week. The boat "Surface Tension" had a fantastic day for flounder fishing. Nick and Jumeira had the hot hands bringing in a limit of fluke with several over 20". The fish were weighed in at Lewes Harbour Marina. "Rooster Sportfishing" showed that the mahi are still here when they went to the Fenwick Shoals and brought home some of the delicious pelagics. 27 mahi and around 70 pounds of meat made Jefferson Fort and his group very happy. Kris Hanggi got a nice bluefish on chunk bait on an ocean structure. The big bluefish put up a great fight but Kris managed to bring the brute to the boat and home for dinner. "Ocean Arsenal Tackle" was out with Tommy Dennis and used Berkley Gulp! Saltwater Grub in Pink Shine to manage a few nice sea bass as well as a couple flounder. Pink seems to be the color of choice this year and has always been mine and Samantha's first choice when targeting an area. "Bad Wind" charters was at it again

this past week when they had longtime customers Mark and his buddy Ron fishing. The crew had to contend with a few "Hawaii 5-0 swells" but did still manage a bunch of mahi off the bass pots. Small chunks of squid tossed to the pots markers have been the most productive this past week with the big swells. Ginger Hanriksen was very excited when she saw her 3 pound & 20 inch flounder come to the surface and breathed a sigh of relief when it was finally netted and brought onto the deck. Ginger fished a pink top and bottom rig tipped with a minnow and squid. Always good to see the girl power prevail! "Bottom Line Sportfishing" had a few good days pot hopping and came home with several large dolphin for the dinner table. The boat also had a nice mahi and sea bass combo trip later in the week. The cleaning table at Lewes Harbour Marina looked like 20 people had been on the trip instead of the small crew that actually fished. Don Smith also checked into Lewes Marina with a big 8.51 pound 22.5 inch sheephead he caught using sand fleas on ocean structure. "Rippin Lips Fishing" had a good day catching sea bass as well as a few flounder. The key bait? Pink shine Gulp! Mike Kapsak was fishing with Captain Bob Etzweiler at the Old Grounds and retired with keeper fluke up to 19" along with a few 15 and 16 inch sea bass. The 5 inch Gulp did the trick of fooling these fish. Chet Townsend's 60th birthday continued with an ocean trip on the "Paka" returning to Hook-Em and Cook-Em Bait & Tackle with a cooler full of fluke and sea bass. Happy birthday Chet, and we miss the lobster sales you had on Rt 26!

Back Bays & Inlet Fishing

Brody Onley was out with the "Lady D" and caught his first 17" keeper fluke using a white



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 Gulp bait. He fished with his uncle and captain Bob Stokes along with his aunt and first mate Donna Stokes. Nick Garcia was out on the Delaware Bay with his Pop Pop and picked up 5 keepers measuring 19-23 inches. The fish were caught in water between 18-25 feet. Nick reports the bay temperature is still 75 degrees. Tom Passwater was with his buddy (6 Pack) Sturgill and got a few more slot rockfish out of the Lewes Canal. As the water cools the rockfish should become more aggressive and hopefully cooperate with the new smaller slot limits.

Crabs and clams in the bay remain very strong with pots averaging 10-13 keepers per a 3 day soak. Clams are deeper in the sand but still very easy to rake up. Many clams are now the bigger soup size as many areas have been picked over despite the 3 week closure. §
 Until next week...

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It was a 'Busman's Holiday' for Capt. Brent Wiest on the charter boat "Katydid" when he caught this 7.28 lb. flounder at an ocean structure. He used the Lewes Harbour Stretch well!



There have been some big sheepies at the Ocean City Inlet lately. Travis Baker landed this 24½" and hefty 13 lb. sheephead off the south Jetty using live sand fleas.

2023 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)
 DOLPHIN No minimum Length Boat Limit 54 Charter Limit Daily 10 per angler	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	 SAILFISH Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit	 WAHOO No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day
<h3>SHARKS</h3> <h3>AUTHORIZED SPECIES</h3>	<p>NOTE: Only 1 shark from the lists above may be retained per vessel per trip. In addition, 1 Atlantic Sharpnose, 1 Bonnethead and 1 Oceanic Whitetip may be retained per person per trip. If a hammerhead shark is retained, no tunas, billfish or swordfish may be retained.</p>	<h3>PROHIBITED SHARKS</h3> Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Shortfin Mako , Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White	<p>Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov</p>



Tim Marchetto from Bethlehem, PA caught this beautiful 24½" & 3.75 lb. speckled trout off of the Assateague Pointe Pier using a live minnow.

Elliot Hikes with his son Colt and friend Doug Smart came down from Harrisburg, PA and made sure fishing was on the agenda for 5 year old Colt! They fished the bay behind Assateague Island across from the Ocean City Airport and landed 6 keeper flounder up to 20" using Gulp.

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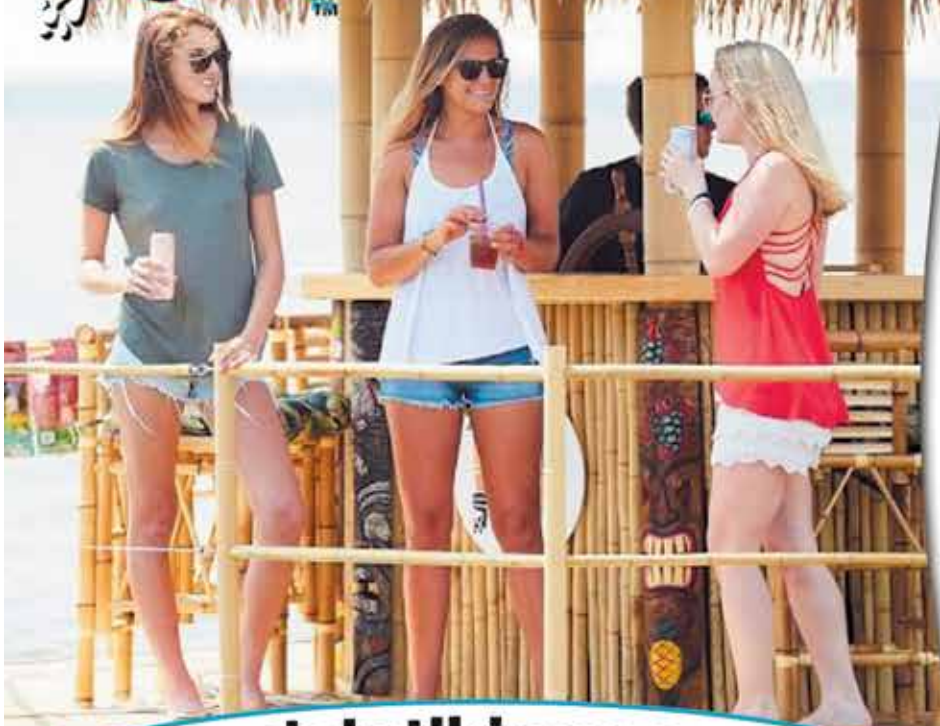
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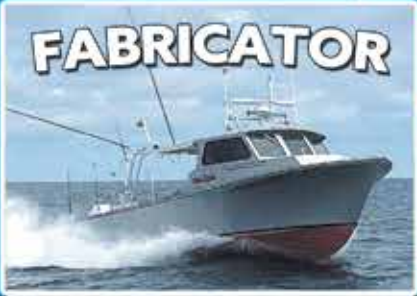
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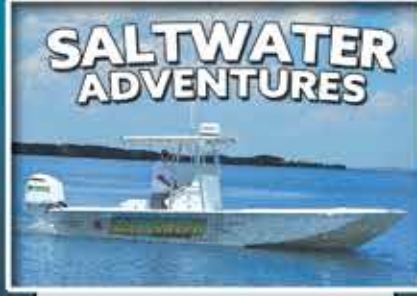
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Chum Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson

Unless someone actually gets on a boat and heads offshore, or are really lucky to be on the right stretch of beach at just the right time, most folks who visit or even live on this part of the coast will never see a whale. But they're out there!

Common species of whales off our shores include fin, humpback, pilot, and minke whales. But at least eight other species including the northern right, sei, sperm, Curvier's beaked, Gervai's beaked, True's beaked, Blainville's beaked, and killer whales may occasionally be observed, particularly in the waters near the continental shelf.

One of the most commonly seen leviathans off Delmarva is the fin whale. Reaching lengths of almost 80 feet, fin whales are second in size only to the giant blue whale, which is recorded to be the largest living creature that's ever inhabited our planet. Similar to blues, fin whales have a dorsal fin set far back and close to their tail and a

long slender body. The upper jaw and head area (rostrum) is somewhat flat and v-shaped while the lower jaw and throat is covered with ventral grooves (pleats) that allow the throat area to expand tremendously when the animal is feeding. Fin whales are typically dark gray with light undersides.

Fin whales might be seen anytime off our coast but are particularly common during the cooler weather months. As big as they are, fin whales will actually come quite close to shore and it's not uncommon to see them within 10-15 miles of the beach. These whales may first be recognized by their large size and then by the manner in which they surface and dive. Fin whales break the surface first with the top of their head and blow (exhale) simultaneously. Then, as their head drops below the surface the back arches up and out of the water as they roll forward, eventually exposing their somewhat insignificant in size, but very

visible dorsal fin. They will typically submerge without showing their tail flukes. A fin whale's diet consists primarily of small schooling fish, squid and plankton and they're reported to live as long as 90 years.

Anyone who has seen the Pacific Life Insurance ads on TV should be able to recognize the humpback whale with its black back, stout body and very long flippers (pec fins). Humpbacks may attain lengths of over 50-feet and sport a series of knobs (like large warts) across their head and lower jaw and on the leading edge of their flippers.

Humpbacks are the whales most often seen locally by fall fishermen and can be one of the most exciting whales to observe as they will sometimes breach (jump) out of the water and often show their entire tails when they make deep dives. These whales also have a habit of laying on their side or back and slapping the surface of

the water with their long flippers. Humpbacks will at times come very close to shore and are one species that has the highest probability of actually being seen from the beach. I've seen them myself from the sand of both Assateague and Ocean City shorelines.

Long and short finned pilot whales are common sights for anglers who fish the continental shelf waters 50 or more miles off our coast. Reaching lengths of up to 25-feet these are some of the smaller whales usually seen off our coast. But what they lack in size pilot whales certainly make up for in numbers particularly when they congregate in "herds" of up to 100 animals which may sometimes be seen resting like floating logs on the ocean's surface. These are "toothed" whales that instead of having baleen (strainers), their mouths are filled with teeth similar to those of dolphins, and which they use to catch and eat fish and squid.

Pilot whales are mostly black or very dark brown in color but may have white markings on their underside and sometimes

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on their backs. They have a very prominent dorsal fin forward on their back that slopes sharply back.

In my book one of the "coolest" whales often seen off our coast is the minke whale. With a relatively pointed head, and sleek tapering body, its profile is not unlike the giant blue and fin whales. But the minke "only" grows to a little more than 30-feet. What's really neat about this whale is its beautiful color markings. The animal is mostly black or gray but has a light colored underside, a white band on each of its flippers, and a large chevron pattern across its back. Minkes have a pointed and very prominent dorsal fin that becomes very obvious when they dive. They do not raise their tails as they leave the surface. Minke whales are fast swimmers and often dart

under and around fishing boats that share their feeding grounds. Like the larger baleen whales, minkes feed primarily on small schooling fish, squid, and zooplankton.

Seeing a whale is always an incredible sight. Of course most of the time they'll be seen from a boat miles offshore.

Occasionally, however, a whale (usually a humpback) will come close enough that it can be seen from the beach. With estimates of only 300 individuals surviving today, northern right whales are one of the most endangered species of whales on the planet, and seeing one anywhere is a BIG deal.

Observing a pair of right whales from the beach is absolutely phenomenal, but that's exactly what my wife and I were able to do a few years ago on a cool April morning. Before that

I had never seen a living right whale before, and even though we immediately suspected that's what they were, we didn't want to make that identification until we were positive. So we flipped through our whale ID book and compared what we were seeing to what it said we "should" be seeing: Predominately black in color - check. No dorsal fin - check. Robust body with broad smooth back - check. Narrow arching rostrum with wart-like callosities on rostrum, lower lip, and around eyes - check. V-shaped blow from double blowhole - check. Tail has large black flukes with a concave margin - check check.

That was enough evidence for us to officially identify what we were seeing off Ocean City's beach that morning as two "northern right whales." The species

is so endangered that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) wants anyone who sees them to call 978-585-3622 and report the sighting to help them keep track of the travels of these animals and so that the Coast Guard can broadcast a "notice to mariners" over the VHF radio to alert boaters to proceed through the area with caution.

The ocean is a big pond with no fences other than the natural boundaries of water temperatures, preferred depths, predators and available food supplies - you never know what you might see. Whether walking down the beach, or in a boat miles from shore, at any moment Delmarva residents could suddenly be blessed with a view of one of the most incredible, beautiful and largest creatures on earth! §

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Anglers Jim Long and Ray King of Lancaster, PA went out in some rough seas to the Jack Spot with Capt. Gordy Kautz on "If Knot 4 U" and caught their limit of 30 mahi. They also caught a nice flounder and a couple sea bass at the African Queen.



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Scott Brintnall and Cooper Brintnall of Halethorpe, MD used flounder belly in the Thorofare to trick this fat 5 lb. and 24½” flounder. They were fishing on the charter boat “On The Run” with Capt. Dave Caffrey. Pictured at the Bahia Marina.



The Lewes Canal continues to produce some great catches late into the season! Terry Baldwin caught an *in the slot* 28½” striper there and Anthony Walker snagged 2 keeper twin flounder at 17½”. The pair also reported catches of spot and croaker. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



Mahi Bites

Ingredients:

- 2 eggs
- 1/2 tsp. Salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 2 cups panko bread crumbs
- 1 Tbsp. Creole seasoning
- 4-5 mahi fillets - thawed
- 1 cup cooking oil

Directions:

In a small bowl, add the eggs, salt, and pepper and whisk to combine.

In another small bowl, add the panko bread crumbs and Creole seasoning and stir to combine.

Using a knife, cut the fillets into 1-inch chunks.

Heat the oil in a large skillet



over medium-high heat.

Working one chunk at a time, dip the fillet pieces into the whisked egg, then into the

bread crumb mixture, then add to the hot oil.

Cook for about 1-2 minutes on one side, then flip and cook for another 1-2 minutes.

Remove once they're golden brown and reach an internal temperature of 137 degrees.

Serve with tarter sauce or your favorite fish dipping sauce.

Ahi Tuna Poke Bowl

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1/2 tablespoon rice vinegar
- 1 teaspoon sesame oil
- 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced green



onion

1 1/2 - 2 tablespoons sesame seeds

1 pound ahi tuna, cubed

Directions:

Combine all ingredients in a large mixing bowl. Stir to coat the tuna with the sauce ingredients.

Cover and let marinate for at least 30 minutes.

Serve over rice and top with extra green onions and sesame seeds.

Oven Baked Weakfish

Ingredients:

- 2 weakfish fillets (4 oz. each)
- Handful of cherry tomatoes
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh dill
- 1/4 cup chopped green onions
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1/3 teaspoon white pepper
- 1 teaspoon olive oil (or olive oil spray)
- 1/2 lemon

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375° F.

Rinse and pat dry weakfish fillets. Brush baking dish with olive oil and place fillets on top. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and white pepper.

Arrange cherry tomatoes around the fish. Add dill and green onions on top of the fish. Thinly slice lemon and place on top of fillets.

Bake for 15 minutes and serve.

Notes:

To prevent fish from curling up, make little slits in the skin or cook fillets skin side down. Internal temperature of all the way cooked fish is 145 degrees Fahrenheit. Use instant meat thermometer to check it or just make sure weakfish is flaky and opaque in color before taking a bite.

Squeeze lemon juice on the



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Roasted Tilefish over Potatoes

Ingredients:

1 stick unsalted butter, melted, plus more for dish

Coarse salt and freshly ground pepper

16 Kalamata olives, pitted

2 pounds Yukon gold potatoes, peeled

2 medium garlic cloves, minced

2 tilefish fillets (12 ounces each)

1/4 cup finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley



Directions:

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Butter a 9-by-13-inch glass or ceramic baking dish. Sprinkle bottom of dish with salt and pepper; set aside. Finely chop 12 olives, and thinly slice remaining 4; reserve separately.

Slice potatoes very thinly (about 1/16 inch thick) with a mandoline or sharp knife. Arrange one-third of potatoes in buttered dish, overlapping slightly. Brush with melted butter; season with salt and pepper. Scatter 1/3 of garlic and half of the chopped

olives on top. Repeat process to make another layer. Top with remaining potatoes; brush with melted butter, and season with salt and pepper. Set aside remaining garlic and butter.

Tightly cover with foil. Roast until potatoes just begin to color, 16 to 18 minutes. Remove foil; roast until edges are pale golden, about 10 minutes more. Meanwhile, skin fillets if necessary; halve crosswise. Stir together reserved garlic and melted butter in a large dish. Dip fillets in mixture; season with salt and pepper.

As soon as potatoes come out of oven, place fillets on top. Roast until fillets are cooked through, about 10 minutes. Scatter olive slices and parsley on top.

Baked Redfish Fillets

Ingredients:

1 1/2 pounds redfish fillets, about 1/2-inch thickness, thawed if frozen

1/4 cup butter melted, plus more for the baking dish

2 tablespoons lemon juice, about 1 small to medium lemon

2 teaspoons finely chopped onion

1 teaspoon sweet paprika

1 teaspoon kosher salt

1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Lemon wedges

Rémoulade sauce

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350° F.

Lightly butter a shallow baking dish that is large enough to hold the fish fillets in a single layer.

Pat the fish fillets with paper towels to dry.

Arrange the fillets in a single layer in the prepared baking dish skin-side down (if there is skin on the fillets).



In a cup or small bowl, combine the 1/4 cup of melted butter with the lemon juice, onion, paprika, salt, and pepper.

Pour the butter and seasoning mixture over the fillets.

Bake in the preheated oven for about 20 minutes, or until it reaches an internal temperature of at least 145

F/63 C. The fish should flake easily with a fork when done. Serve the redfish with lemon wedges and rémoulade sauce, if desired.

Grilled Whole Mackerel with Lemon, Oregano and Olives

Ingredients:

1/2 teaspoon finely grated fresh lemon zest

1 1/2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil

1/4 cup pitted Kalamata olives cut into slivers

3 tablespoons finely chopped fresh oregano plus 6 large sprigs

1 (3 1/4 to 3 1/2 lbs.) cleaned, whole Spanish mackerel or bluefish, with head and tail

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

6 (1/4-inch-thick) lemon slices

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22-inch grill & kitchen string
Directions:

Whisk together zest, lemon juice, and salt and pepper

to taste, then add olive oil in a stream, whisking until combined well. Whisk in olives and chopped oregano.

Make 1-inch-long slits at

2-inch intervals down middle of fish on both sides with a sharp paring knife, then brush fish all over with vegetable oil and season with salt and pepper. Season fish cavity with salt and pepper, then evenly distribute 3 lemon rounds and 3 oregano sprigs in cavity. Close cavity, then evenly arrange remaining 3 lemon rounds and 3 oregano sprigs on top of fish and tie fish closed with string at 2-inch intervals, securing lemon slices and oregano sprigs to fish.

Prepare grill for cooking. If using a charcoal grill, open vents on bottom of grill, then light charcoal. Charcoal fire is medium-hot when you can hold your hand 5 inches above rack for 3 to 4 seconds. If using a gas grill, preheat burners on high, covered, 10 minutes, then reduce heat to moderate.

Grill fish on lightly oiled grill rack, covered only if using

gas grill, 15 minutes. Turn fish over using a metal spatula and tongs, then grill until just cooked through, about 15 minutes more.

Transfer fish to a large platter using 2 metal spatulas, then cut and discard string. Serve fish with sauce.

Notes:

If you aren't able to grill outdoors, whole fish can be roasted on an oiled 17 x 14" large baking sheet in middle of a preheated 425°F oven, without turning until just cooked through, 30 to 35 minutes.

If fish extends beyond baking sheet, fold up two 12-inch-long pieces of foil and put under head and tail to extend baking surface.

If fish tail begins to brown too much on the grill or in oven, loosely wrap with a small sheet of foil. §

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Jeff Weeks and Dave Weller, both from Ocean City, were at it again. This trip to the Bass Pots on Dave's boat the "Turn Me Loose" yielded 16 dolphin and 4 almaco jacks.



Jamie Crosby of Berlin, MD snagged a nice sheepshead from the Rt. 50 Bridge on evening using a 5" soft plastic swimbait. The keeper convict measured 20".

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The charter boat "Foolish Pleasure" with Capt. Dale Lisi reported several good trips lately, especially for mahi. He shared there has been lots of tuna action, however anglers are dealing with more shark bites on any yellowfin tuna caught. You can see what they did to this one.



Jimmy Stephens from Selbyville, DE and Cooper Brintnell of Halethorpe, MD took a trip with Capt. Steadman on the charter boat "Unshakeable" out of the Bahia Marina. They returned from their trip to inshore wrecks and reefs with a couple keepers including this 2.25 lb and 21" flounder.

2023 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>NEW!</p>  <p>STRIPED BASS 28-31" 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



The Ocean City south Jetty was the place to be for sheephead recently. Dylan Post caught this 25" and 11 lb. one there using sand fleas.



The dolphin were everywhere over the past week, in the canyons and inshore as well. Headboats like the "Morning Star" found blue water closer in and were bringing in boat limits or near limits.

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES


WED. SEPT. 6 Third Qtr. Moon	High 01:12 am High 02:14 pm	Low 07:15 am Low 08:28 pm
THUR. SEPT. 7	High 02:09 am High 03:30 pm	Low 08:10 am Low 09:31 pm
FRI. SEPT. 8	High 03:13 am High 04:40 pm	Low 09:08 am Low 10:33 pm
SAT. SEPT. 9	High 04:16 am High 05:36 pm	Low 10:07 am Low 11:30 pm
SUN. SEPT. 10	High 05:12 am High 06:22 pm	Low 11:06 am Low _____
MON. SEPT. 11	High 06:00 am High 07:00 pm	Low 12:20 am Low 12:00 pm
TUE. SEPT. 12	High 06:44 am High 07:32 pm	Low 01:02 am Low 12:46 pm
WED. SEPT. 13	High 07:26 am High 08:03 pm	Low 01:39 am Low 01:28 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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Ship to Shore

STEVE'S MARINE SERVICE
by Steve Katz



All about that Bass

Heading out on the water for fishing and boating wouldn't be the same without music to entertain the guests and crew. Some like background music, some like sports or news and some like the bass!

What Makes a Great Boat Stereo System?

There are a lot of parts of a marine stereo system that work together to make a system that is easy to use and sounds good. The basic components are a head unit or receiver, amplifier, and speakers.

The receiver - sometimes called head unit or just stereo is the heart of the system and the most important aspect of the entire system. Years ago the receiver was an automotive unit or a rebranded automotive unit with a marine part number. If you had one of these, you quickly learned that if the unit lasted for more than one season, you were lucky. The damp air, water and sunlight quickly deteriorated the automotive radio into a

nonfunctional pile of rust.

Today's marine receivers are purposely built for the marine environment thanks to Clarion, who was one of the first mainstream automotive stereo companies to produce a line specifically designed for the marine environment. Fusion stereo company was started in 1998 in New Zealand for automotive market, then in 2006, Navman (a



marine electronics company) invested in Fusion and began focusing Fusion on the marine market. Today, Fusion (owned by Garmin since 2014) only offers marine products, built from scratch for use on the water. JL Audio, another automotive stereo company with marine

products, offers receivers, amplifiers and speakers specifically designed for use on boats. Interestingly, JL Audio has recently sold the company to Garmin.

Today, most marine receivers are complex devices with connections for just about any use and feature. Some of these receivers are referred to as "black boxes", those some are white in color, where the receiver does not

have a face or controls and mounts under the helm or in some other out of the way location and is controlled using a chartplotter, remote or a smartphone. Traditional style receivers come in all shapes and sizes, with buttons or touch screens and thankfully most still offer

Marine receivers often have built-in amplifiers, capable of operating a few small speakers at moderate volume levels. Often the volume level is not loud enough to overcome the noise of being out on a boat competing for sound from engines, wind, and waves. Specifically designed marine amplifiers

a round knob to adjust the volume level.

These modern receivers long ago lost their ability play cassette tapes and more recently CDs. Now the sources are often Bluetooth streaming from a smartphone, Wi-Fi streaming from a music service, AirPlay, SiriusXM satellite music streaming, USB for memory-based storage device, and of course the traditional AM/FM.

The days of controlling the volume in different areas by adjusting the fader or left and right setting have given way to "Zones" that can often be named for their geographic location on the boat, allowing the same music to be played at varying volume levels in different areas of the boat. This has been a much-welcomed addition to marine stereos.

Amplifiers

Marine receivers often have built-in amplifiers, capable of operating a few small speakers at moderate volume levels. Often the volume level is not loud enough to overcome the noise of being out on a boat competing for sound from engines, wind, and waves. Specifically designed marine amplifiers

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are available in varying power ratings to ensure the music can be enjoyed while underway. Installing a large powerful amplifier is not just to make the music loud, but to make it clear at low volume levels.

Speakers

As many audiophile know, a good speaker can make all the difference in the world on how the music is heard. While a home stereo enthusiast may dwell on the audio specifications, most boaters are more interested in the durability, size and looks of the speaker system. Luckily, most popular

marine speakers do a good job of reproducing music at acceptable levels for most boaters. And yes, many speakers are now available with lighting built in - to add to the cool factor of your system.

Traditional speakers can produce a full range of sound and the mid and high frequency tones are more directional than the low frequency bass and therefore require speakers to be installed in locations near to and in the direction of the listeners.

One of the most interesting aspects of any music system is the bass, or the low frequency part of the music you can

hear and feel. Speakers that reproduce bass are referred to as sub woofers, a speaker system optimized to only reproduce low frequencies. These can be placed almost anywhere on the boat since the low frequency sound travels in all directions with ease. This bass sound is generated by moving lots of air, using magnets and a speaker cone. The larger the diameter of the speaker, the more air it can move which translates to sound you can hear and feel. This rumble is easily felt through a boat and offers a complete listening experience when mixed with traditional speakers.

One customer wanted the most powerful hidden sub

woofer to complement the cockpit music system. When the crew cranked up the music, the sub woofer was felt everywhere and it worked so well, moving lots of air, it rattled and raised the deck hatches to the point where the captain thought the boat ran over something - turns out it was just "good vibrations".

A marine stereo system is an easy system to custom tailor to meet your needs through the careful selection of receiver, amplifier and speakers. Upgrades in any one of these three areas can add features and listening improvement to most any system. §

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It was a bonito bonanza for Nick Fato, Celeste Dodson, Mike Fato and Joseph Fato on this trip only 3 to 5 miles offshore. They were fishing on the "100% On Board" using small spoons & cut bait to lure these false albacore and sea bass.



Capt. Jon Azato on the charter boat "No Limit" out of the Indian River Marina took this group out to Site 11 for some flounder fishing. They caught their 6 man limit of 24 keeper flounder and Joe reeled in this gaffershi as a bonus.



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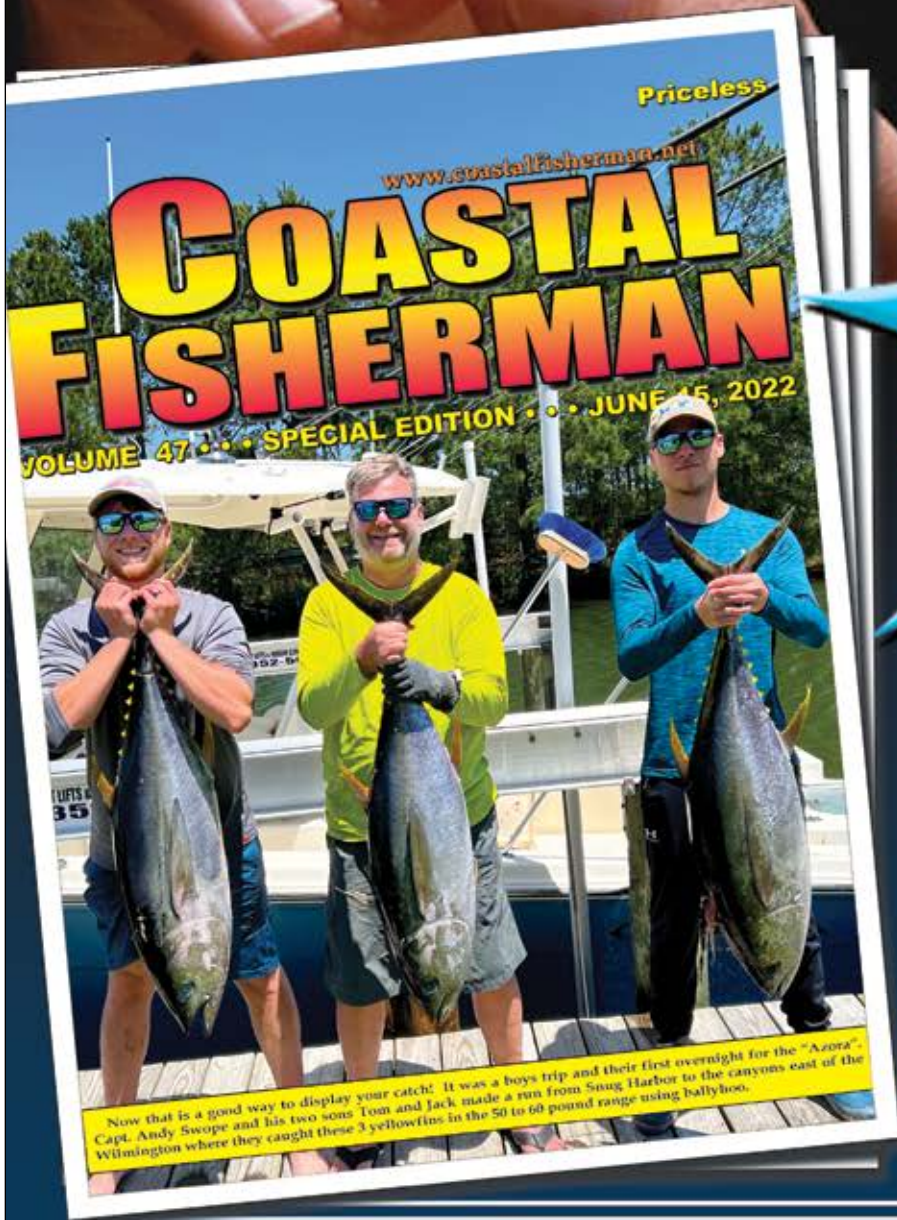
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It probably took Capt. Chris Keller and the crew of the charter boat "Action Jackson" more time to line up these mahi up on the dock than it took to catch them! This was a half day trip for the George Gritmon group. In two and a half hours of fishing they boated 53 mahi, 2 false albacore and 1 jack, even with a banana on board. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em Bait & Tackle at the Indian River Marina.

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VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



As the folks south of us are dealing with a major storm and awaiting our prayers, the eastern shore continues to be a refuge for fishing folks. The Atlantic has been a little churned up, but there are always salty spoils to be landed on the greatest place on earth!

We always revel in the fact that we live under the protection and opportunity that is forwarded to us by the red, white, and blue. This last week the red has been especially giving, RED DRUM that is. Anglers have been testing the drags against tide running tyrants from Cape Charles all the way up to the 72 marker. These sporty spot tails have

been taking cut baits like spot, kingfish and hardhead on fish finder rigs with 8/0 octopus circles. The late afternoon hours and into the early evening have produced the most activity with a running tide also having a productive influence. We have had trophies from the low 40 inch length all the way to a 50+ inch fish of a lifetime mark. A bycatch of sharks, rays and even a cobia or two helps keep things exciting and boredom at bay. These fish have taken up residence around reef sites and shoals in the 15 through 30 foot depths of the Chesapeake.

The Chesapeake, along with more sheltered waters,

has also offered a preview of fall flats casting. Specs and puppies have started to come out to play as the water cools ever so slightly. Four inch paddle tails in colors like momma's chicken have been a crucial part of a successful shallow water arsenal. Hopefully, as the days shorten and water cools the quest for backwater treasure will become more consistent with bent rods and big smiles.

The flounder action on seaside has been a little off as churning seas have kept water turbid and boats moored in their slips. When the seas let up and water cleared the flounder have reassured us that

they were still around and willing to take a variety of baits including minnows, silversides, squid strips, fish fillet strips and of course Gulp. Don't forget the most important part of a successful flounder scenario is clean water. When the conditions don't seem to cooperate, dressing up your rigs with bright colored skirts and trailers will attract attention and increase productivity.

If rough waters has ruined a day with the kids consider the pursuit of the perch. Good numbers of perch have accepted invitations to dinner as anglers young and old alike have fished small brackish creeks in and around the mouths of rivers emptying into the Tangier and Pocomoke Sounds. Top and bottom rigs with small beaded spinner hooks tipped with bloodworm or peeler bits have done a good job filling the dinner plate. For



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This past week we continued our nearly daily battle with big channel bass that tested tackle and skill while making memories as dreams of a Chesapeake gold came across the gunwale. At one point I witnessed two men that had been friends for a longer time than I have been alive, laugh and reminisce about old stories while brand new ones were stripping line off their reels. At one point we could hear the massive fish drumming under the boat and when I was asked what it was that they were doing All I could think was that they were just reminding us of how blessed we are to live in this wonderful place that we call home! §



Mathew Mudry and Matthew Tribitt were fishing with Tyler & Tim Tribitt off the Eastern Shore of Virginia on the "Smokin Oyster" when they landed these two keeper 46" & 49" cobia using live eels.

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