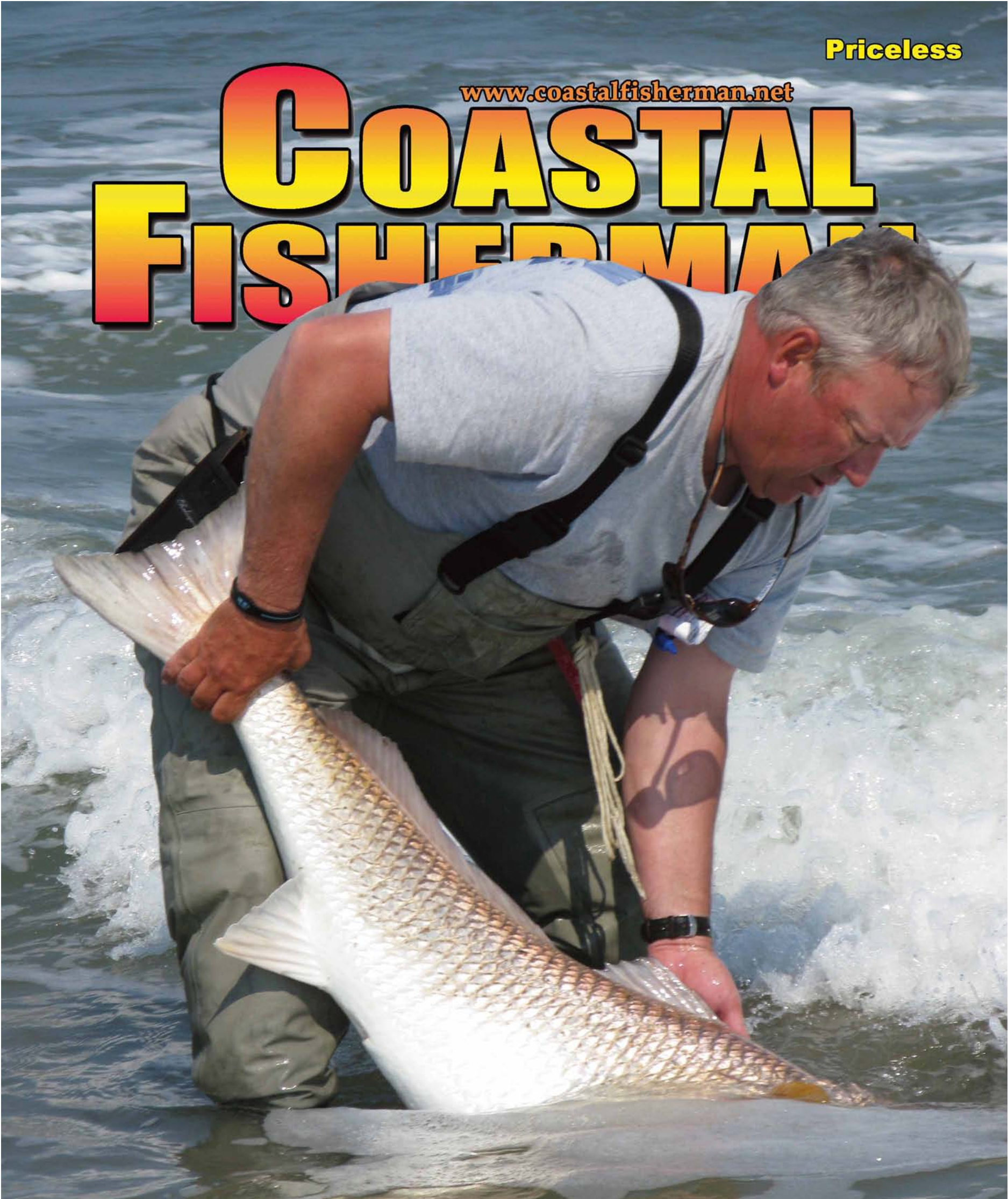


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COASTAL FISHERMAN



VOLUME 36 • • • NUMBER 3 • • • MAY 18, 2011

David Cropper of West Ocean City, MD prepares to release a 52-inch red drum, caught on a peeler crab during a trip to a Virginia Barrier Island. The big red had a 31-inch girth and according to the "formula" was estimated to weigh over 62 lbs. See page 9 for a full picture of David's big red drum. Photo courtesy of Dale Timmons.

Fish Facts



Bluefish

Pomatomus saltatrix
(aka: Blue, Snapper)

Key Distinguishing Markings:

- The fish are a greenish blue with silvery sides and a white belly.
- Bluefish have a pointed snout and large mouth, and the lower jaw ticks out past the upper jaw.
- Bluefish have a sturdy compressed body, a large head, and pointed, razor sharp triangular teeth.
- Note the black blotch at base of pectoral fin.
- Bluefish are closely related to jacks, pompanos, and roosterfish.

Size:

- Bluefish can live to be 12 years old and can reach 40 inches in length.

Distribution:

- Bluefish are a migratory species that range from Nova Scotia to Florida off the Atlantic coast and can be found in the Gulf of Mexico from Florida to Texas.
- Along the east coast, bluefish migrate northward in the spring and summer and southward in the fall and winter.

Habitat:

- There are bluefish in all the world's oceans. They can be found throughout the Chesapeake Bay, its tributaries and in the Atlantic Ocean and coastal bays.

Food Preference:

- Bluefish are voracious predators and sight feeders. They feed on a variety of fish and invertebrates, including butterfish, menhaden, herring, sand lances, silversides, mackerel, anchovies, sardines, weakfish, spotted sea trout, croaker, spot and squid.

Spawning:

- Most juvenile bluefish spawned in the south during the summer in the mid-Atlantic and in the fall spring in the South Atlantic remain in the coastal waters, but some summer-spawned fish do enter the lower Bay for a couple of months before they return to the coast in the fall and join the adults in their move southward.
- Most bluefish mature by age 2 (approximately 14½ inches), and females can produce from 900,000 to 4,500,000 eggs.

Fun Facts:

- Bluefish are so voracious they will even kill prey they do not eat and have occasionally bitten human swimmers who were unfortunate enough to encounter a feeding school.

Reference: www.dnr.state.md.us



September 1994 - Harold Vickers, West Ocean City resident and retired Ocean City Department of Public Works employee, who unfortunately passed away this past spring, was surf casting off Hog Island when he caught and released this beautiful red drum after hooking it on cut bait. Photo courtesy of Dale Timmons.

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Christian Feezle from Petersburg, OH muscled in this 7 lb. 2 oz. flounder while fishing on the "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente. The big flattie was hooked in 60-degree water off Snug Harbor on a white Gulp! Swimming Mullet. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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The Clark boys put a whoopin' on the stripers while casting off the Indian River Jetty. Frank Clark from Ocean View, DE led the team with a 43-incher, while Thomas Clark, also from Ocean View, DE landed himself a 21 pounder and Jeff Clark from Pittsburgh, PA caught a 16 pounder, all on Storm lures. Frank's big striper tipped the scales at 31 lbs. 7 oz.

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Gregg Williams landed this 14 lb. 4 oz. tautog while fishing with spider crabs at an ocean wreck. Greg was fishing on the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mate Mike Kinder.



Tommy Fowler of North Bay Marina boated a couple of flounder, measuring 20 and 21-inches, while fishing with Gulp! and minnow combinations in the Thorofare.

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John Wittmyer of "Crabs To Go" landed the largest striped bass of his life, a 45-incher, while surf fishing off Assateague Island. John hooked the big linesider while using bunker for bait.

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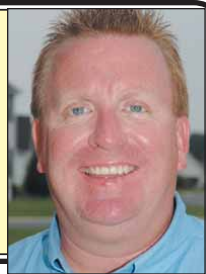
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Ocean City Fishing Report

by Larry Jock



Can anyone tell me where all the fishermen have gone? I know we haven't had the greatest weather this spring, but you look out at the bay and it is void of fishermen. The most action is coming off the Rt. 50 Bridge, where some nights, anglers are lined up shoulder to shoulder.

Well, I firmly believe that everything evens out over time, so we should be in store for some strings of good weather and great fishing, so get your tackle ready, put some gas in your boat and let's get excited about the fishing season!

Flounder

We were teased mid-week when some larger flatties started showing up, both in the Thorofare and in the bay behind Assateague Island. The largest flounder we have seen in Ocean City so far this year was caught on Thursday by Steve Flohr when he hooked into a 7 lb. 4 oz. flattie near Buoy 17 in the Thorofare. On that same day, the "Bay Bee" had a great trip, returning at noon with 7 keepers and 23 throwbacks, all caught on shiners behind Assateague Island.

The day before, Christian Feezle on the "Get Sum" boated a 7 lb. 2 oz. flounder in the bay behind Snug Harbor. The fish hit a white Gulp! Alive Swimming Mullet in 60-degree water.



The Ocean City surf has produced some nice size stripers over the last few weeks as shown by Lenny Potenzo's 40-incher caught on a chunk of bunker at night while fishing from the beach in north Ocean City. Photo courtesy of Oyster Bay Tackle.

Incredibly, even with the reduction in minimum size from 19-inches last year to 18-inches this year, anglers are still having to weed through a lot of throwbacks in the 16-17 inch range to get their keepers.

Bluefish

We didn't see many chopper bluefish caught this past week, but if you wanted action catching snappers, you had all you wanted while fishing around the Rt. 50 Bridge on Tuesday night and during the day on Wednesday, especially around high tide. On Wednesday afternoon, the "Bay Bee" kept their anglers busy with over 60

snapper bluefish hauled over the rail.

Sea Bass

The much anticipated black sea bass season opens on May 22nd and stays open until October 11th. It then closes for the remainder of October before opening from November 1st until December 31st. Anglers are allowed to keep 25 fish per day with a minimum size of 12.5-inches.

Striped Bass

Although the hot striper bite was a little north of us around the Indian River Jetty during the week, we did see some nice size fish landed, especially by surf fishermen off Assateague and north Ocean City.

Early in the week, John Wittmyer landed a personal best, a 45 incher while fishing off Assateague using bunker for bait. Paul Martin caught a 39-inch striper on bunker from the Assateague surf and a little

farther north, Lenny Potenzo beached a 40-incher on a bunker chunk during the early morning hours and Jim Thompson continued his good run of spring striper fishing, landing a 33-incher just over the line in Fenwick.

On Saturday morning, Big Bird Cropper was patrolling the North Jetty with his Roy Rig in the ready position and ended up with a 36-inch striped bass that tipped the scales at 15 lbs.

An interesting note was made in Marty Gary's column this week on page 52, where MD DNR biologists are predicting a later striper run up the beach than we normally see due to cooler water temperatures. Check out his column.

Tautog

The biggest tog we saw this week came from anglers on the "Morning Star" who boated several over 10 lbs. On Saturday, one angler boated a 14.3 pounder, caught on a green crab at an artificial reef.

In the Surf

Anglers fishing from the surf off Assateague have been quietly catching a good number of black drum and striped bass, although big seas from offshore swells required heavier weights than desired. They also had to show patience, weeding through good numbers of sharks to get their drum and linesiders. Clams and bunker were the baits of choice.

Bluefin Tuna

It seems like "The Wrangler" is the only boat heading offshore in search of tuna, and on Saturday they returned from an overnight trip with a 46 pounder caught in the Wilmington Canyon. Capt. Craig Mercier reported finding a 55-66 degree temperature break in 100 fathoms where they caught 2 bluefins, releasing one, during the trip. They also caught numerous blue sharks.

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Larry Jock, Editor and Publisher

Daina Kazmaier, V.P. Creative Services

Maureen Jock, Office Manager & Columnist

Larry Jock, Sr., V.P. Distribution

Mary Jock, Vice-President

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

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David Cropper of West Ocean City, MD caught and released this 52-inch red drum after hooking it on a peeler crab while surf fishing off a Virginia barrier island. The red drum had a 31-inch girth and according to the "formula" weighed an estimated 62.46 lbs. Photo courtesy of Dale Timmons.

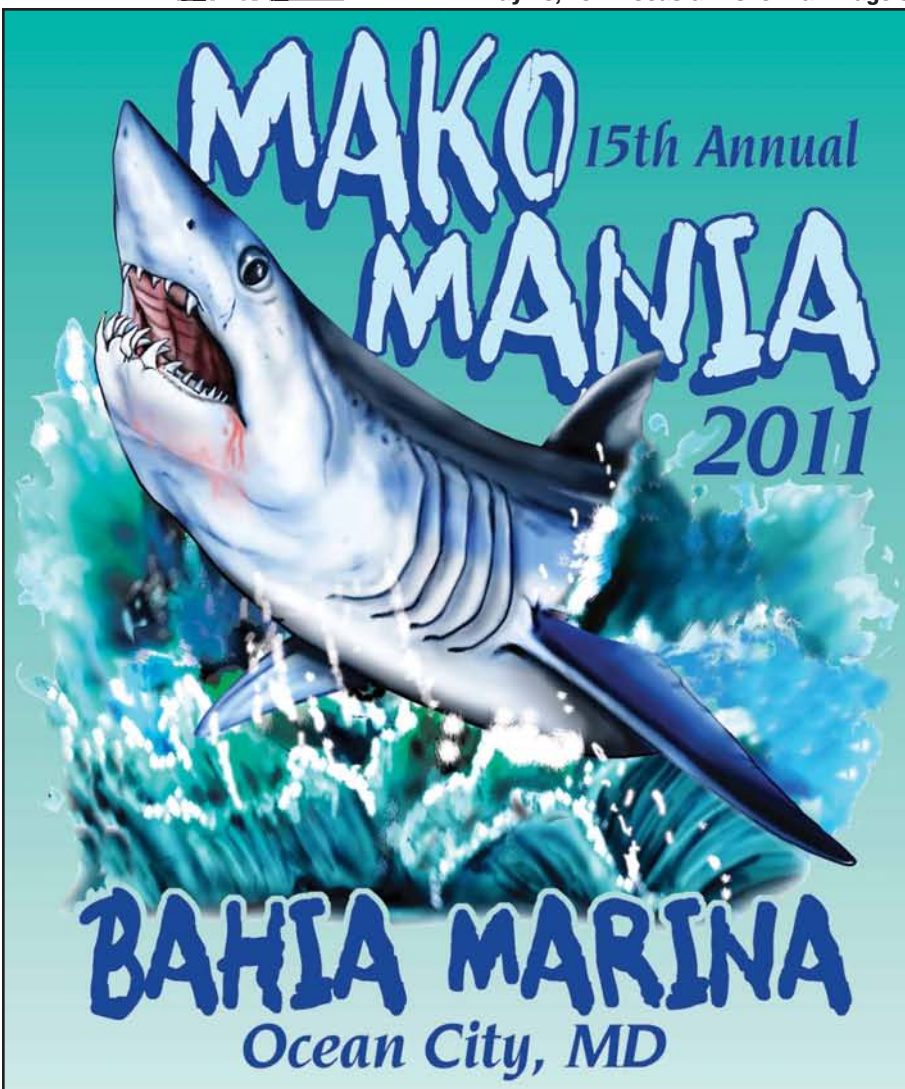
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Before the close of the Delaware tautog season, Jim Sieja from Newark, DE landed this 12 lb. 5 oz. blackfish while fishing with green crabs at the Outer Wall. Jim was fishing on the "Indian" with Capt. Ted Moulinier and weighed his catch at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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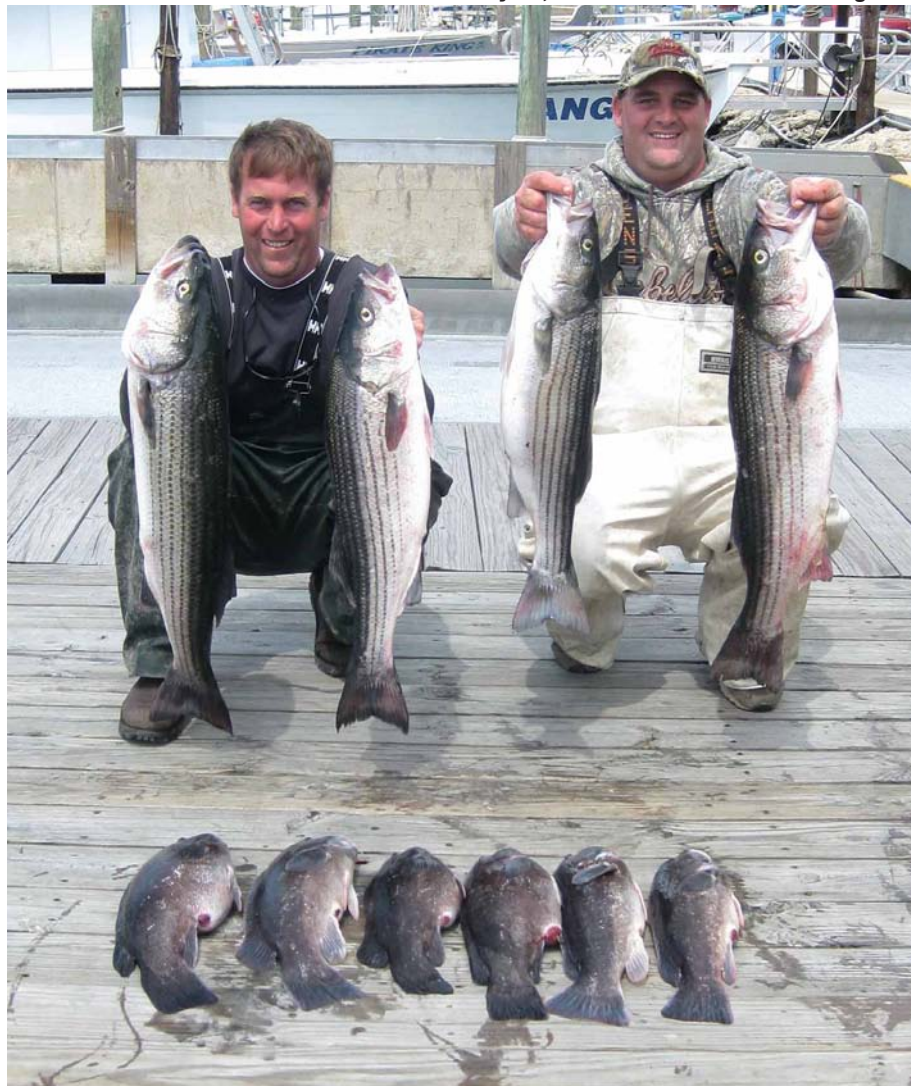
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Brian Keech from Rehoboth Beach, DE was fishing from the Cape Henlopen Pier when he hooked into this 23-inch flounder while using a shad and shiner combination at night. The flattie weighed 4 lbs. 14 oz. on the scale at Bill's Sport Shop.



The Outer Wall in the Delaware Bay produced this limit of striped bass and tautog for Chad Tingle and Timmy Barnett. The stripers measured up to 38-inches and were caught while casting Storm lures. The tautog were hooked on sand fleas. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.



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Steve Flohr of Dover, PA caught his limit of flounder (2 pictured) while drifting live minnows near Buoy 17 on the Thorofare flats this past week. His largest was a 7 lb. 4 oz., 27-inch flattie that was hooked during the incoming tide and is the largest flounder we have seen in Ocean City so far this year. Pretty work, Steve!



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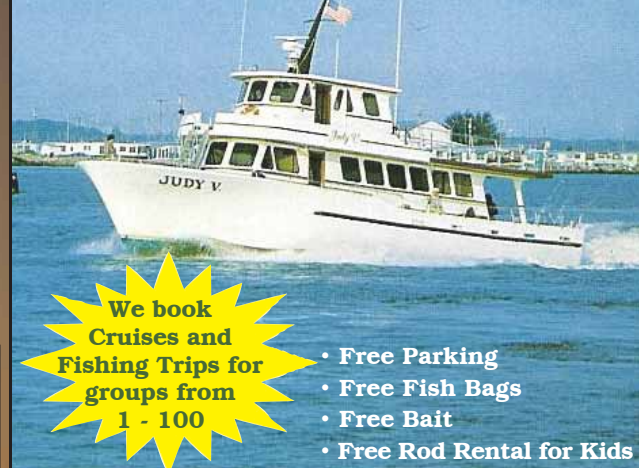
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Tommy Cline from Germantown, MD was casting a Storm lure off the Indian River Jetty when he hooked into this 27 lb. 12 oz. striped bass. Weighed at Rick’s Bait & Tackle on Long Neck Road.



Rich Felton of Wyoming, DE caught this 43-inch striper at Herring Point in the Cape Henlopen State Park. The 26 lb. 15 oz. linesider was hooked on a chunk of bunker and weighed at Bill’s Sport Shop on Rt. 1 in Lewes, DE.

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Driftin' Easy

by Sue Foster



It's May, and for the third May in a row we have had big stripers in the surf in Ocean City. Believe me, it's not every cast and it's very "hit or miss",



but these fish are there if you put in the time and effort to catch them.

"Where do I go?"

First of all, you need to find a nice cut in the beach. Get a tide chart, find low tide and take a ride. Go down the ends of the streets and look at the beach every 6 blocks or so until you find a beach that really "talks" to you. It should have a pronounced "cut" in the outer bar where the deeper water rushes close to shore. Rule of thumb is this: White water is shallow water and darker water is deeper water. You are looking for the deeper water.

Look for a rip tide where the backwash pulls sand back out into the deep water. It will look like a balloon of dirty sandy water out there past the breakers in the deep water. Sometimes you will see a trough of deep water close to the beach, then a sand bar and then deeper water out beyond. On high tide, the stripers can come into this deeper trough, especially if there is a cut in that outer bar.

If you are staying in a high rise, look out the window and look down on the beach and you can really see the structure. Ocean City has less natural beach structure than Assateague and the Delaware State Park, so you have to spend more time finding a good beach, but once you find it, you can catch fish there for several days. Holes and beach structure can move as days go by, so move with the structure. Find the hole at low tide (preferably on a calm day) and go back there as the tide comes in. Three hours before high tide and two hours after high tide is a good rule of thumb.

If you look at a map of Ocean City, the beach juts out between 120th Street and the state line at 146th Street. This is always a good area to find a "cut" or "hole." Notoriously, this area, especially between

130th and the Delaware State Line has given up some really nice fish.

"I'm used to fishing for bluefish. What should I do differently?"

Lose the surf floats, and fish with a simple rig with no floats. A heavy duty high/low rig with two circle hooks attached will work. A simple circle hook in the 4/0 to 8/0 size range set-up with a fish finder rig is fine. Several companies like Eagle Claw make a high/low rig with two hooks on a mono leader that works great. Circle hooks are best for releasing stripers, but some people like the bait holder type hooks, to help keep the bait on the hook.

When fishing for bluefish, it's always mullet, mullet, mullet. Mullet will work for stripers, but chunks of bunker work the best. Some anglers also like to use clams. Threading whole bloodworm will also work for stripers though this bait gets expensive. Fish bites just don't seem to work for big stripers for some reason, so save them for summertime.

"How do I put bunker on the hook?"

Cut off the head, and yes you can put a whole head out there if you want to on a big circle hook. That's good to do if you are fishing more than one rod. Hook it through the snout and make sure the hook is protruding out of the bait.

Take the body of the bunker and cut away the white belly meat and chunk the dark, meaty part of the bunker. Cut off the tail. Use a very sharp knife so the bunker doesn't mush up. It's naturally soft anyway and the more you handle it the softer it can become. Be generous with the portions as the stripers have really big mouths. Hook it though the boney dark part of the bunker chunk, going in one side of the chunk and out the other. Don't try to thread it, or it will just fall off. The tail section, with the tail off, will be very boney and easy to keep on the hook. Hook that

piece right where you cut off the tail. That's my favorite part of any bait fish.

"I hear clam is a good bait to use."

Well, stripers like clam just fine. Black drum like them even better and there's been some of those around as well. For stripers, I'd stick to bunker, but if you like to use clams, anglers tend to like the bait holder type hooks to help keep it on the hook. Clams remind me of trying to put something slimy that comes out of your nose on the hook. Hook the hard part first, then thread the softer parts on. Thread it again making sure the clam is on the bait holder barbs, and then finish off with the harder part at the very tip of your hook. Don't use dull hooks! Clam is soft, so it's OK if the hook is buried in the clam. You can finish this off by using small elastic rubber bands or elastic thread to hold the clam on the hook. Cast carefully and try not to fling the bait off the hook.

Again, striper fishing is "hit or miss" in Ocean City, MD. Cast out in the right looking water and wait. Check your bait periodically as without surf floats, the crabs will chew it off more often. Use more than one rod for a better chance of catching one. Have at least 20 lb. test on your reel, have a working drag and wait for the hit. Stripers are elusive sometimes, but not all that smart. When they are there, and feeding, you have a good chance to catch one. You just have to be there at the right time when they come through.

"What else might I catch while fishing for stripers?"

Big sand sharks are migrating and catching a three-footer is not uncommon. A big skate or ray will also give you ample pullage! And you never know when Mr. Black Drum will come by...

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

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Jim Thompson has had a successful spring fishing season, as shown here with another striped bass caught from the surf off Fenwick Beach. The 33-inch striper weighed an even 14 lbs. on the scale at Fenwick Tackle.

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Grover Collins, Ralph Mason, Doug Harbaugh, Earl Robinson, Rev. Bill Sterling and Dave Kudzma caught their limit of striped bass during a trip aboard the "Barbara Ann II" with Captain's John and Joe Asanovich and mate Joe Asanovich, Jr. out of Somers Cove Marina in Crisfield, MD. The fish were caught in the Puppy Hole Channel on parachute rigs with the largest linesider measuring 49-inches.



Ralph Sita boated this 13 lb. 15 oz. tautog during a trip aboard the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mate Mike Kinder. The big blackfish was hooked on a green crab at an ocean wreck.

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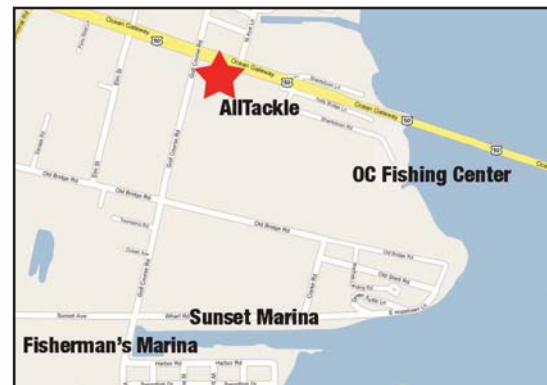
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The Galley

by Mama Jock



Blackened Flounder

1 lb. flounder fillets
1 envelope Margarita cocktail mix
1 egg, beaten
1/2 cup Panko bread crumbs or cornmeal
Salt and pepper, to taste

Combine breadcrumbs and Margarita mix in a plastic bag. Place crumb mixture in pie plate.

Moisten fillet in egg, roll in the crumbs, pressing them firmly into the fish.

Pan fry in 2 to 4 TBSP. of oil or butter, or broil on greased pan in oven for 12 to 14 minutes per side.

Serves 2 to 3.

Almond Topped Fillets

1 TBSP. butter
1 small onion thinly sliced
4 fillets (any white fish)
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. dill weed
1/4 tsp. pepper
1/4 cup Parmesan cheese
1/4 cup mayonnaise or sour cream
1 TBSP. parsley, minced
1 TBSP. lemon juice

2 TBSP. sliced almonds, toasted

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Melt butter in 13x9 baking dish until melted, then place the fish on top.

Sprinkle fillets with salt, dill and pepper.

Combine cheese, mayo or sour cream, parsley and lemon juice; spread over fish.

Baked uncovered for 18 to 20 minutes.

Top with toasted almonds. Serves 4.

Broiled Flounder and Shrimp

1 1/2 lbs. flounder fillets
12 large shrimp peeled and deveined
1 cup white wine
Juice of one lemon
3/4 tsp. paprika
Olive oil
1 clove garlic, minced
2 plum tomatoes, peeled, seeded and cut into strips
1 bag spinach
Salt and pepper to taste
4 pieces soft flatbread

Preheat oven to medium-high broil.

Grill the flatbread until lightly charred.

Cut into wide strips and set aside.

Lightly oil a baking dish.

Place fillets and shrimp in baking dish and season with the wine, paprika, salt and pepper and cook until golden brown.

In a separate pan, sauté spinach with garlic and tomato strips in olive oil.

Place bread strips in a crisscross pattern and top with the spinach and flounder and garnish with the shrimp.

Serves 4.

Striped Bass Chowder

18 oysters
4 TBSP. butter
1 medium leek, white part only, diced
1 medium onion, diced
3 shallots, minced
1 tsp. dried thyme leaves
5 strips bacon, diced
3 tsp. flour
3 cups fish stock
2 cups bottled clam juice
1/2 cup dry white wine
2 large potatoes, diced
2 oz. Virginia ham, finely diced
2 cups corn kernels, fresh or frozen
1 cup heavy cream
1/4 cup sherry
4 drops Tabasco
1 lb. striped bass, skinned and cut into 1 inch cubes
16 oz. lump crab meat
Salt and pepper to taste
Chopped chives for garnish

Shuck oysters and strain the oyster liquor. Reserve oysters and liquor separately.

In a sauté pan, melt butter; add the leeks, onions, shallots and thyme; cook until transparent.

In a large saucepan, cook the bacon until crisp.

On low heat, add the flour and cook the roux for 5 to 6 minutes.

Add the fish stock, clam juice, oyster liquor, wine,

potatoes and diced ham.

Bring to a simmer.

Add the cooked leek-onion mixture and reduce all by 1/4.

Add the corn and cook for 4 minutes.

Add the cream, sherry and Tabasco sauce and cook for 4 more minutes, stirring so as not to scorch.

Season with the salt and pepper.

Add the striped bass, crabmeat and oysters. Cook an additional two minutes.

Garnish with the chopped chives.

Serves 6.

Scallops and Orange Salad

2 small oranges
1 TBSP. olive oil
2 tsp. soy sauce
1 tsp. honey
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. black pepper
1/3 cup chopped walnuts
1 lb. sea scallops
1 small red onion, thinly sliced
1 bag (6 ounce) baby spinach

Grate zest from 1 orange into a small bowl.

Cut peel from both oranges and slice flesh into segments; set aside.

Squeeze juice from membranes into bowl with zest.

Whisk in 1/2 TBSP. olive oil, soy sauce, honey and 1/4 tsp. each salt and pepper.

Heat a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat.

Toast walnuts for 5 minutes, stirring frequently; remove from heat.

Heat remaining 1/2 TBSP. olive oil in skillet.

Season scallops with remaining 1/4 tsp. each of salt and pepper.

Saute 3 to 4 minutes per side.

Remove from skillet; keep warm.

Toss orange segments, walnuts, red onion and spinach with dressing.

Place salad on each plate and top with scallops.

Serves 4.

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On Thursday, anglers fishing on the "Bay Bee" with Capt. Bob Gowar and Mate Mike Walsh, had a great day, ending up with 7 keeper flounder in the box and 23 throwbacks. All of the fish were caught in the bay behind Assateague Island while using shiners for bait. Pictured are Lyle Sturdevant from Mehoopany, PA (18.5" & 19.5"), Grace Sturdevant from Mehoopany, PA (19.75"), Susan Caruso of Fairless Hills, PA (19.75"), Cindy Deck of Ocean City, MD (18"), Ed Phillips from Newark, DE (18.5") and Leona Sturdevant of Tunkhannock, PA (21"). Capt. Bob reported water temperature hovering around 59-degrees. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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2011 Maryland Saltwater Fishing License

NEW LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR MARYLAND ANGLERS WENT INTO EFFECT JANUARY 1

CHANGES WILL ALLOW MARYLAND TO COMPLY WITH NEW FEDERAL LAW

WHO NEEDS A LICENSE?

All persons fishing recreationally in the tidal waters of the State need a license, EXCEPT as follows:

If a person:

- is less than 16 years of age
- is a registered angler with the State of Maryland and is fishing from a boat holding a valid tidal/saltwater license issued by Potomac River Fisheries Commission or the Commonwealth of Virginia
- possesses a valid commercial tidal fish license
- is fishing from a licensed commercial fishing pier
- is a registered angler with the State of Maryland and is fishing on a free fishing pier
- is the owner or the owners non-paying guest fishing from private real property or an attached pier in the Potomac River
- is fishing from a licensed charter boat
- is fishing on a free fishing day - the first two Saturdays in June and July 4
- is a registered angler with the State of Maryland and possesses a Virginia Saltwater recreational fishing license
- possesses a Potomac River Fisheries Commission recreational fishing license

WHAT KIND OF LICENSE DO I NEED?

• RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENT BAY & COASTAL SPORT (ANNUAL) LICENSE allows an individual to fish in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and the state waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Atlantic coastal bays and tributaries from January 1 through December 31.

- \$15 - Resident Annual
- \$22.50 - Non-Resident Annual

• 7-DAY BAY & COASTAL SPORT LICENSE allows residents and non-residents to fish in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and the state waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Atlantic coastal bays and tributaries for 7 consecutive fishing days.

- \$6 - Resident 7-Day
- \$12 - Non-Resident 7-Day

• RESIDENT SENIOR CONSOLIDATED FISHING LICENSE allows residents who are 65 years of age or older to fish in the fresh waters of Maryland, the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and the state waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Atlantic coastal bays and tributaries from January 1 through December 31 at a reduced rate of \$5.

• CONSOLIDATED BAY & COASTAL SPORT BOAT LICENSE allows everyone on board a vessel used for pleasure to fish in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and the state waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Atlantic coastal bays and tributaries in lieu of individual licenses. However, these individuals must register with the Department (see below). A special complimentary Bay & Coastal sport fishing license, which includes recreational crabbing, will be issued to the boat owner purchasing this license. This license is also valid as a recreational crabbing boat license. \$50

• FREE BAY & COASTAL SPORT REGISTRATION Unless individually licensed, registration is required for MD waterfront property owners, those fishing in a designated free fishing area, passengers that do not possess an individual license on a vessel displaying a Consolidated Bay & Coastal Sport Boat decal from either MD, VA or PRFC, and anglers in MD tidal waters with ANY VA recreational saltwater license. In the Potomac River a registration is required for passengers on a vessel displaying a Boat License decal from MD, VA or PRFC, and for the owner/owners nonpaying guest fishing from private real property or an attached pier in the tidal waters of the Potomac River.

• BAY & COASTAL SPORT CHARTER BOAT LICENSE allows individuals on board chartered vessels operated by MD licensed fishing guides to fish in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and the state waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Atlantic coastal bays and tributaries in lieu of individual licenses. There are separate licenses for charter boats that carry 6 passengers or less and those that carry more than 6 passengers.

- \$240 - up to 6 passengers
- \$290 - more than 6 passengers

• COMMERCIAL FISHING PIER LICENSE provides for a fee pier to have unlicensed and unregistered individuals fish from the pier. The licensee must submit contact information on all pier anglers as prescribed by the Department. \$240

WHERE CAN I REGISTER FOR FREE?

This registration is free online for Maryland and Potomac River anglers at: <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/swregistry.asp>

WHERE CAN I BUY A LICENSE?

- Online at www.dnr.state.md.us/service/fishing_license.asp or by phone (800) 918-2870 through a third party vendor. Additional fees apply.
- Your local tackle shop may provide sale of a Maryland license online through a third party vendor.
- Any regional service center; the closest location to Ocean City is Salisbury, MD: 201 Baptist St. #22. Hours of Operation: M-F 8:30am - 4:30pm. (410) 713-3840
- Local license agent; the closest location to Ocean City is the Wal-Mart in Berlin, MD: 11416 Ocean Gateway. (410) 629-0502

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please visit http://www.dnr.state.md.us/service/fishing_license.asp
e-mail: customerservice@dnr.state.md.us or call (410) 656-9526



Big Bird Cropper from Powellville, MD continued his assault on stripers off the North Jetty, landing this 36-incher on a Roy Rig early Saturday morning. The striper weighed in at an even 15 lbs.



Rob Pawliske from Hamstead, MD was fishing with Paul Turner of Ocean Pines, MD when he hooked into this 22.25-inch flounder near the Rt. 90 Bridge. The duo caught 8 flatties in 3 hours with 7 throwbacks.



Ed Detwiller of Bethany Beach, DE took some time off from Hook'em & Cook'em Outfitters to do some striper fishing and was rewarded with this 10.1 pounder caught in the Indian River Inlet on a white bucktail. Photo courtesy of Hook'em & Cook'em Outfitters in South Bethany.



Over the winter, Joe Morris from Lewes Harbour Marina used a 4 oz. Spro glow bucktail to hook this chunky amberjack. The fish was landed using a small Shimano Talica 10 reel on a lightweight Teramar casting rod over a wreck in 300 feet of water.

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Denise Niemiec from Willards, MD hooked this 23-inch flounder on a jighead tipped with a Gulp! artificial bait in the Thorofare. The 5 pounder was caught while fishing with John Niemiec of Willards, MD, John Wittmyer of Crabs To Go and his daughter, Ellen Wittmyer. This is a personal best for Denise. Pretty work!

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2011 COASTAL FISHERMAN 2011

1st Fish of the Year

(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - must be reported with picture within 48 hours of catch)

Species	2011	2010	Species	2011	2010
Sea Bass 	None Reported	April 18, 2010 George Henning "Morning Star" Artificial Reef	Mako Shark 	May 1, 2011 Brett Coakley "Wrangler" Washington Canyon	May 20, 2010 Josh Dolan "Nontypical" Washington Canyon
Tautog 	January 6, 2011 Mike Grybos "Morning Star" Ocean Wreck	January 7, 2010 John Smith "Morning Star" Offshore Wreck	White Marlin 	None Reported	June 8, 2010 Eric Van Orden "Bimini" Washington Canyon
Striped Bass 	April 14, 2011 Capt. Skip Maguire "Skip's Charter" Sinepuxent Bay	January 1, 2010 Max Thumma "Hard Times" Little Gull	Blue Marlin 	None Reported	June 8, 2010 Scott Brooks "Stress Reel-ief" Outside 461 Lump
Weakfish 	None Reported	April 16, 2010 Tim Thorpe Assateague Surf	Bluefin Tuna 	May 1, 2011 Mike Sears "Wrangler" Washington Canyon	May 16, 2010 Tom Dorwart "Margin" Norfolk Canyon
Flounder 	April 17, 2011 Tommy Fowler Thorofare	April 5, 2010 Paul Turner Thorofare	Yellowfin Tuna 	None Reported	June 11, 2010 Tom Zapf "Darlin" 461 Lump
Bluefish 	May 1, 2011 Alex Levantovsky "Morning Star" Artificial Reef	April 17, 2010 Dana Zapcic "Get Sum" Sinepuxent Bay	Longfin Tuna 	None Reported	None Reported
Black Drum 	April 30, 2011 Melson MaGee Fenwick Surf	May 2, 2010 Lucas May "Jam-Man" Coral Beds	Bigeye Tuna 	None Reported	June 13, 2010 Ron Los, Jr. "Marli" Washington Canyon
Sheepshead 	May 7, 2011 Sheldon Thomas "Kimberly Ann" Winter Quarter Shoal	May 23, 2010 Dave Pasun Inshore Wreck	Dolphin 	None Reported	June 8, 2010 Tina Boykin "Lucky Duck II" Poor Man's Canyon
Thresher Shark 	None Reported	May 16, 2010 Tenille Schrier "Hookin' Wubbas" Jackspot	Wahoo 	None Reported	None Reported

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



This 39-inch, 20 lb. striped bass was muscled in by Paul Martin from Pasadena, MD while fishing with bunker from the surf off Assateague Island.



Gunnar Zorn from Berlin, MD took some time off this winter to go fishing in the Keys and ended up with this speckled trout caught while fishing the back country near Crane Key with Capt. Jim Alexander and Joe Morris. The speck hit a 1/4 oz. Don's jig.

The logo features a stylized woman's face with red hair and a yellow face, holding a pizza. Text includes "Celebrating 17 years!", "MANCINI'S", "Brick Oven Pizzeria", and "and RESTAURANT".

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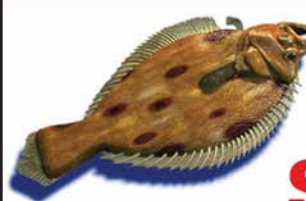
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Mike Pfarr from Finksburg, MD and Lou Pfarr from Chase, MD ended up with 11 tautog in the box after fishing at an ocean wreck aboard the "Tuna Box" with Capt. Shane Heimer and mate Don Reynolds. All of the blackfish were caught while using green crabs for bait. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Tim Milnes from Downingtown, PA is all smiles after landing these two striped bass while tossing Storm lures from the Indian River Inlet Jetty. Tim's largest striper tipped the scales at 19 lbs. 10 oz. on the scale at Rick's Bait & Tackle on Long Neck Road.

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CJ Floyd ventured down to Florida in March for some shark fishing with Trisha Shaw and caught 2 bull sharks, a nurse shark and a lemon shark. The largest bull shark measured 85-inches while the nurse measured 99-inches and the lemon came in at 104-inches. All were released.



Bob Johnson caught and released his first sailfish while fishing in Marathon, FL this past winter. Bob was anchored bottom fishing on the "Maggie II" with Capt. Kevin Yeider when they tossed a ballyhoo to a sailfish on the chase. After airing out three times, the sailfish was cleanly released. Photo courtesy of Oyster Bay Tackle.

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Capt. Wade Lober



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42' Ocean
Capt. Mark Radcliffe



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41' Viking
Capt. Jason Norton



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Capt. Mike Conner



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40' Jersey Dawn
Curtis Macomber
Capt. Chad Meeks



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Capt. Mark Sampson



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Capt. Gary Sappington



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Delaware Fishing Report

by Rick Willman



Hi folks!!! We sure have had some real pretty days this past week. If the wind would just stop blowing everyone could get serious about quenching their thirst to fish.

On days when you can get a good drift, the fishing has been pretty good and a good number of flounder are being caught, although a fair number are short of the 18-inch minimum size requirement.

In the Indian River area the usual haunts are providing the most action. The VFW Slough is always the early favorite and this year is no different. The edge off Burton's Island and Massey's Ditch are also giving up good numbers of flatties. The area out from Gull Point and the Oak Orchard areas are producing flounder and the crabbing has also been good there.

When fishing these areas the



Gary Avery ventured down from Hanover, PA and landed a 25-inch, 6 lb. 8 oz. flounder while trolling minnows in the Indian River Bay. Fishing partner, Larry Bailets from Manchester, PA caught himself a 19-incher, also while trolling minnows in the Indian River Bay. Photo courtesy of Rick's Bait & Tackle.

a few bigger fish but safely released them because he already had his limit. Chip Williams of Millsboro, DE used live herring to snatch up his two stripers measuring 31 and 41.5 inches.

Elsewhere, Bruce West was fishing at Beach Plum Point and caught two black drum, one 20-inch flounder, 2 kingfish and 1 perch from the surf.

It's time to gear up for the start of the sea bass season, which re-opens May 22nd. Fill the tackle box with rigs and weights and fill the freezer with bait. Be sure to keep an eye on our weekly specials and get them while the gettin' is good! We will feature some great prices each week.

Capt. Bill at Bill's Sport Shop informed us that Kevin Stoltzfus stopped in to report that he caught a 42-inch, 22 1/2 lb. striper off the beach at Fenwick Island while using fresh bunker for bait. Rich Felton of Wyoming, DE caught a 43-inch, 26.8 lb. striper at Herring Point in the Cape Henlopen State Park on bunker chunks. Craig Brungard from Camp Hill, PA boated a 7.35 lb, 22 1/2-inch tog on green crabs at the Outer Wall. Trevor Dodge Sr. and Jr., along with Richard Hooper limited out on tog at the Outer Wall on green crabs and Trevor Jr. also had a 35 lb black drum caught aboard the "Grizzly". Rich Johnson of Felton DE stopped by the tackle shop with 3 keeper flounder caught on bucktails in the Indian River Inlet with the largest being a 23 1/4-inches and weighing 4 lbs. 11 oz.

Deanna from Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Inlet reported "What started out the week as being an okay night striper bite turned out to be super hot by the end of the week. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights during the incoming tide were fairly good with catches from 10 to 20 lbs. Friday was a bit slower, then it all broke lose on Saturday evening's incoming tide. The fish were boiling in the Inlet and being caught left and right on white bucktails with white 6" worms, Tsunami or Storm Lures, Stretch 25's, spot, live herring or eels. These fish started biting around 5 pm and didn't stop for

top choices of bait have been minnows, cut herring or bunker, frozen smelt or shiners and, of course, the always popular Berkley GULP! artificial bait.

Be sure you are not using too much weight when fishing in shallow water. Use less weight and keep bouncing your bait off the bottom. I like using a 1/4 or 3/8 oz. bucktail or jig head. Just thread your bait on the hook and bounce it off the bottom. Have a few different color heads in your arsenal, as sometimes a different color can make all the difference in the world.

Striper action has been hot and heavy at times in the Indian River Inlet. Anglers fishing from the jetty at night seem to be having the most success. Storm or Tsunami Shads have been scoring the most and the biggest fish. Bucktails or live eels have also been producing fish. Tommy Cline of Germantown, MD was throwing a Storm Shad in the early morning hours when he scored his 27 lb. 12 oz. striper. Tim Milnes of Downingtown, PA also used Storm Shads to fool his limit of stripers weighing up to 19 lbs. 10 oz. Tim said he caught



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almost 2 hours. These were the big ones, tipping the scales from 20 to 40 lbs. Amanda Williams of Millsboro, DE caught a nice 46.5-inch, 30.7lb striper along with an 18 pounder. They were both caught on Storm Lures.

Then there was the "Couples Night Out" group of Chad and Teneille Tingle, of Selbyville, DE and Heath and Crystal Berger, of Reading, PA. They got their 8 keepers using live herring.

Our very own Mike Baumgartner caught his first citation striper using a white bucktail. It weighed in at 35.4 lbs and measured 45.5-inches. John Klerlein, of Milton, DE was trolling a blue Stretch 25 when he landed his 26 lb. fish.

Needless to say, fish were being cleaned for an hour and a half after closing.

Now on to other fishing news....flounder fishing in the back bays seems to have slowed recently. I have seen only a couple come in over the last week. One weighed 2 lbs. and the other weighed 4.1 lbs. and was caught by Rick Haden, of Dagsboro, DE. He was fishing in the Inlet aboard the "Gale Force" using live shiners for bait.

The "Judy V." and the "Capt. Bob II" both got out on Saturday and went fishing in the Delaware Bay for stripers and black drum. The bachelor party for Skip Ward had a great day with 5 out of 7 black drum being landed.

Now, if that isn't exciting enough, the "Reel Life" went offshore fishing for tuna on Saturday and returned with our first bluefin of the year. The tuna weighed 43 lbs. and was caught using the good, old fashioned natural cedar plug out at the Tea Cup.

If you haven't made it out to the inlet to fish for the stripers, I would recommend that you get there fast, the striper run won't last forever!!

Joe Morris at Lewes Harbour Marina reported black drum fishing drew much attention during the week. Drum action is normally better after dark, but most crews experienced better bites during daytime tides. Shallow water near the submerged pilings off Slaughter Beach and the Coral Beds were popular spots. Surf clams were

the bait of choice. A lot of the drum ranged 15 to 25 lbs., but more big fish have begun to show. Aaron Berube boated a 61.7 pound boomer aboard the "Angler". Aaron Rosenberg reeled in a 55.5 pounder on the "Pirate King II". Rocky Morgan was surprised when a 47.5 pound black drum grabbed a green crab he was using for tog at the Inner Wall aboard the "Indian" during the end of tautog season. Joe reminds drum fishermen that they should call early in the week to reserve clams for the weekend.

Some nice stripers were checked in recently. Mike Graham and Don and Justin Hallacher fished a hot bite in the Indian River Inlet on Sunday night. They kept their limit of quality bass weighing up to 26.6 lbs. and released others while casting Storm Shads. Brian Perry was tossing plugs at the Outer Wall when he scored a 30.6 pounder.

Striped bass came from the surf too. Drew Stuchlik was soaking cut bunker from the beach at Herring Point on Friday night when he captured a 27.3 lb. rockfish. Dave Walls got his limit of rock weighing 13.5 and 15.8 lbs. in the wash at Herring Point on Saturday afternoon.

Flounder were pulled from the Lewes Canal. The shallow water near the Ferry Jetty and around the Cape Henlopen Pier also produced flatties. Shad darts, spec rigs and small bucktails tipped with minnows, shiners, cut herring or Gulp! worked well. Surf fishermen walking inside Cape Henlopen reported fluke too. The new 18-inch minimum size in Delaware should allow flukers to bring more fish home.

The annual Lewes Harbour Canal Flounder Tournament happens Friday May 20. The event offers cash prizes and a portion of the proceeds benefit Camp Awareness youth programs. Details can be found in the fishing reports section at lewesharbourmarina.com or by calling 302-645-6227.

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

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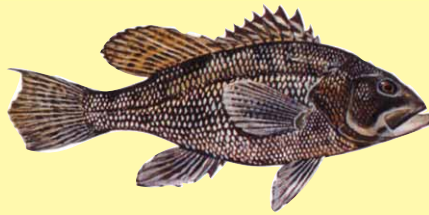




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12.5 " 25 per person/day
5/22 - 10/11 & 11/1-12/31



BLUEFISH
8" minimum 10 per person/day



CROAKER
9" minimum 25 per person/day



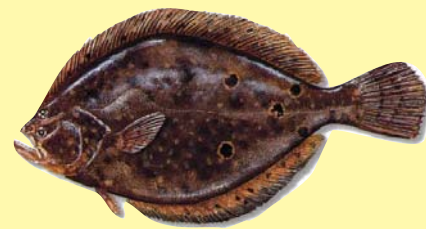
TAUTOG
14" 2 per person/day 5/16 - 10/31
14" 4 per person/day 11/1 - 11/30
Closed 12/1 - 12/31



WEAKFISH
13" minimum 1 per person/day



COD
22" minimum 10/person/day



SUMMER FLOUNDER
18" minimum 3 per person/day
April 16th to November 30th



SPECKLED TROUT
14" minimum 10 per person/day



STRIPED BASS
28" minimum 2 per person/day



SHEEPSHEAD
No limit



RED DRUM
18" to 27" 1 per person/day



Ocean City Marlin Club 2011 Tournament Series 410-213-1613



info@ocmarlinclub.com www.OCMarlinClub.com

2nd Annual Memorial Day Bluefish Tournament

NO OCMC MEMBERSHIP NEEDED TO PARTICIPATE

Chairman: Franky Pettolina
Registration: May 27, 6:30 p.m.
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 28 & May 29
Awards Banquet: May 30, 1-3 p.m.

7th Annual Kids' Classic

NO OCMC MEMBERSHIP NEEDED TO PARTICIPATE

Chairmen: Bill Regan, Annette Cropper, & Pat Svehla
Registration: July 22, 6:30 p.m.
Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 23 & July 24
Cook-Out: July 16, 6:30 p.m. for Wish-A-Fish Kids
Carnival & Awards Banquet: July 24, 5-8 p.m.

32nd Annual Small Boat Tournament

NO OCMC MEMBERSHIP NEEDED TO PARTICIPATE

Chairman: Bill Regan
Registration: June 24, 6:30 p.m.
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 25 & June 26
Awards Banquet: June 26, 6:30-9 p.m.

3rd Annual OCMC Ladies' Tournament

NO OCMC MEMBERSHIP NEEDED TO PARTICIPATE

Chairmen: Alison Sappington & Franky Pettolina
Registration: August 4, 6 p.m.
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 5 & August 6
Awards Banquet: August 6, 6:30-9 p.m.

33rd Annual Challenge Cup

Chairmen: Jon Duffie & Pat Svehla
Registration: September 15, 7 p.m.
Fishing Days: (2 of 2) September 16 & September 17
Italian Night: September 16, 6:30-9 p.m.
Awards Banquet: September 17, 6:30-9 p.m.
BY OCMC INVITATION ONLY

29th Annual Canyon Kick Off Tournament

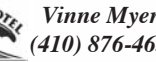
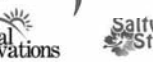
NO OCMC MEMBERSHIP NEEDED TO PARTICIPATE

Chairman: Franky Pettolina
Registration: June 30, 6:30 p.m.
Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 1, July 2, & July 3
Awards Banquet: July 4, 1-3 p.m.
FREE TO ALL OCMC BOAT MEMBERS

53rd Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament

NO OCMC MEMBERSHIP NEEDED TO PARTICIPATE

Chairmen: Bob Wim brow & Bill Fenwick
Registration: September 1, 6:30 p.m.
Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 2, 3, & 4
Awards Banquet: September 4, 6:30-9 p.m.





On Saturday, "The Wrangler" returned from an overnight trip to the Wilmington Canyon with this 46 lb. bluefin tuna, caught by Colene Artrip of Chesapeake, OH on a trolled ballyhoo/pink sea witch combination. Colene was fishing with Capt. Craig Mercier and mate Tom Zapf in 100 fathoms, where they found a 55-66 degree temperature break. The trio also released another bluefin tuna and a bunch of blue sharks during the trip. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



On Saturday, Capt. Mike Passarello on the "Hard Times II" found some flounder in the bay behind Assateague Island and ended the day with 2 keepers measuring 18 and 22-inches. The flounder, 2 of 5 hooked during the trip, were caught by Bryan Schroeder of Eldersburg, MD and Eric Crawford of Sykesville, MD on squid and minnow combinations behind Mystic Harbor.



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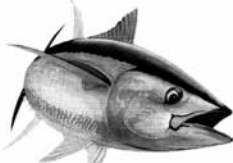
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BLACK SEA BASS
12.5 " 25 per person/day
5/22 - 10/11 & 11/1-12/31



BLUEFISH
No minimum size
10 per person/day



SUMMER FLOUNDER
18" minimum 4 per person/day
5/11 - 10/23



TAUTOG
Closed 5/12 - 6/30
14" 10 per person/day 7/1 - 8/31
Closed 9/1 - 9/28



BLUE CRAB
5" minimum 1 bushel/person



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



SHEEPSHEAD
No limit



SPECKLED TROUT
12" minimum No creel limit



BLACK DRUM
16" 3 per person/day



CROAKER
8" minimum No creel limit



WEAKFISH
13" minimum 1 per person/day

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Scott Bruning of Cedartown, MD took a trip to a Virginia barrier island and released this black drum, estimated at 40-50 lbs., while fishing from the surf using peeler crabs for bait. Photo courtesy of Dale Timmons.



On Saturday, the striped bass were practically leaping into anglers boats while fishing in the Indian River Inlet and around the Jetty. Mike Baumgartner of Hook'em & Cook'em landed this 45.5-inch, 35.4 lb. striper on a white bucktail during the incoming tide. Photo courtesy of Hook'em & Cook'em.

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Ship To Shore

— by Pat Schrawder



AIS BECOMING MORE OF A STANDARD ITEM

Each year more and more boats are on the water and larger fuel capacities of smaller boats allow them the luxury of venturing further offshore. This however, puts them in the traffic lanes of other vessels, many of which are foreign and are not communicating by VHF with boats in their vicinity. This can present a "real and present danger". But the development of AIS (Automatic Identification System) has a solution for this problem.

AIS has been developing over the years but has become something that is more accessible to the average boater. Since 911, the Federal Communications Commission

has set standards for and has required that certain vessels be equipped with AIS to support Homeland Security. Simply put, AIS is a shipboard broadcast system operating in the VHF maritime band that provides "real time" detailed information between vessels and/or shore-based stations allowing you to identify and track certain vessels in the surrounding area providing collision avoidance data. In other words, who's out there and where are they going? It requires a VHF AIS antenna, an AIS device (a "receive only" Class B unit or a "send and receive" Class A unit) and a GPS. The Class "B" unit allows you to receive detailed information about other Class "A" AIS-equipped vessels but

will not allow other vessels to "see you". The Class A device will allow you to both "see" other AIS equipped vessels and for AIS-equipped vessels to "see you". Certain vessels are required to be equipped with Class "A" AIS transponders but the system as currently implemented only works for those that are equipped.

When an AIS system is installed on a vessel, several items of data are programmed into the unit to be transmitted via the system. Among those items are: ship's name, type, call sign, IMO number, length and beam, antenna location, draft, cargo information and destination. The GPS interfaced with it will calculate and display the vessel's ETA (estimated time of arrival). The incoming information from other vessels will be displayed in rotation on your AIS receiver, your radar screen if it is interfaced, or other screen. One way to picture this is to compare it to the screen of an air traffic controller. Periodically, the information is updated and, if the vessel is under way, your AIS system "tracks" its position, course over ground, speed over ground, gyro heading, rate of turn, navigational status and direction of travel. It will also check for dangerous targets within a safe zone set up by you, sounding an alarm. This system is installed in Coast Guard stations and aids them in implementing Homeland Security safeguards by increasing their awareness of vessels in the water and especially to those entering US ports. If you have ever monitored one of the AIS systems, you would be amazed to find out how many other boats are out there, how large they are and where they are heading. A "tail" on the target displayed on your display screen will indicate the direction the vessel is traveling. The effectiveness of this system is dependent on

the increased usage of it by more and more boats.

The advantage of AIS is that the target will be located and identified regardless of whether or not it can be "seen". For example, if you and another vessel are hidden from each other's view either because you do not have radar or because there is significant land mass between the two of you, the VHF transmitted signal of AIS will still show your presence. AIS also gives you lots of information about the ships in your area that you may "see" with radar, but which will not have all that data set.

That usage is being helped by the introduction of more AIS products. Most are "stand alone" units that interface with other items on your boat. However, we are now starting to see AIS show up built into VHF radios. Standard Horizon and Garmin units are two brands that have done so. Personally, I really like the whole AIS concept, especially after having monitored one, but I like to see the targets displayed on the plotter and/or radar unit. The argument can be effectively made that putting your VHF and AIS in one unit runs the risk of losing all if your radio goes out. With more and more manufacturers coming out with their version of AIS, I would look carefully at several units to compare them before making any purchase.

If you have a computer, here is a great web site you can visit that actually monitors vessel traffic and displays it on-line. Their site is: <http://www.marinetraffic.com/ais/>. Check it out. It will give you a very clear idea of what AIS offers to you, and will be interesting to view even if you never add AIS to your equipment package.

Pat and her husband, Larry are owners of L&L Marine Electronics in West Ocean City, MD.

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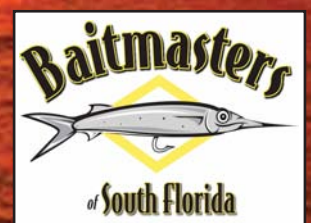
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Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
Sea Bass 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Mako Shark 	May 1, 2011 Brett Coakley Washington Canyon 133 lbs.	No Weights Reported
Tautog 	March 30, 2011 Scott Allison Ocean Wreck 19 lbs. 8 oz.	April 26, 2011 Sam Green DE Bay Reef 10 lbs. 2 oz.	Thresher Shark 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Striped Bass 	April 20, 2011 Robert Remo Rt. 50 Bridge 36 lbs.	April 27, 2011 Brian Ramaley Fenwick Island Surf 38 lbs. 5 oz.	Bluefin Tuna 	<div>NEW</div> May 14, 2011 Colene Artrip "The Wrangler" 46 lbs.	No Weights Reported
Weakfish 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Yellowfin Tuna 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Speckled Trout 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Longfin Tuna 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Flounder 	<div>NEW</div> May 12, 2011 Steve Flohr Thorofare 7 lbs. 4 oz.	May 7, 2011 Mark Lowman Indian River Bay 8 lbs. 13 oz.	Bigeye Tuna 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Bluefish 	May 1, 2011 Regina Slater Rt. 50 Bridge 8 lbs. 8 oz.	No Weights Reported	Dolphin 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Sheepshead 	May 7, 2011 Sheldon Thomas Winter Quarter Shoal 3 lbs. 3 oz.	No Weights Reported	Wahoo 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Cobia 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	White Marlin 	Most Releases in One Day None Reported	None Reported

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

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Anthony Wisniewski from Woodstock, MD, John DeSoto from Oak Hill, VA and Alan Spielman from Rockville, MD caught their limit of tautog while fishing on the "Judy V." at Site #10. All of the fish were caught on green crabs, with the largest tog tipping the scales at an even 4 lbs. Photo courtesy of Hook'em & Cook'em.

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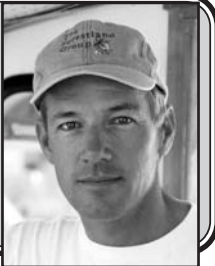
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Chum Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson



The other day I heard a kid in a department store mentioning to his parents that they should get him a boat so he'll have "something to do this summer", to which his father replied that if he wants something to do he should "spend more time on the computer because maybe he'd learn something." Hearing the exchange had me remembering some of the learning experiences I've had through my own boating career.

My first boat was a seven foot long Sportyak dingy. Actually it wasn't officially "mine" - it was a family boat that we all used. But since my two younger siblings were too young to use it, and my older sister had very limited interest in boating, at the age of ten I pretty much commandeered the all-plastic vessel as my own and spent a couple summers rowing

the tiny green and white bathtub around Ocean City's back bay waters in hot pursuit of flounder, blowfish and any other edible creature I could capture. From that little boat, this kid learned some very important lessons, none the least of which is what happens when you take the easy route by paddling with the wind or current. It might be really easy to get to where you think you should go, but sooner or later you'll have to turn around and struggle against the wind and current to get home. I also learned about prior planning; if you go crabbing, make sure to have a bucket to hold your catch because it's no fun paddling home (against the current) with your bare feet up on the gunwales because you've got a dozen or so crabs crawling around the bottom of the boat.

My next command was a 14-

foot McKee Craft. Again, it was a family boat, but after two years of service on the Sportyak, I decided it was my duty to take command of the new vessel. My younger brother didn't think that was very fair, but didn't argue the point - I was bigger than he. With a 25 Evinrude to push us along, I finally didn't have to worry about fighting wind and tides, and with a little motor-well in front of the transom, I could forget my bucket and still have a place to contain anything I might capture. With that boat, I was able to plunder most of the bay and inlet waters, and I learned valuable lessons about how to get off sandbars, and what happens when you leave the dock "thinking" that you have enough fuel to get you down to the inlet and back before dark but you're wrong and the current is going out hard! I also learned how bad a half dozen crabs can smell that sneak out of a motor-well and wedge themselves under the deck.

By the time I was a teenager, my father had purchased a 19-foot center console. Suddenly, the inlet was no longer a "boundary" but instead it became a "gateway" to offshore locations such as the Bass Grounds, Jackspot and the Fingers. With a 60-gallon fuel tank, range was only restricted by weather and sea conditions, neither of which were very accurately reported at the time, so we had to rely on the "let's poke our way out the inlet and see what it's like" method to determine if we'd be able to fish on any particular day. I learned valuable lessons about what happens when you "get it wrong" and head offshore in a small boat on days when you should have stayed in the bay. On a small single engine boat equipped with nothing more than a CB radio and a depth finder, the ocean can be an intimidating place to be when you're pounding your way home over mountainous waves. After running in so many good, bad, and ugly sea conditions, I learned a lot about respecting the ocean and not being in the wrong place at the wrong time. I also learned that if you forget your rain gear, a five-gallon bucket over your head will keep

a hard rain from stinging your face, it just doesn't do much for visibility and your ears will be ringing for the next couple of days.

When I made the quantum leap from 19-foot private boat to a 40-foot charter boat, I quickly learned that for every hour I fished, I'd spend at least two doing some kind of maintenance back at the dock or in the boatyard. Big boats are soooo much effort to keep up! The work can be expensive, dirty, and sometimes back-breaking, but there's no getting around it if you want to protect your investment and have a vessel that will get you out and back safely without constantly being plagued by malfunctions or breakdowns. You've got to do whatever it takes to keep everything in top form. If anything, that boat has taught me the importance of "preventative maintenance" and how much better it is to locate and address potential issues before they turn into real problems out on the water. It also helps to really know a boat inside and out, all the systems, the parts, how everything is mounted, wired, interconnected, or isolated and have at least enough mechanical experience to perform minor bits of maintenance such as changing a water pump, replacing a fan belt, or removing a heat exchanger. Such abilities will not only save money that would otherwise be spent to have someone else do it, they can also help a boater get home under their own power if they have problems out on the water.

Boats are far from being toys. We often refer to them as "money-pits" and that's probably a better description, but they sure do open up a world of opportunities and excitement and they teach us a lot of good stuff along the way. I hope that kid in the department store has the chance to spend more time on the water than in front of a computer screen this summer - I think he'll learn more.

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

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West Ocean City Boat Ramp Still Scheduled to be Completed by May 31st

Although it is hard to believe when looking at the current status of the West Ocean City boat ramp, Hi-Tide Marine Construction, a local company based in Snow Hill, MD, still claims that the ramp will be open to boaters by the scheduled deadline of May 31st. At presstime, concrete was ready to be poured, with a cure time of 7 days according to Gerald Richardson, Maintenance Superintendent in charge of Worcester County boat ramps.

The project, at a cost of \$450,000, has been plagued with problems from the start, the least of which was Hi-Tide Marine Construction's inability to properly drain the basin to begin the pouring of cement. After switching to a steel retaining wall, the contractors are confident that the problem has been solved and the project is back on schedule. The finger piers will be replaced with floating docks, eliminating the consistent problem of the piers being underwater during periods of extreme high tides.

The project is funded through a Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Waterway Improvement grant of \$121,847.50 and U.S. Fish and Wildlife grant of \$327,829.50.

In the meantime, boat ramps are available at the following locations:

Bahia Marina, between 21st and 22nd Streets in Ocean City

Gum Point Landing - located on Gumpoint Rd, .6 miles off Rt. 589

South Point - located at the end of South Point Rd off Rt. 611

Assateague State Park - located at Rt. 611 and the Verrazano Bridge

Caribbean Drive/Bering Road - located off 87th St. in Ocean City

For more information and status reports, log on to www.coastalfisherman.net.

NMFS Announces Proposed Rule to Implement Regulations on Hammerhead and Whitetip Sharks

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to implement the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) recommendations which prohibit the retention, transshipping, landing, storing, or selling of hammerhead sharks in the family Sphyrnidae (except for *Sphyrna tiburo*) and oceanic whitetip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT. This rule would affect the commercial Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) pelagic longline (PLL) fishery and recreational HMS fisheries for tunas, swordfish, and billfish in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico.

Specifically, NMFS proposes to prohibit the retention of Oceanic whitetip sharks and scalloped, smooth and great hammerhead sharks on Atlantic HMS commercially permitted vessels that have pelagic longline gear on board. NMFS is also proposing to prohibit retention of oceanic whitetip and hammerhead sharks by recreational fishermen fishing with a General Category permit when participating in an HMS tournament or fishing under an HMS Angling or Charter/Headboat permit where tuna or tuna-like species are also retained. NMFS is not proposing to prohibit retention in all HMS recreational fisheries because there is a recreational fishery targeting sharks that is not associated with ICCAT fisheries. NMFS is not proposing to prohibit the retention of oceanic whitetip and hammerhead sharks on bottom longline, gillnet or handgear because these gears target sharks and are not used in association with ICCAT fisheries and thus are beyond the scope

of these recommendations. The proposed action of prohibiting the retention of oceanic whitetip sharks and scalloped, smooth, and great hammerhead sharks in the commercial PLL and HMS Angling and Charter/Headboat fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species is likely to have minor, beneficial ecological impacts because of the potential reduction in mortality and minor, adverse socioeconomic impacts because these species constitute a low percentage of total PLL landings and the low occurrence of these shark species being caught in the HMS recreational fisheries along with tuna and tuna-like species.

The comment period for this proposed rule is open until May 31, 2011. Public hearings will be held on the following dates, times, and locations:

1. May 16, 2011, 6:00 - 8:00 pm: Manteo Town Hall, 407 Budleigh Street, Manteo, NC 27954

2. May 19, 2011, 6:00 - 8:00 pm: Fort Pierce Library, 101 Melody Lane, Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

3. May 24, 2011, 2:00 - 4:00 pm: NOAA Building III, Room 1311B, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Written comments, identified by "0648-BA69", may be submitted electronically via the Federal Rulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>, or sent by fax or mail to the contact information included below.

All comments received are a

part of the public record and generally will be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter N/A in the required fields, if you wish to remain anonymous). You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

This notice is a courtesy to the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) fishery participants to help keep you informed about the fishery. Official notice of Federal actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of Federal Register. For further information on this proposed rule and draft EA, contact LeAnn Hogan at 301-713-2347. Copies of the proposed rule and draft EA are available upon request from the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-713-2347, fax: 301-713-1917). The information will also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/lhms/>.

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Tom Markle from Milton, DE took some time off and headed to the Keys for some fishing and was rewarded with a personal best yellowtail, measuring 23-inches. Tom was fishing on the "MOJO" with Joe Morris of Lewes Harbour Marina and caught the yellowtail on a piece of ballyhoo at Maryland Shoal.

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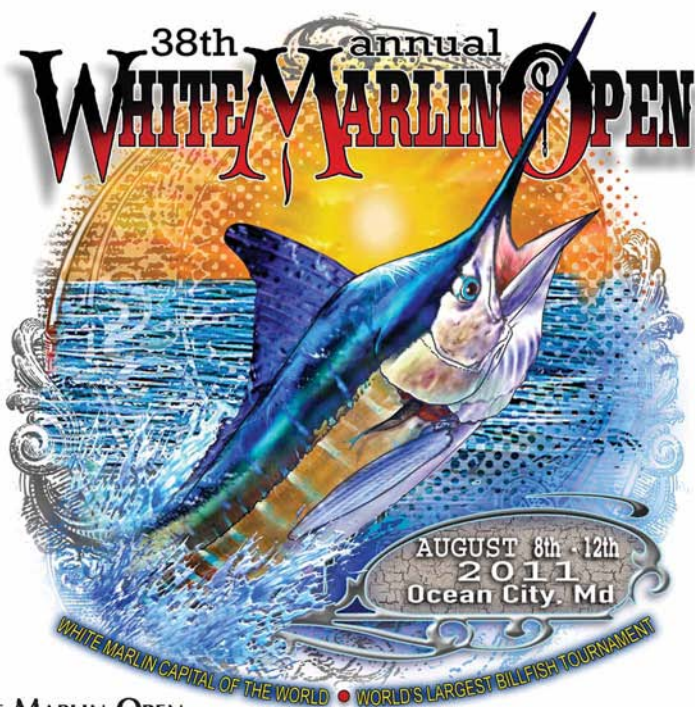
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Virginia Fishing Report

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



Decent weather lately is making anglers and local tackle shops owners happy, with the spring fishing scene improving each day.

According to the folks at Chris' Bait and Tackle, the big black drum are beginning to show activity in their usual haunts along the bayside of the Eastern Shore. A few fish over 46-inches are taking both chowder and sea clams, especially between Buoys 13 and 16 in about 25-feet of water. This action should heat up over the next few weeks, hopefully in time for the Eastern Shore's annual Black Drum World Championship beginning on May 20th.

Big red drum are still patrolling the breakers off Smith and Fisherman's Island, with the incoming tide providing the best results, especially at night. Some days are producing multiple hook-ups, while other days are



Tim Fox, Tim Larimore, Doug Siana, Pete Foster, Ken Mazda, Kenny Miller, Elliott Gerber and Herb Litchford teamed up to catch 14 striped bass while fishing in the Chesapeake Bay out of Wenona, MD on the "Tina Louise" with Capt. Larry Tawes. The stripers measured between 36 and 42-inches.

spotty. Crabs, peelers, and bunker are enticing bites. Be prepared for some super-sized dog sharks to keep you busy, so take plenty of bait. Surf anglers are still faring well on the reds from Smith and Myrtle Islands, with nice striped bass also taking

offerings.

Flatfish are still not at the top of the list, but some new activity this week is showing promise. The folks at The Fishing Center report that anglers working Rudee and Lynnhaven Inlets are finding keepers up to 24-inches among dozens of shorts. Drifting with strip baits, minnows, and Gulp! shads is working well. Respectable bluefish, weighing up to around 4 to 5 lbs. are also still available within Rudee. Scattered, keeper flounder are also coming from the backwaters of Oyster and Magothy Bay, where folks experimenting with frozen silversides are scoring lately.

A few speckled trout are hitting within the backwaters of Oyster, with most of the action near the mouth of Hungars Creek, while decent fish ranging to 27-inches are still coming from the discharge area at the Hot

Ditch.

Nice rockfish are exciting anglers looking for a good fight. Striped bass measuring up to 47-inches are hitting near the 3rd and 4th Islands on a variety of artificial lures. According to the folks at Ocean's East 2, top water lures are working best in the mornings around the artificial islands at the CBBT, while bucktails, Storm shads and other jigs are working best in the evenings and after dark along the tubes. The Third Island has been the most popular area lately.

The lower bay rivers are still holding nice croaker, while the Little Creek jetties and Ocean View are hosting medium-sized hardheads, which are hitting bloodworms, shrimp and squid. The folks at the Ocean View Fishing Pier report small spot, respectable round head, and small-to-medium sized croaker. Some tailor and snapper bluefish also showed up last week along with some keeper flounder up to 22-inches.

If blueline tilefish are your desire, these fish are available in deeper water over 300-feet, along with a variety of grouper and other deep water species. On May 22nd, seabass will also be back in season, which may make the long run worthwhile.

Offshore spring action should begin heating up soon. Right now, a few scattered smaller bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna, and dolphin can be had by boats willing to make the long run to warmer water. Most are still watching for closer opportunities. For more information, go to www.drjball.com.

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

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Marshall Dean from Dillsburg, PA caught this 32-inch, 17 lb. striped while using fresh bunker for bait in the Indian River Bay.



Greg Zapcic traveled down from York, PA with his wife, Dana, to go fishing on the "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente and mate Lizzy Brittingham and was rewarded with this 19-inch flounder caught on a white Gulp! Swimming Mullet near the Assateague Bridge. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u>		<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u>
Tuna:			Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"
Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lbs. or 32"	Striped Bass	40"	30 lbs. or 40"
False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"	Sailfish *	any size	-
Bigeye ***	60"	75 lbs. or 52"	Seabass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"
Bluefin ***	60"	75 lbs. or 52"	Shark:		
Yellowfin ***	50"	75 lbs. or 52"	Blue Shark *	any size	100 lbs. or 66"
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	Hammerhead *	any size	100 lbs. or 66"
Bluefish	34"	14 lbs. or 33"	Mako *	any size	100 lbs. or 66"
Cobia	44"	-	Thresher *	any size	100 lbs. or 66"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	Tiger *	any size	100 lbs. or 66"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"
Red Drum *	any size	-	Swordfish *	any size	any size
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 36"	Golden Tilefish	-	35 lbs. or 40"
Blue Marlin **	any size	any size	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"
White Marlin **	any size	any size	Weakfish	24"	9 lbs. or 31"

* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program

*** Use curved-fork-length measurements

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



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Straight from the Maryland DNR Fisheries Service

Marty Gary
Assistant Director - Fisheries Ecologist

Fishing License Sales Update

Last week we shared with you a variety of items involving Maryland's new comprehensive saltwater fishing license. We'll continue to post updates in our weekly column to provide visitors and residents alike with the latest information.

Since last week's update, we've been making great strides to solve one of the bigger issues with the rollout of the new license. And that is the availability of license sales in local bait and tackle stores. Currently, the only agent that sells fishing licenses in the Ocean City area is the Walmart on Rt. 50 in Berlin. At last week's Coastal Fisheries Advisory Commission held at the Ocean City Marlin Club, Maryland DNR's Information and Technology Chief Len Singel provided the encouraging news that despite a delay in the rollout of a new computer system for all licenses, a solution to the single location dilemma has

been determined. DNR will be setting up local bait and tackle stores, marinas and others to sell the new saltwater fishing licenses via paper based licenses.

I would like to personally thank Capt. Skip McGuire for playing a major role in the development of this solution. Skip, along with Sue Foster and many others have been working with DNR's staff to develop options to help work around the delay of the new license system, which will not be available until October at the earliest. Rather than vent or complain, Skip provided us with a better understanding of the challenges he and other tackle shops face along with their customers. This was critical in determining how to provide the fix to the current problem of only one licensed agent in the Ocean City area. A training session is planned for May 23rd in Ocean City for all interested vendors that would like to sell fishing licenses. Contingent upon delivery of the paper based license forms, we hope to have the new agents ready and selling licenses all around Ocean City shortly thereafter. If readers of this column have a business that would see a benefit in selling fishing licenses and are interested in becoming an official DNR agent, please contact me via email at mlgary@dnr.state.md.us.

National Saltwater Angler Registry

We'll continue to keep reminding sportfishermen that in addition to the new Maryland fishing license requirements, all anglers 16 years of age or older fishing in

coastal waters of the United States need to be registered in the National Saltwater Angler Registry. If a fisherman purchases an individual Maryland Saltwater license, he/she is automatically entered into the National Saltwater Angler Registry. That will accommodate most of the anglers fishing in Maryland, but there are others that will still need to register. The lions share of those fishermen that need to register are the guests that are fishing aboard boats that have a Chesapeake & Coastal Sport Decal, and waterfront property owners and their guests who are fishing from their property. Those anglers should register through Maryland DNR's FREE registration located on our website at: http://dnr.maryland.gov/sw_registry.asp

Also, all offshore anglers that are passengers (except the permit holder) on a boat with an HMS permit will need to be registered. When in doubt, we always recommend registering. The process is free and takes just a couple of minutes to complete. Be aware that you will need to print your registration out. It will not be mailed to you. Finally, one cardinal rule for this year.....DO NOT REGISTER THROUGH THE NOAA website. NOAA will charge you \$15.00, and again, Maryland's registration is free. This has been a point of confusion this year. NOAA gave the states one year to provide their own compliant systems, and ours is free and simple to use. If the readers of the Coastal Fisherman have any questions on license requirements or the National

Saltwater Angler Registry, they can call 410-656-9526.

Striped Bass in the Surf



A final footnote for this week's update. Our biologists are indicating the striped bass spawn in the Chesapeake is wrapping up, but this year's spawn has been protracted due to cooler temperatures in April and May, with a slow and steady incremental rise in those temperatures. As a result the post spawn migration should see a good number of migrant stripers moving up the coast the last two weeks of May. It will be interesting to see if this shows up as a dominant run off of Assateague and Ocean City, with a lot of great pictures in the Coastal Fisherman.

Black Sea Bass Opens May 22



Black sea bass season on Maryland's coast opens on May 22nd, with a 12.5-inch minimum size and a daily creel limit of 25 fish per angler per day. The season runs through October 11th. This year's season in Ocean City could have started much later, but thanks to some hard work by a team of fishery biologists and statisticians, including Lynn Fegley, Mike Luisi, Carrie Kennedy, Steve Doctor and others, working with input with knowledgeable constituents like Captain Monty Hawkins, an initiative to implement regional management was approved for this year. Because last year's harvest (2010) was principally driven by northern

Continued on page 53

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Joe Walker, Jr. from Aston, PA hooked this mangrove snapper on a jighead tipped with a chunk of ballyhoo while fishing in the Keys over the winter with Joe and Amanda Morris.



Jacob, Tyler and Savannah Wieder from Allentown, PA ended their day with an 18-inch and a 19-inch flounder in the box after fishing with live minnows in the Thorofare. Photo courtesy of Oyster Bay Tackle.

MD DNR continued:

states (Massachusetts in particular), the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council approved a regionalized management approach for this year that would not penalize southern states like Maryland, who did not experience significant harvest. So kudos to the collaboration between fishermen and biologists, and accolades to Maryland's team at the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council; Steve Linhard, Howard King and Mike Luisi for their efforts to maintain a full black sea bass season for Maryland's Atlantic coast.

Questions From Coastal Fisherman Readers?

I welcome any questions you may have on fisheries management, sportfishing licenses, or any other fisheries related questions. Please email your questions to: mlgary@dnr.state.md.us

Until next week... good fishing!

Marty Gary is Assistant Director/Fisheries Ecologist at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Service.

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BLUE MARLIN
99" Lower Jaw Fork Length
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WAHOO
No minimum length
2 per person/day



**BLUEFIN TUNA
(RECREATIONAL)**
1 BFT per vessel/day/trip
27" to less than 59" CFL



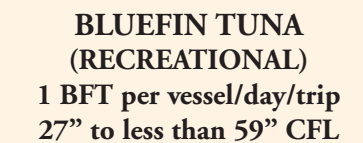
THRESHER



SWORDFISH
47" Lower Jaw Fork Length
1 per person / 4 per vessel
Charter boats - 1/customer



LONGFIN TUNA
No minimum length
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Tackle Shop

by Larry Jock



Western Filament, makers of the TUF-Line series of high performance fishing line, took first place in the Best New Braided Line division of the 2009 European Fishing Tackle Trade Association show for their TUF-Line DuraCast line.



The DuraCast line is a coated, braided line made specifically for spinning reels that eliminates tip wraps, wind knots, rod guide noise and common bail trip issues that have been associated with other superlines, but delivers the sensitivity that anglers have come to rely on with braided lines.

The line is engineered to be tough and abrasion resistant with the use of Spectra and Dyneema fiber in their line. The line is thicker and stiffer than your normal braided line due to a waxy coating over the line, which reduces rod guide noise. Comparing 30 lb. test braid, the TUF-Line DuraCast braid is .16" thick compared to traditional 30 lb. braid which is .11" thick. This also makes it a little harder to tie knots with the DuraCast line. A nice feature is the permanent coloration due to the color being engrained into the line and will not fade over time like PowerPro. The line also utilizes ultra round Tri-Axial Construction, reducing wind knots and tip wraps as well as increasing the lines abrasions resistance.

The company claims that the line is engineered for "superior casting ability and explosive distance". This is due to the thicker, stiffer line, which will really move off the spool once it gets going.

Overall, if you don't mind

a thicker, braided line that may make tying knots a little more challenging, then the DuraCast line may be one you want to try. If you are fishing inshore around rocks and structure, this line's abrasion resistance will definitely make your life easier. Check with your local tackle shop for availability. The line comes in 6 lb. to 30 lb. class with monofilament equivalents ranging from 2 lbs. to 15 lbs.

Another offering from Western Filament is their TUF-Line TufLeader line.



This line is unique, incorporating T-304 extruded stainless steel around a Spectra fiber core. This leader is designed to be knotted with standard knots rather than having to use crimping techniques associated with standard stranded wire. The company claims that TUF-Leader is the first braided tieable stainless leader on the market.

The leader comes in 10 lb. to 100 lb. test spools with a monofilament equivalent ranging from 10 lbs. to 50 lbs.

Readers of this column know that I am a big fan of Costa del Mar sunglasses, now known just as Costa sunglasses.

A recent addition to their line-up is a style called Tag, which has a 360-degree co-molded technology, built-in

side shields and durable integral hinges. The glasses are extremely light and come in tortoise, black or silver frame colors in Costa's full array of 580 lenses. You can also get them in prescription lenses, which Costa now offers through their website, eliminating the need to find a local optician to perform the service.



Like all sunglasses, it all comes down to the lenses, and the 580 lens blocks yellow light in the light spectrum,

creating visual clarity, the highest level of polarization efficiency and sharp color enhancement.

The Tag style is definitely made for those with smaller faces and comes with Costa's lifetime warranty against manufacturer's defects. It also derives its name in honor of the many tagging programs that Costa is an active supporter of with a portion of Costa's revenues each year going to support these and other marine conservation programs.

The Tag style retails for \$149 to \$249 depending on your lens choice. Prescription lens prices will vary.

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Poe lands winning fish in MSSA Spring Rockfish Tournament



Sean Poe landed a 44.10 lb. rockfish to win the Amateur Division of the 28th Annual MSSA Spring Rockfish Tournament held April 29th to May 1st. The winning fish was caught on the second day of the tournament on a white tandem parachute rig while fishing with Tom Disney, Anita Disney and Brian Stafford. The team took home \$24,825 for their first place finish.

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Erica Densmore from Sykesville, MD caught this 19-inch flounder while fishing on the "Bay Bee" with Capt. Bob Gowar. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Slater and Eric Thompson from Ocean City, MD caught 3 stripers while fishing at night from the surf off Assateague Island. The linesiders, weighing 14.9, 15.8 and 19.2 lbs., were caught while using bunker for bait and measured between 35 and 37-inches.

HAVE A PHOTO OF YOUR CATCH?

Email it to the Coastal Fisherman at

coastalfisherman@comcast.net

Include in the email:

Angler's name & town

Names & towns of others in photo

Weight and/or length of fish

Bait or lure used

Location of catch

Please send the photo file at full size.

Do not compress it and do not run it through any photo software.

KEYS TO TAKING A GOOD FISH PICTURE:

- Have the angler face 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.
 - **DO NOT use a cell phone camera.**
 - Shoot vertical photos
 - Smile!

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

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