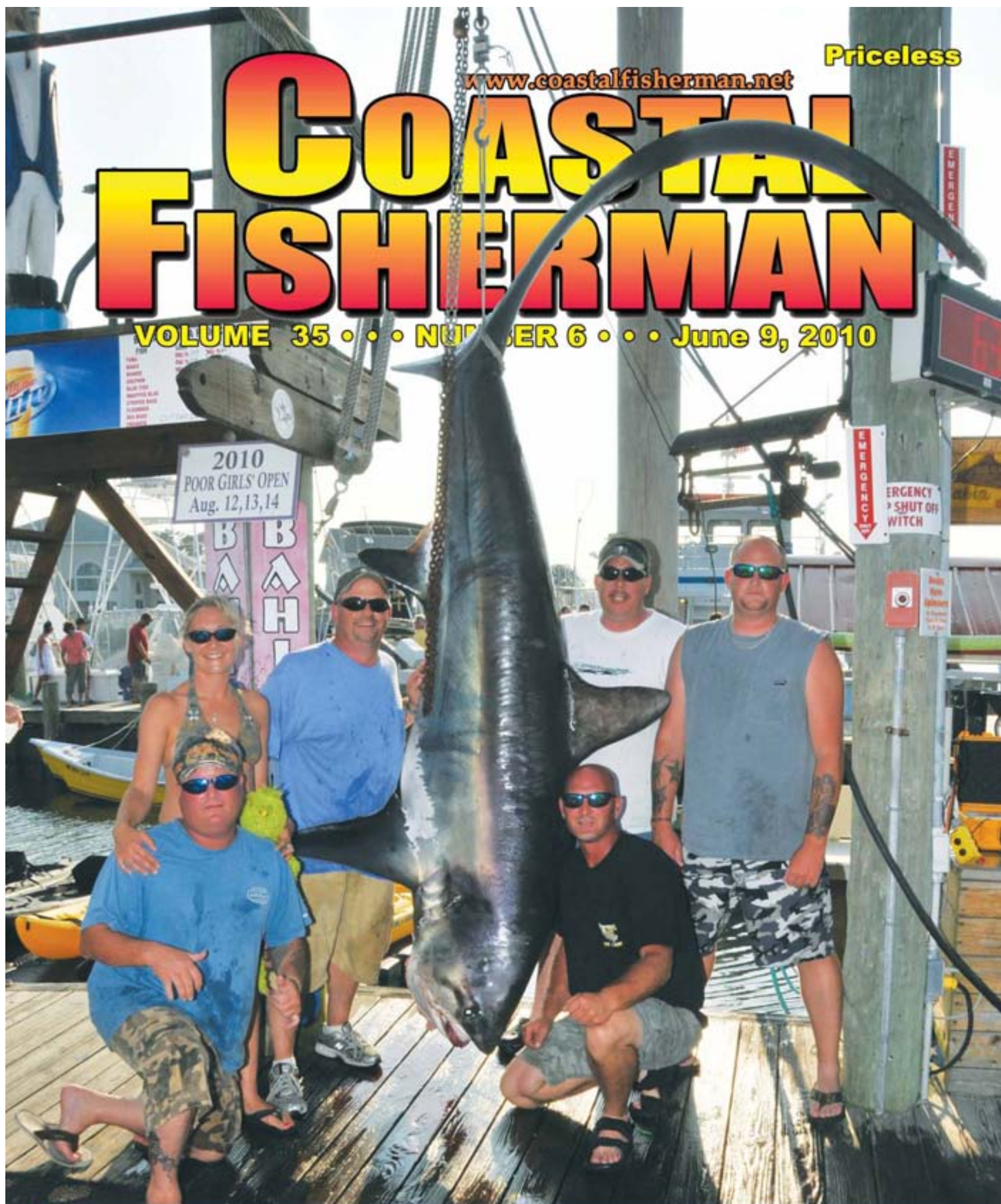


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# COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME 35 • • • NUMBER 6 • • • June 9, 2010



On the first day of the 14th Annual Mako Mania Shark Tournament hosted by Bahia Marina, Kevin Taylor of Georgetown, MD caught this 627.6 lb. thresher shark while fishing on the "Playn-Hooke" with Jennifer Wojcik, Donnie Dyott, Joey Boyce, Capt. John Parker and Mate Jimmy Taylor. The big thresher, only 14.4 lbs. shy of the current Maryland state record set in 2009, was hooked on a whole bluefish in 35 fathoms inside the Hot Dog and took 2 hours to get to the boat. The "Playn-Hooke" crew won the "Winner Take All" Thresher Division and took home \$5,020 for their catch.



# Double Lines

by Dale Timmons



I have seen a lot of strange and unusual critters over the years. Folks used to bring up stargazers, mantis shrimp, and all kinds of tropical fish from buckler dorys to lookdowns, usually for me to identify. A couple of weeks ago publisher Larry Jock had a photo sent in, one that was a new one for me, however. This creature was small, and kind of looked like a cross between a lobster and a crayfish. It was caught in a minnow trap by Nancy and Danny Cox. Steve Doctor of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources finally identified it as a "snapping shrimp". Steve told Larry that the shrimp makes a loud noise with its claw, loud enough to actually stun its prey, usually small fish. Makes sense, I guess, since sound actually

carries much better in water than air. I looked it up, and there are many varieties scattered all over the world. Steve also said they were fairly common here, so I'm surprised it was the first one I have seen since CF started in 1976... looked like it would make a good bait...



Had an unusual experience while fishing the surf off one of the Virginia barrier islands last week—there was a flat area of calm, crystal clear, shallow water in front of me and I suddenly realized there was a large fish slowly swimming along in about 8 or 10 inches of water, maybe six or eight feet from dry sand. I think the first thing I saw was actually the tail, and I thought,

"What the hell is that?" As I stepped toward it, the stripes materialized, and I realized it was a nice sized rockfish, maybe 36 to 40 inches long, that was just slowly cruising along. My next reaction was that there must be something wrong with it, and I stepped into the water, thinking that maybe I could grab it. Wrong! That fish saw me and took off like a bonefish racing across the Florida flats. The only thing I can think of is that the surf was full of tiny "bean clams," and there were also tons of small lady crab sheds on the beach...maybe that striper was just looking for an easy meal...



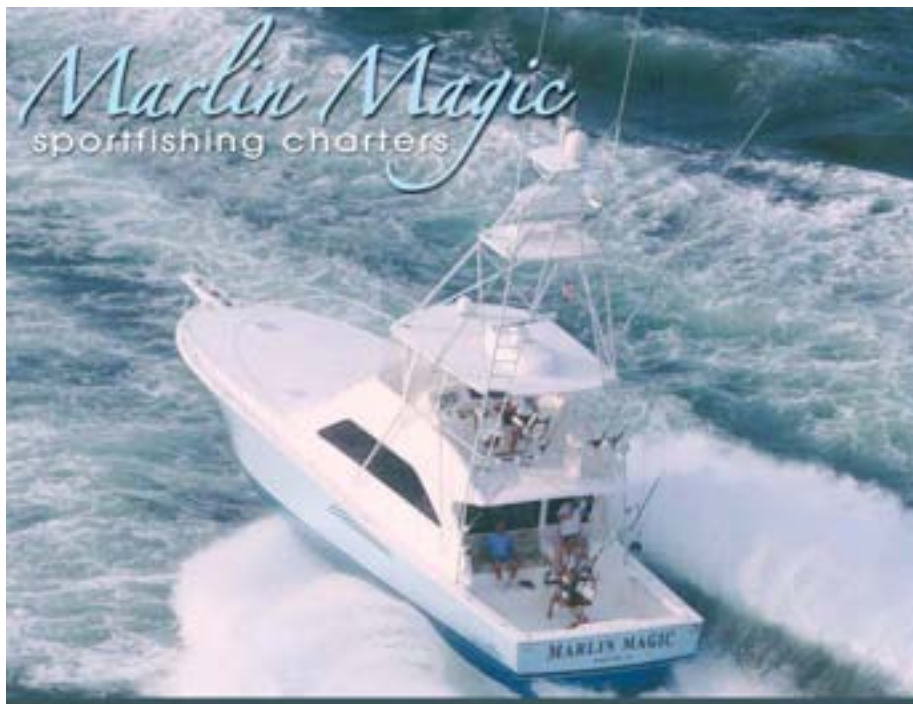
On the same trip, there was an even greater mystery in the form of a fresh dead fish lying on the beach. It was probably four or five pounds, and it had to be some kind of gar, which is basically a freshwater fish. My first thought was that an osprey might have carried it

out there and dropped it. There was one small wound on one side of the fish, and that is a possibility, but it was an awfully heavy fish for an osprey to carry, especially since we were probably miles from the nearest fresh water. I went to my books and the Internet, but I still haven't been able to positively identify the fish. Its top jaw was several inches shorter than its lower jaw, and I haven't been able to find a gar that fits that description... might have to remain a mystery...



Someone asked me last week about using crimps in place of knots when making rigs. Generally, I use knots, but when I get above 80 lb. test, I usually use a crimp, especially when making a drum or striper rig with a short leader. I usually make this rig with 100 or 125 lb. test mono (mainly for abrasion resistance), and I have been using crimps for several years. I have yet to

Continued on page 6



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Shawn Palmer, Molly Palmer, Rob Bookhamer, Stephanie Schmuff and Eric Distin teamed up to land a 216 lb. mako shark while fishing on the "Sea Mistress" with Capt. Dean Metcalfe and Mates Rob Hearn and Mo Kalin. The fish was hooked on a whole mackerel at the Parking Lot and weighed at Bahia Marina.



Robin Principe from Whaleyville, MD, pictured with her husband, Anthony, caught this 24-inch flounder while drifting a live minnow in the bay behind Assateague near the Ocean City Airport.

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Keeper-size flounder have been tough to come by lately, but that didn't stop this trio from bringing back some nice ones after fishing on the "Bay Bee" with Capt. Bob Gowar and Mate George Lenz. Brian Schatz landed a pair, measuring 19 and 22 inches, while his wife Pam caught herself a 20-incher and Neal Wadsworth landed a 22.75-inch flattie. All of the fish were caught on squid and shiner combinations in the East Channel. Capt. Bob reported a lot of action this day, with 31 throwback flounder in one trip. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Shawn Carpenter caught this 39-inch, 17 lb. striped bass while fishing with an artificial lure in the Indian River Inlet. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop in Lewes, DE.



Seven-year-old Dillon Peden of Middletown, DE caught this 19-inch flounder while drifting a live minnow in the Roosevelt Inlet. This was one of three flatties Dillon caught during the trip. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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**Double Lines continued:** have one fail, but a red or black drum or a cobia is about the heaviest fish I target these days. I snell the hook, but I use the crimp when attaching my swivel. I use both aluminum single crimp sleeves and copper double sleeves on mono, but I stick with the double copper sleeve for wire or coated wire if I'm making bluefish or shark rigs. When using crimps, probably the most important thing is to use the right size crimp sleeve for the size mono you are using. Most of the time the back of the package will tell you what size sleeve to use with a certain size mono. A 1.2 ID aluminum sleeve, for instance, is recommended for 80 to 125 lb. test mono. The manufacturer's numbers are usually a little optimistic, though, and I go to a 1.3 sleeve for 125 lb. test. The next most important consideration is to use the right hole in your crimping tool to match the sleeve. I just use a hand

crimping tool made by Sea Striker most of the time, and each hole is marked with the size(s) it is recommended for. Some folks think the harder they squeeze the better, and they use the next size smaller hole, but this may actually weaken the crimp by pinching the mono too hard. Your finished crimp should have a nice flair on each end, so the edge of the sleeve can't cut the mono when you are fighting a fish. A crimp actually works with friction from compression, and properly done it can be stronger than a knot, so learning to make and use crimps can be a valuable addition to your fishing arsenal...



I haven't done too much flounder fishing myself yet this season—been busy tying knots and chasing drum—but from what I keep hearing there are an awful lot of 17 and 18-inch fluke out there, but not too many that make 19 inches.

There must be an unwritten rule that no matter what the size limit is, most of the flounder will be a half-inch shorter. For what it's worth, I still think it's damn ridiculous that a man or woman with a rod and reel can't go out and keep a fish or two to eat... if the Magnuson Act needs to be changed to allow reasonable rules and realistic population target levels, then so be it...we need to bug those in Congress until it happens... or get rid of them and get new ones...



It seems like many species have appeared early this season, including cobia. They made a fantastic early showing at Cape Hatteras, where many boats scored in double digits, and they are already showing in decent numbers at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. A certain portion of these fish move on into the Bay, but some will filter north along the Delmarva coast, and I

wouldn't be surprised to see them show up here in the next week or two at places like Fenwick Shoal, the Bass Grounds, Winter Quarter or even Little Gull. Cut bait such as bunker (menhaden) fished on the bottom works well, usually with the help of a chum pot. Small live bluefish and live eels are also good baits. In fact, some anglers like to target cobia by looking for them around buoys or along tide lines and casting live baits or brightly colored bucktail jigs to them. If you are using cut bait on the bottom, a simple fish finder rig with a 5/0 to 8/0 hook will usually do the trick. There is a federal 33-inch fork length legal minimum, with a two-fish per person per day creel limit. Lastly, if you aren't sure if you want to eat your cobia or not, my number is listed below...

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# FATHER'S DAY SALE



# Ocean City Fishing Report

by Larry Jock



What an exciting long weekend of fishing we had in Ocean City with a lot of mako sharks caught along with big threshers, and the largest flounder of the year caught out of Ocean City.

## Mako Mania Shark Tourney

Action was particularly exciting at the 14th Annual Mako Mania Shark Tournament hosted by Bahia Marina. As you saw on the cover, the big catch in the tournament was the 627.6 lb. thresher shark caught by Kevin Taylor on the "Playn-Hooke". The thresher ate a whole bluefish in 35 fathoms near the Hot Dog and was only 14.4 lbs. shy of the current Maryland state record of 642 lbs. set last year by Brent Applegit.

Another noteworthy catch in the tournament was the 293.6 lb. mako shark caught on the final day of the tournament by Tom Perry on the "No Limits". Tom hooked the mako on a whole bluefish in 30 fathoms behind the Hot Dog. Tom's catch just nosed out the crew on the "Salty Sons", who landed a 236 lb. mako in 30 fathoms outside of the Hot Dog.

As I mentioned, there were a lot of makos caught over the weekend. In the tournament alone, catch reports showed 45 makos released during the 3 days



If it wasn't for a major shark tournament going on and big thresher sharks hitting the scales, you would probably be looking at this fish on the cover. Scott Peterson from Lancaster, PA landed this 30-inch flounder, the largest caught so far in Ocean City, while fishing on the "Bay Bee" with Capt. Bob Gowar and Mate Spencer Cropper. The 9 lb. 8 oz. flattie ate a squid and minnow combination in the Inlet, on the north end of Assateague Island. Weighed at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

of fishing. You know there were some more releases, since not all captains remember to hand in their catch reports. The "Playmate" led all boats with 14 mako releases, all in 30 fathoms inside the tip of the Washington

Canyon.

Finally, I want to mention that the tournament and Bahia Marina were also kind enough to donate \$1,000 to the Ocean City Marlin Club in memory of Jimmy Jackson, to be used towards youth fishing initiatives. They also donated \$2,000 to the Ladies Auxillary for their Scholarship Fund. Pretty work!

## Bluefish

Chopper bluefish had been scarce so far this year, but it looks like things may be starting to

heat up.

The largest bluefish of the year out of Ocean City was caught during the Mako Mania tournament by Jeremiah Leader on the "Keep Er Wet". The chopper weighed 14.3 lbs. and was caught in 36 fathoms near the Rockpile.

We also saw nice size bluefish, in the 9-11 lb. class, caught near the Hot Dog, Sausages and the Hambone. Hoochies and ballyhoo were most effective, but the big chopper landed by Jeremiah actually ate a whole bluefish.

Small bluefish are still roaming our bay waters and have been especially active at dusk for anglers fishing with bucktails and spec rigs. Anglers saw larger bluefish, up to 20-inches, around the Rt. 50 Bridge.

## Bluefin Tuna

In the middle of the week, Capt. Mark Sampson on the "Fish Finder" emailed me to report seeing 50 lb. class tuna chasing bait on the 20 fathom line near the Jack Spot.

Anglers in the Mako Mania tournament also reported seeing both bluefins and yellowfins, but had no luck getting them to eat. These anglers were fishing around the Sausages, the Hot Dog and the Fingers.

On Friday, Rich Schott caught a 64.5 lb. bluefin tuna in 62-degree water at the lower Sausage. The bluefin hit a trolled ballyhoo and is the largest bluefin we have seen out of Ocean City so far this year.

## White Marlin

Now, don't get excited. The first white marlin hasn't been hooked yet, but it should happen within the next couple of weeks.

Last year, the "Nontypical" released the first white marlin on June 10th.

continued on page 13

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### Flounder

The 19-inch minimum size really has flounder fishermen frustrated this year, with a lot of 18 to 18.5-inch fish being reported.

We did see a whopper hit the dock off the “Bay Bee” when Scott Peterson arrived with a 30-incher that weighed in at 9 lbs. 8 oz. Capt. Bob had the boat drifting off the north tip of Assateague Island and reported Scott’s line being in the water for only 15 seconds before the big flattie ate his squid and minnow combination.

We have seen other keepers coming in from the East Channel and in the Sinepuxent Bay behind the Ocean City Airport. It also looks like the flats to the north of the Thorofare are starting to heat up. We had some reports of short flounder being caught on the outside of the South Jetty, around the hump.

Minnows, squid, shiners and the Gulp! swimming mullet have all been producing the most flounder.

With so many flounder being caught that are close to the 19-inch minimum size, it’s important to remember to

measure the flounder with its mouth closed. If its mouth is open, the fish will actually measure longer, which could get you in trouble with the DNR if it is close to the minimum size.

### Striped Bass

We continue to see nice sized stripers being caught in the Inlet and around the Rt. 50 Bridge. There was a very good bite around the South Jetty on Friday afternoon and right into Saturday morning. Anglers drifting live bait across the tip of the Jetty did very well.

We are seeing macrobacteriosis on some stripers this year. These fish tend to have red blotches, usually around the back third of its body. From what I have read, the disease doesn’t make the fish harmful, but anglers should avoid handling the fish without gloves.

### Sea Bass

As Capt. Monty Hawkins on the “Morning Star” reports, sea bass tend to go into a funk in June. The catches are still there, you just need to work harder to get them. Capt. Monty reports

that the “high hook” on the boat is typically in the high teens in terms of the number of fish, which is still a wonderful day of fishing.

The largest sea bass caught out of Ocean City was landed by Nate Leader, a 6 pounder, while fishing at an artificial reef.

### Tautog

With most inshore anglers switching their attention over to sea bass, we aren’t seeing as many tog hitting the scales.

There has been a good bite along the 4th Street Bulkhead and also around the South Jetty. Anglers fishing off headboats are also nicking a few at ocean reefs and wrecks.

Sand fleas, green crabs and brown crabs have all worked well.

### Upcoming Tournaments

The next tournament on the schedule is the South Jersey Shark Tournament which runs from June 10th to June 13th in Cape May, NJ. A few boats from our area always make their way north to participate in the tournament.

Locally, the Ocean City Shark

June 9, 2010 Coastal Fisherman Page 9  
Tournament is next on the schedule, with fishing days on June 17th, 18th and 19th. With the shark action we have seen lately, the scales should be hot and heavy. This is also a great tournament for children, with Capt. Mark Sampson taking time to educate youngsters on sharks and shark fishing.

See you at the scales!



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Jeff Timmons used a live minnow to tempt this 6 lb. 3 oz. flounder while fishing in the Roosevelt Inlet. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Dave Weller, Stevie Jansen and James Gallo teamed up to land this 235 lb. mako shark while fishing at the Jackspot. Weighed at Bahia Marina.



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Joe and Asher Rosen of Ocean Pines, MD, Eddie Laincsak and Rick Veader from Baltimore, MD and Dave Beirman of Salisbury, MD teamed up to boat a total of 64 lbs. of tautog during a trip aboard the "Karen Sue" in early May. The group was fishing with Capt. John Nedelka and used sand fleas, shrimp and green crabs for bait. Photo courtesy of Hook'em & Cook'em.

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Jordan Lukiewski from Ellicott City, MD muscled in this 319 lb. threshers shark on Friday while fishing on the “Jezebel” with Roland Hubbard from Pasadena, MD, Jim Frye from Brandywine, MD, Capt. Chester Sadowski and Mates Frank Steuernagle and Chester Sadowski, Jr. The big threshers ate a bluefish fillet outside the Fingers and was weighed at Sunset Marina.



Ronnie and Jeannie Spittle from LaPlata, MD and Giovanni Coratolo from Springfield, VA ended their day with 4 flounder in the box after trolling live minnows in the bay behind Assateague Island. The largest flattie measured 24-inches.

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Well Steve, it's hard to have fun when you are continuously getting hung up. In Ocean City, there are plenty of snags, and unfortunately, when one person gets hung up and breaks off their line, the underwater snag gets worse as the bundle of monofilament and lost rigs gets larger. If you are fishing from the shore and get hung up once, try not to

The bulkhead along 2nd through 4th Street is a popular fishing area in Ocean City. It is handicap accessible. It has metered parking by the hour and you can park and be fishing right in front of your car! The railing makes it safe for kids. The problem with this area is that it is snaggy. The main East Channel runs right in front of the bulkhead and when the current is

The other trick to “less snags” is less hardware. If you have kids, buy those inexpensive bronze freshwater leadered hooks. Tie the sinker to the end of the line, and go up a few inches, make an overhand surgeons knot, and loop on the hook. The leaders on these hooks are light, so if

Same thing at the Oceanic



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Jared Becker from Millsboro, DE was fly fishing in the Indian River Inlet and hooked into this 37.5-inch striper that weighed an even 22 lbs. on the scale at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.

Pier. Keep your rigs out of the pilings, watch the underwater ledge if you cast straight west off the pier, and watch the rocks if you cast towards the concrete Inlet Wall.

Last word of advice? If you let a whole bunch of slack in your line or let a whole lot of line out in a fast current, you'll get hung up. As they say, "tight lines." Keep your sinker on the bottom, but your line taunt.

Good fishing....

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

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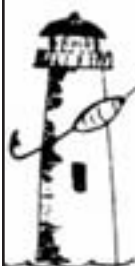
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Beverly Rider from West Ocean City muscled in this 37.5-inch, 14 lb. striped bass after hooking it on a green crab in the Ocean City Inlet. Weighed at Ake Marine.



Nate Leader was fishing at an artificial reef site when he caught this 23.5-inch, 6 lb. sea bass while on the "Keep Er Wet".

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The crew on the "Moore Bills" ventured out to the Sausages and hooked this 171 lb. mako shark while using bluefish for bait. Pictured are Jason Mumford, Justin Hart, John Prather, Capt. Rob Skillman and Mate Chris Hornung. Weighed at the Ocean City Fishing Center.





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Late on Saturday night, the crew of the “Cah-Ching” returned to the dock at Bahia Marina with this 612.2 lb. thresher shark. It took 4 hours to boat the big shark after Robert Miller from Princess Anne, MD hooked it on a whole mackerel in 30 fathoms outside the Hot Dog. Robert was fishing with Kim Wilkerson from Mechanicsville, MD, Capt. Jack Baumann and Mate Steve “Oppie” Obringer.



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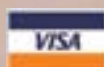


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# The Galley

by Mama Jock



## Shark Kebabs

2 lbs. shark steaks  
1/2 cup dry sherry  
1/2 cup rice wine  
1/4 cup soy sauce  
2 TBSP. lemon juice  
1 clove garlic, minced  
1/4 tsp. ground ginger  
3 TBSP. vegetable oil  
3 TBSP. peanut oil

Place fish in a glass bowl.  
Combine remaining ingredients except oil.

Cover and chill for 2 hours, turning occasionally.

Reserving marinade, thread fish chunks on skewers, basting often with marinade.

Cook over low coals or under a broiler 10 to 15 minutes until fish flakes easily.

Serves 6.

## Angel Hair with Jumbo Lump Crabmeat

8 oz. fresh jumbo lump crabmeat  
2 tsp. fresh garlic, minced  
6 oz. butter  
2 tsp. fresh parsley, chopped  
1 large fresh tomato, finely chopped, reserve juices  
8 oz. angel hair pasta, uncooked  
8 large fresh basil leaves

Keep a boiling pot of water ready as you begin the sauce preparation.

Add butter to a saute pan with the garlic and basil leaves.

Slightly brown the garlic as

the basil leaves wilt.

Add the tomato with its juices and bring to a boil.

Place the angel hair in the boiling water and cook for 1 to 2 minutes. Drain well.

Add the chopped parsley and crabmeat to the tomato mixture.

Heat the crabmeat thoroughly in the sauce; do not overmix.

Place pasta in a bowl and pour the sauce with crabmeat over the pasta.

Serve immediately.

Serves 2 to 3.

## Cracker and Parmesan Crusted Flounder

1 cup oyster crackers  
1/3 cup Ritz crackers  
3/4 cup Parmesan cheese  
1/3 cup parsley  
3 TBSP. chopped fresh chives  
2 TBSP. fresh thyme leaves  
1 TBSP. Old Bay seasoning  
2 tsp. garlic powder  
Flour, for coating  
2 large eggs, beaten  
Extra-virgin olive oil for frying  
4 flounder fillets, rinsed and patted dry  
Salt and pepper  
Splash of heavy cream or half-and-half

Using a food processor, grind the oyster and Ritz crackers, parmesan cheese, parsley, chives, thyme, Old Bay and garlic.

Transfer to a shallow bowl.

Place the flour in another shallow bowl.

In a third bowl, beat the eggs and cream.

Fill a large skillet with 1/4 inch deep extra-virgin olive oil and heat to medium-high heat.

Preheat the oven to 200 degrees.

Season the fillets with salt and pepper.

Coat the fish with the flour, shaking off any excess, coat with the egg mixture, then with the cracker crumbs.

Fry the fish in the skillet, turning once until deep golden brown.

Transfer each batch to the oven to keep warm.

Serve with lemon wedges.

Serves 4.

## Cajun Shark

1 1/2 lbs. shark, cut into bite sized pieces  
3 TBSP. olive oil  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
2 TBSP. soy sauce  
1 TBSP. lemon juice  
1/8 tsp. crushed red hot pepper flakes

Note: For a spicier flavor, tabasco sauce, green onions and more red pepper may be added.

Saute garlic in olive oil until golden brown; discard garlic.

Pat shark dry on paper towels.

Cook shark in oil over medium heat until it flakes easily when tested with a fork, about 4 to 5 minutes. Remove to a warm plate.

Add soy sauce and lemon juice to pan; cook 1 minute, stirring occasionally.

Add shark to the pan, sprinkle with the crushed red pepper, heat and stir for 1 minute.

Serves 4.

## Fish Tacos with Spicy Cabbage

Cabbage  
3 TBSP. Dijon mustard  
1/2 cup sherry wine vinegar  
2 tsp. honey  
1 cup extra-virgin olive oil  
2 cups red cabbage, sliced 1/4 inch thin

Tacos:

1 1/2 lbs. flounder fillets  
2 TBSP. lime juice  
1/2 tsp. garlic powder  
1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper

10 6-inch flour tortillas, warmed on the grill  
2 limes cut into wedges  
1 1/2 cups mild cheddar cheese  
1/2 cup cilantro, chopped

For the cabbage, combine first three ingredients, then slowly drizzle oil in to emulsify. Toss with cabbage.

Season with salt and pepper and set aside.

For the tacos, sprinkle fish with lime juice, garlic powder, cayenne pepper and toss to mix.

Let marinate at room temperature for 10 minutes.

Grill fish for about 1-2 minutes per side until opaque and cooked through.

Place pickled cabbage on warm tortillas, top with fish and a squeeze of lime.

Sprinkle on the cheese and cilantro.

Fold in half and serve immediately.

Makes 10.

## Sauteed Softshell Crabs

1/2 cup flour  
1/8 tsp. Old Bay seasoning  
1/4 cup milk  
6 soft-shelled crabs  
4 TBSP. vegetable shortening  
1/3 cup butter  
2 TBSP. fresh chopped parsley  
1 lemon, quartered

In a small bowl or brown bag, mix flour and Old Bay seasoning.

Dip crabs in milk and dredge in flour.

Shake off excess flour.

Heat shortening over medium heat.

Saute crabs 3 minutes on each side until golden brown. Set aside.

Drain off shortening from pan and wipe clean.

Melt butter in the same pan.

Pour butter over the crabs and sprinkle with chopped parsley and lemon juice.

Serves 3-6.

*If you would like to share your favorite seafood recipes with Coastal Fisherman readers, you can email them to coastalfisherman@comcast.net or mail them to Coastal Fisherman, 12748 Sunset Avenue, Ocean City, MD 21842.*



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Charles Donohue from Philadelphia, PA (left) was casting off the beach in North Ocean City when he hooked this 42-inch, 20 lb. striped bass. Weighed at Oyster Bay Tackle.



Megan Neal from Seaford, DE boated this 157 lb. thresher shark during a trip to the Fingers aboard the "Contender 31" with Andy Smelter of Bishopville, MD (pictured) and Capt. Walt Smelter. The thresher ate a whole mackerel and was weighed at Capt. Mac's High Performance Tackle in Fenwick, DE.



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John Biesecker from York, PA was drifting a live minnow in the Thorofare when he hooked into these two flounder measuring 21 and 23.5-inches. John was fishing on the "OCD" with Bruce Bostic.



Bill, Karen and Gary Revis ended their day with 4 nice flounder in the box after catching them while drifting live minnows in the Broadkill River. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.

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The striped bass bite on Saturday afternoon was hot, and the group fishing on the "Skip's Charter & Guide Service" was there to take advantage of it, keeping 4 stripers measuring between 28 and 38-inches. Fishing with Capt. Skip Maguire and Mate Anthony Cannuli were Chris and C.J. Sterious from Wernersville, PA. The fish were caught on live bait. Pictured at the White Marlin Marina.

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**BLUEFISH**  
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**CROAKER**  
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**TAUTOG**  
14" minimum 2 per angler/day  
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**WEAKFISH**  
13" minimum 1 per angler/day



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5" minimum 1 bushel/person  
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**SUMMER FLOUNDER**  
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## REWARD

Citizens who supply the Natural Resources Police with information leading to the arrest and conviction of a violator will receive cash rewards. Be specific in the description of individuals. When possible, give name, addresses and vehicle descriptions. The anonymity of the information/caller is guaranteed.

**REPORT A POACHER**  
**Call Toll-Free: 800-635-6124**

**The Maryland Department of Natural Resources**  
**Catch-A-Poacher Program**  
**Tawes State Office Building, Annapolis, MD**





Jeff, Sam and Autumn Arvig from Baltimore, MD returned with 2 keeper flounder, a 1/2 bushel of crabs and some clams after taking a trip on the "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente and Mate Ben Pollmeier. The flounder measured 19 and 22-inches and were caught on shiner and squid combinations at the mouth of the Commercial Harbor. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Special thanks to Keith Fraser and  
AllTackle.com for supporting this helpful  
volunteer angler survey!

# HE'S BACK!



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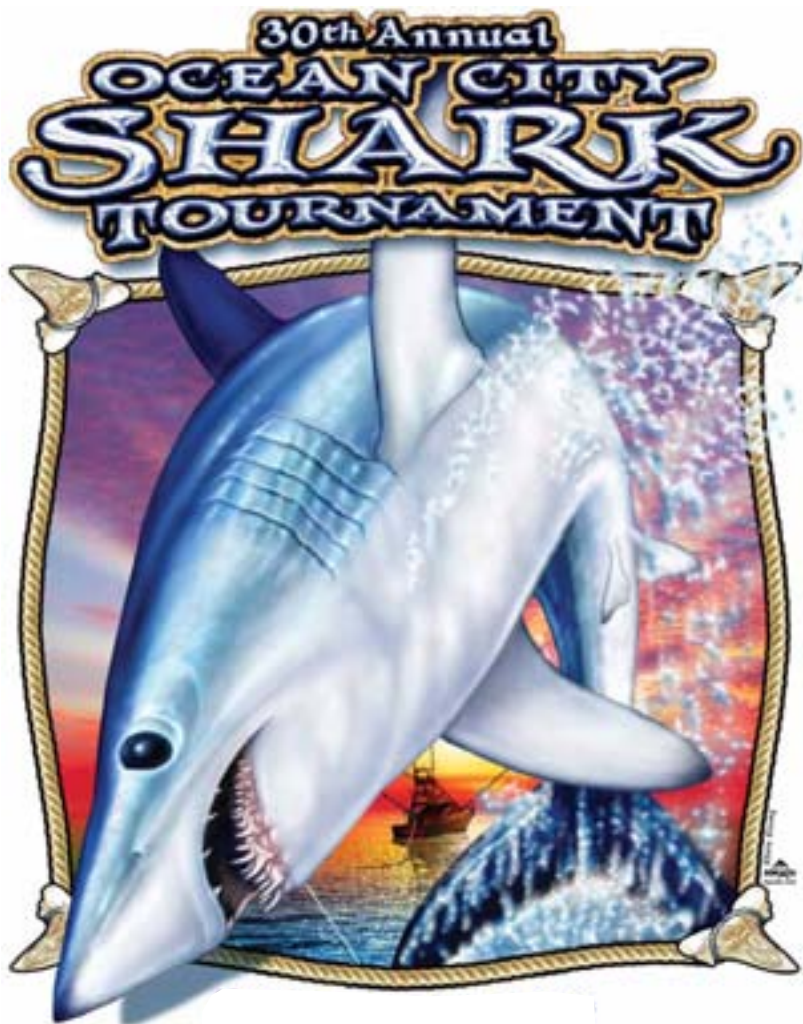
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Angler Jeremiah Leader from Chestertown, MD captured this 14.3 lb. bluefish to win 1st place in the Bluefish Division of the 14th Annual Mako Mania Shark Tournament at Bahia Marina. Jeremiah was fishing with Lauren Stinchcomb, Nate Leader, Ronnie Hall, Billy Marvel, Capt. David Sumpter and Mate Brian Leader on the "Keep Er Wet". The chopper ate a whole bluefish in 36 fathoms near the Rockpile and earned the crew \$4,276 in award money.



On the second day of the Mako Mania Shark Tournament, Mike Frybarger of New Holland, PA muscled in this 236 lb. mako shark and won 2nd place in the Mako Division. Mike was fishing on the "Salty Sons" with Tom Roberts, Tommy Roberts, Garrett Ehrisman, Capt. Justin McGinnis, Capt. Shane McGinnis and Mate Mel McGinnis. The mako ate a bluefish strip in 30 fathoms outside the Hot Dog and took 1 hour to get to the boat. The crew won \$11,973 for their 2nd place finish. Pictured at Bahia Marina.





On the final day of the 14th Annual Mako Mania Shark Tournament held at Bahia Marina, Tom Perry from Pasadena, MD boated this 293.6 lb. mako shark to win 1st place in the Mako Division. Tom was fishing on the "No Limits" with Rich Schott of Annapolis, MD, Jim Weller from Stevensville, MD and Capt. Steve Gladwin. The shark was hooked at 9:15 AM on a whole bluefish in 30 fathoms behind the Hot Dog and took 35 minutes to get to the boat. The crew won \$10,895 in award money for their catch.



The crew on the "Playmate" had an incredible two days of fishing during the 14th Annual Mako Mania Shark Tournament, releasing 2 mako sharks on Saturday and following up with 12 mako releases on Sunday. Their 14 releases earned them the W. W. Harman Award for the most mako shark releases in the tournament and \$1,000 in award money. Fishing with Capt. Willie Zimmerman and Mate Justin Hart were Ron Care, Bill Zimmerman, Mike Wheaton, Dave Lewis, Russ Barrett and Jerry McManus. The makos were hooked on bluefish and mackerel in 30 fathoms inside the tip of the Washington Canyon. Pictured at Bahia Marina.



### MAKO DIVISION

1 <sup>ST</sup> PLACE	2 <sup>ND</sup> PLACE	3 <sup>RD</sup> PLACE
Tom Perry	Mike Frybarger	Matt Keller
"No Limits"	"Salty Sons"	"Marli"
293.6 lbs.	236.0 lbs.	191.8 lbs.
\$10,895	\$11,973	\$21,926

### THRESHER DIVISION

1 <sup>ST</sup> PLACE
Kevin Taylor
"Playn-Hooke"
627.6 lbs.
\$5,020

### BLUEFISH DIVISION

1 <sup>ST</sup> PLACE	2 <sup>ND</sup> PLACE (TIE)
Jeremiah Leader	Kris Leayman
"Keep Er Wet"	"All In"
14.3 lbs.	Max Mejias
\$4,276	"Jo Jo"
	11.3 lbs.
	\$825 each

### W.W. HARMAN AWARD

"Playmate"
14 mako releases
\$1,000

44 Boats

196 Anglers

49 mako sharks released

\$60,600 total prize money





On the first day of the 14th Annual Mako Mania Shark Tournament at Bahia Marina, Kris Leayman landed this 11.3 lb. bluefish and held on to tie the "Jo Jo" for 2nd place in the Bluefish Division. Kris was fishing on the "All In" with Capt. Chad Meeks and Mate Rusty Reddish and won \$825 in award money.



In the Mako Mania Shark Tournament, 13-year old Baron Daiker from Reisterstown, MD caught this 241.8 lb. thresher shark while fishing on the "Teaser" with his dad, Rich Daiker, Mike Miller, Kent Reichther, Roger Veins and Kevin Veins. The thresher ate a whole bluefish at the Fingers. Baron won the 1st Annual "Flint Sparkle Hat", donated by the MC of the tournament, DJ BK of Ocean 98.1 FM (see top left inset). Pictured at Bahia Marina.



Avak Khachadorian from North Potomac, MD used a strip of spanish mackerel for bait to fool this 23.5-inch flounder while fishing on the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Mike Kinder and Rich Silvani. Pictured with Avak at the Ocean City Fishing Center is Capt. Monty and Marvin "Shark Bait" Rucker.



On the opening day of the 14th Annual Mako Mania Shark Tournament at Bahia Marina, Rich Schott from Annapolis, MD caught this 64.5 lb. bluefin tuna while fishing on the "Country Girl" with Tom Perry, Jim Whelen and Steve Gladwin (not pictured). The bluefin was hooked on a trolled ballyhoo in 62-degree water inside the Sausages. The crew also released a mako shark and a blue shark during the trip.





Aaron Strausbaugh captured this 7 lb. 2 oz. flounder while drifting a minnow in the Broadkill River. The big flattie was one of four keepers caught this day and was weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina, home of the "Lewes Harbour Stretch".



Nate Landis from Lewes, DE must have had a heckuva time keeping his hat on, but still managed to catch this 36.4 lb. striped bass while spearfishing along the rocks of the Outer Wall in the Delaware Bay. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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## Important Public Comment Meetings Scheduled for Changes to Striped Bass Management Program

Atlantic coastal states from Maine through North Carolina have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on Draft Addendum II to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass.

The Draft Addendum proposes two changes to the striped bass management program: (1) an increase in the coastal commercial quota, and

(2) revising the definition of recruitment failure based on Technical Committee advice.

The proposal to increase the coastal commercial quota is intended to improve equality between the commercial and recreational fishery sectors. Although Amendment 6 established management programs for both fisheries based on the same target fishing mortality rate, the implementation of state-specific quotas for coastal commercial harvest (and not for recreational harvest) has prevented the commercial and recreational fisheries from responding equally to changes in striped

bass population size. Since 2003, coastal commercial harvest has decreased by 3.6 percent, while recreational harvest has increased by 13.7 percent.

Under the option, the Board would select a percent increase to be applied to the coastal commercial allocations assigned in Amendment 6.

The Management Board voted to include a second issue in the Draft Addendum based on information presented at the meeting. As part of its review of the juvenile abundance indices, the Striped Bass Technical Committee recommended to the Management Board a revision to how striped bass recruitment failure is defined. Juvenile abundance indices are an important component of the striped bass monitoring program and are used to determine periods of recruitment failure which can trigger management action under Amendment 6. Adopting the proposed recommendation would result in a fixed value to determine recruitment failure in each surveyed area rather than a value that changes from year to year. Use of either the Amendment 6 definition or the Technical Committee recommendation for recruitment failure does not result in any necessary changes to the current management program.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum, either by attending public hearings or providing written comments. The Draft Addendum can be obtained via the Commission's website at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org) under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on October 1, 2010 and should be forwarded to Nichola Meserve, FMP Coordinator, 1444 Eye Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005;

(202) 289-6051 (FAX) or at [nmeserve@asmfc.org](mailto:nmeserve@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Striped Bass Addendum II). For more information, please contact Nichola Meserve, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator at (202) 289-6400 or [nmeserve@asmfc.org](mailto:nmeserve@asmfc.org).

The dates, times, and locations of the scheduled meetings follow:

### Maryland

June 17, 2010; 7:00 PM  
Ocean Pines Library  
11107 Cathell Road  
Berlin, Maryland

July 19, 2010; 6:00 PM  
Tawes State Office Building,  
C1 Conf. Room  
580 Taylor Avenue

### Delaware

June 16, 2010; 7:30 PM  
Richardson and Robbins  
Building Auditorium  
89 Kings Highway  
Dover, Delaware

### Virginia

June 28, 2010; 6:00 PM  
2600 Washington Avenue  
4th Floor  
Newport News, Virginia

### Pennsylvania

July 20, 2010; 6:30 PM  
Pennsbury Manor, Visitor's  
Center Auditorium  
400 Pennsbury Memorial  
Road  
Morrisville, Pennsylvania

## Ocean Pines Anglers Club Schedules Kid Day

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will host their annual "Teach A Kid To Fish" day on Saturday, June 19th from 9-11 am at the South Gate Pond near the Sports Core Pool.

Members of the club will teach kids of all ages fishing skills and techniques. Beverages and bait will be provided for those who would like to stay after the event and try out their new skills. Parents and grandparents are invited to both assist the

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## Atlantic Menhaden Assessment Indicates Stock is Not Overfished but Shows Signs of Concern

In its report to the Commission's Atlantic Menhaden Management Board, an independent panel of scientists endorsed the use of the 2010 Atlantic menhaden benchmark stock assessment for management use. The panel also urged the Board to examine alternative reference points to provide more protection to the spawning stock biomass.

Based on the current reference points, the coastwide Atlantic menhaden stock is not overfished nor is it experiencing overfishing. The fishing mortality rate is close to the threshold or the maximum rate at which fishing can occur and still allow the population to replace itself. Population fertility is slightly below the target, meaning that the spawning stock in 2008 appears to be adequate to produce the target number of eggs. However, the number of young fish in the population has been consistently low in recent decades, indicating that

high egg production may not be translating into high survival of young menhaden.

The assessment shows the population has undergone several periods of both high and low abundance over the time series (1955 - 2008). Abundance has declined steadily since the peak observed in the early 1980's and recruitment (juvenile fish large enough to be catchable) has been relatively low. As a result of these findings and recommendations by the peer review panel, the Board took action to task its technical committee with developing new reference points to increase protection to the spawning stock. In addition, the technical committee will consider alternative reference points that account for predation on menhaden.

A more detailed overview of the Atlantic menhaden stock assessment is available on the Commission website (www.asmfc.org) under Breaking News. It was developed with the intent of aiding media and interested stakeholders in better understanding the Commission's stock assessment results and process.

Copies of the Atlantic Menhaden Stock Assessment Report and Assessment Peer Review Report are also available on the Commission website. For more information, please contact Brad Spear, Senior Fishery Management Coordinator for Policy, at (202) 289-6400.

## HAVE A PHOTO OF YOUR CATCH?

Email it to the Coastal Fisherman at [coastalfisherman@comcast.net](mailto: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.



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Capt. Wade Lober



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Capt. Anthony Thomas



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Capt. Mark Radcliffe



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William Merashoff from Woodgrove, MD caught a 21-inch flounder, a 16-inch bluefish and a tautog, all on squid and minnow combinations while fishing off the Rt. 50 Bridge. Photo courtesy of Oyster Bay Tackle.



The striper bite at the South Jetty got hot between Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning as shown by the 6 keepers caught by Mark Handley, Jason Lease and Matt Weber, all from Baltimore, MD. The stripers, measuring up to 33-inches, were caught on bucktails.

billfish tuna dolphin wahoo shark bluefish rockfish deep dropping

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On Saturday, Jack Roesner from White Marsh, MD boated this 252 lb. thresher shark while fishing on the "Tanga Ray" with Allen Roberts from Clarksville, MD and Robert Burlson from Forest Hill, MD. The thresher ate a whole bluefish at the Fingers and was weighed at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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# Delaware Fishing Report

by Rick Willman



Hi folks! Activity seemed to slow down a bit the past week. After a fairly good holiday weekend with boats just blanketing the water, there seems to be quite a lag in the catch tally.

During Sunday and Monday of the holiday weekend, I thought the lack of cooperating fish was due to excessive boat traffic. The rebound didn't seem to happen yet, but I'm sure it will soon. Flounder fishing in the back bays is fair, but the bluefish are picking up the slack. Capt. Eric Ludwig has been providing his parties with plenty of action on blues from 2 to 4 lbs. Mike Cunnane fished the Indian River Inlet to score a 7 lb. 6 oz. citation flattie. Steve Marando fished the back bays and fooled a 4 lb. 4 oz. flounder. John Klerlein has been fishing the Indian River Inlet and hammering stripers up to 37-



**Harry Weaver from Lewes, DE caught this 5 lb. flounder while fishing at Reef Site #11 with a 4 oz. Crippled Herring jig. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.**

inches using live eels. Capt. Bob Smallwood of "Dana Lynn Charters" called and informed me that they slammed 9 to 12 lb. bluefish while trolling near the Jackspot.

Sign up now for the 2010 Rick's Bait & Tackle/Sea Side Gas & Grill Flounder Tournament and Inshore Tournament. The Flounder Tournament will be held from June 19th through June 26th. The final deadline for registration is June 18th by 10 pm, and the entry fee is \$15. The final weigh-in for the tournament is 4 pm on June 26th with prizes awarded shortly afterward at Sea Side Gas & Grill. Food and drink (BYOB), along with live entertainment, will be available for the after party!

The Inshore Tournament will be held from July 17th through July 24th. Final registration is 10 pm on July 16th, and the final weigh-in is 4 pm on the 24th. Awards will be presented at 5 pm. The

categories are heaviest bluefish, flounder, seabass and croaker, with the prize set at \$200 for each division. Once again, there will be an after party with food and drinks available (BYOB), and the entertainment will be the blues band "Pork Roll Project".

At Rattle & Reel Sporting Center, Ron said flounder are still in the back bays and are being caught on a combination of minnows and GULP!. Stripers seem to be abundant in the Indian River Inlet and live eels are really tempting them. Ron also wants to inform everyone of their upcoming flounder tournament that runs from June 25th through the 27th.

Denise at Henlopen Bait & Tackle reports pretty fair flounder action in the Delaware Bay. David Wells fished the bay to score a 7.52 lb., 27.5-inch citation flattie.

In the Bill's Sport Shop Flounder Tournament, the current standings are as follows:

1st: William Rawlings, 9.45 lb., 28.25-inches.

2nd: Don Ruth, 9.12 lbs., 28.5-inches.

3rd: John Goethe, 8.05 lbs., 27.75-inches.

In other fishing news from Bill's, we hear that Shannon Coyle of Milton landed a 22.35 lb., 40-inch striper at the Indian River Inlet on a bucktail. Carnestia Brackett of Milford was fishing cut herring at the Roosevelt Inlet and brought a 45.5-inch citation striper over the rocks that tipped the scales at 31.55 lbs. Tom Flickinger of Pennsville, NJ boated a 69 lb., 48-inch drum at the Coral Beds on clams. James Schraf of Bethesda, MD caught a 17.90 lb., 37.5-inch striper in the Indian River Inlet on swim shad. Mike Snesavage of Lebanon, PA weighed in a citation 60.9 lb. drum that measured 47-inches at the Coral Beds on surf clams. Ed Stickline, Anthony Cichacki and Louie Sartorie caught 2 makos up to 171 lbs. at the Fingers on mackerel and bluefish fillets. Keith Tolley boated a 52-inch black drum using clams at the Coral Beds on Saturday night. Bob McDonough, of Bear, DE reeled in a citation drum weighing in at 53.05 lbs., and measuring 45-inches also at the Coral Beds on clams. Brian Elliot from Bill's Sport Shop caught his limit of stripers up to 20.10 lbs., and 39-inches at the Indian River Inlet using rigged eels.

Joe Morris at Lewes Harbour Marina said shark fishermen had success with makos during the past week. Ron Baker and crew aboard the "Reely Hooked" checked in a nice blackeye they captured from the Fingers. Jeff Hoepfl and friends released a pair of makos while sharking near the Triple Wrecks on the "Joint Venture". Captain Dave Walker and the boys aboard the "Reel Naughty" boated a 115 lb. mako and released a larger one in the vicinity of the Marine Electric. Sharks have been found on traditional structure between 20 and 30 fathoms, with spots such as the Sausages, Fingers, Massey's Canyon, the Hambone, Hot Dog and Chicken Bone offering chances at makos. Water surface temperature has reached 68 degrees, and there have been decent numbers of makos,

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threshers and blue sharks inshore. Threshers normally take up residence along the Delaware shipping lane when sea bass spread out onto the Old Grounds. The stretch between the “DB” and “DA” Buoys is usually productive for longtails.

Fluke have been found at Reef Site #11, and Ken Brittingham bested a 6.5 lb. flounder there aboard the “Grizzly”. Harry Weaver was working a 4 oz. Crippled Herring jig at Reef Site #11. Flounder have started to be pulled from Delaware Bay structure as well. Reef Sites 6 and 7 near the Brown Shoal have started to produce. Jeremy Scott scored a 4.95 lb. flounder on the rubble aboard the “Martha Marie”. A few flounder were found along bottom changes between the “F” and “G” Buoys in the Anchorage as well. Even though flatties have come from structures in the bay, shallow water near the shore continues to offer the most consistent catches. The flats inside Cape Henlopen and around the fishing pier have been good. Even fly fishermen wading

warm waters close to the beach have had luck with flatties while casting Clousers and other small weighted patterns. The Lewes Canal, Broadkill River and Roosevelt Inlet still offer good opportunities for flounder. Aaron Strausbaugh checked in a limit of fine flatties, including a 7.09 lb. citation doormat that he caught while drifting minnows in the Broadkill River. Alan Herr and Tim Craley stopped by with seven quality fluke up to 4.5 lbs. they got while jigging Gulps! in the Canal. J.T. Tharp nailed a 5.35 pounder in the Roosevelt Inlet with a minnow, and seven-year-old Dillon Peden had 3 flounder up to 19 inches, caught at the same place.

Numbers of black drum have dwindled since the last full moon, but a few boomers were taken from Tussey’s Slough and the Pin Top. Mark Riley reeled in a 68 pounder on the “Martha Marie”. Dan Cornell captured a 64.3 pounder on the “High Hook”, and Ronald Demmitt decked a 63 pounder on the “Old Grady”. Striped bass were hanging out along the rocks of the Outer Wall. Casting

artificial in the evening was an effective method for attracting bass. Bomber, Stretch 12+ and Bunka Boy plugs worked well. Storm shads, bucktails and Rat-L-Traps also accounted for stripers. Nate Landis was diving along the Outer Wall when he speared a 36.4 lb. trophy linesider that took him for a wild ride. Rockfish have also shown up in the Lewes Canal. Drifting eels around the drawbridge will get their attention. Bottom fishermen using clams, bunker or squid heads have been catching rockfish also. Casting lures to lighted boat docks lining the canal at night resulted in striped bites as well.



Don’t forget the summer slot season when anglers can keep 2 stripers between 20 and 26-inches per person per day from the Delaware Bay and its tributaries.

Until next week, have fun and be safe!

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



Larry Gardner from Rosedale, MD took a trip in the Delaware Bay aboard the “Grizzly” with Capt. Carey Evans and was rewarded with this 76 lb. black drum.



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Aaron Frank from New Hope, PA muscled in this 19-inch flounder while drifting behind the Ocean City Airport, using a live minnow for bait.



J.T. Tharp from Bear, DE used a live minnow to fool this 5 lb. 6 oz. flounder while drifting in the Roosevelt Inlet. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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## Bill's Sport Shop Flounder Tournament Leaders

as of Monday, June 7



**William Rawlings**  
**9.45 lbs.**



**Don Ruth**  
**9.12 lbs.**



**John Goethe**  
**8.05 lbs.**

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# 2010 COASTAL FISHERMAN 2010

## Heaviest Fish of the Year

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

Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
<b>Sea Bass</b> 	<b>NEW</b> May 31, 2010 Nate Leader Artificial Reef 6 lbs.	<b>NEW</b> June 1, 2010 Jolly Paily Site #11 3 lbs. 12 oz.	<b>Mako Shark</b> 	<b>NEW</b> June 5, 2010 Mike Frybarger "Salty Sons" 236 lbs.	May 30, 2010 Scott Adams Sausages 180 lbs.
<b>Tautog</b> 	February 2, 2010 Frank Graziano "Morning Star" 19 lbs. 10 oz.	April 27, 2010 Brian Osborne "Karen Sue" 10 lbs. 2 oz.	<b>Thresher Shark</b> 	<b>NEW</b> June 4, 2010 Kevin Taylor Hot Dog 627.6 lbs.	May 16, 2010 Bill Doherty, Jr. Twin Wrecks 216 lbs.
<b>Striped Bass</b> 	April 23, 2010 Tom Walker Assateague Surf 45 lbs. 4 oz.	May 7, 2010 Bill Winkler Indian River Inlet 42 lbs. 15 oz.	<b>Cobia</b> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
<b>Weakfish</b> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	<b>Bluefin Tuna</b> 	<b>NEW</b> June 4, 2010 Rich Schott Sausages 64.5 lbs.	May 16, 2010 Tom Dorwart Norfolk Canyon 66.4 lbs.
<b>Speckled Trout</b> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	<b>Yellowfin Tuna</b> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
<b>Flounder</b> 	<b>NEW</b> June 5, 2010 Scott Peterson "Bay Bee" 9 lbs. 8 oz.	April 15, 2010 Brian Wirts VFW Slough 11 lbs. 5 oz.	<b>Longfin Tuna</b> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
<b>Bluefish</b> 	<b>NEW</b> June 5, 2010 Jeremiah Leader Inside Rockpile 14 lbs. 5 oz.	No Weights Reported	<b>Bigeye Tuna</b> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
<b>Sheepshead</b> 	May 23, 2010 Dave Pasun Inshore Wreck 7 lbs. 8 oz.	No Weights Reported	<b>Dolphin</b> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
<b>Black Drum</b> 	No Weights Reported	May 2, 2010 Lucas May Coral Beds 85 lbs. 8 oz.	<b>Wahoo</b> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported

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





John Morton, Jr. from Dagsboro, DE boated this 275 lb. thresher shark during a trip aboard the "Something Fishy II" with Susie, Zach, Alex and Capt. John Morton. The thresher ate a whole bluefish in 20 fathoms at the Fingers. The crew also released 2 dusky sharks during the trip. Weighed at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Ryan Roush, pictured with his dad, Tim Roush, looks like he is declaring that he is the top flounder fisherman in the family after landing this 26-inch while fishing in the Indian River Bay with his grandparents. The fish weighed in at 5 lbs. 8 oz.

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# Chum Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson



A lot of local fishermen fell in love with circle hooks back in the 1990's after discovering how deadly effective they were for tuna chunking. I don't know why it took me so long to wise-up and adopt them into our sharking program. I guess it was because we became so comfortable with traditional J-hooks that we didn't want to make a change and maybe start messing around with our success rate. However, we

eventually began using circle-hooks on a trial basis while light tackle fishing for small sharks, and one of the first things we noticed was that we certainly did affect our success rate – we improved it!

Adopting circle hooks to our offshore trips for big sharks was a little more involved because the baits we used were often so large that I was concerned they would impede the smaller hook from properly imbedding in the shark. We overcame this problem by simply using larger circle hooks, scaling down the size of our baits a bit, and sometimes getting a little creative in how we attached the hook to the bait. Even for the larger sharks the circle hooks have worked so well that it wasn't long before they became the only hook we used on all shark rigs.

Most anglers are aware that, since circle hooks usually imbed in the corner of a fish's jaw rather than in it's throat or stomach, they are much less likely to cause life-threatening injuries to fish that are released. Since most recreationally caught sharks are released, this benefit alone makes them an ideal tool for shark fishing. But sharkers will find that the benefits of using circle hooks goes far beyond helping minimize post-release mortality.

The corner of a shark's

mouth is thick and fleshy, making it an excellent location for a hook to hold with little chance of it tearing out. Once a circle hook takes hold, fishermen are free to fight a shark with little fear that their hook might pull out during the battle or at the boat side. Also, during the fight, even a steel leader can break if it is constantly raked across the shark's teeth. With the hook in the corner of the mouth there's much less chance that the leader will contact the teeth and allow the fish a chance to bite, grind or kink its way through it.

With conventional J-hooks we would usually fish with our reels in free-spool, then when a shark picked up a bait we would give it a slight drop back, throw the reel in gear and repeatedly strike the fish HARD to drive the hook home. Since the shark was often quite far from the boat when we'd set the hook, we found that the stretch of monofilament line was too much to consistently allow for a good hook-set. Consequently, we'd load our shark reels with Dacron or other types of braided line that effectively had no stretch. The process worked, but the fact that it required extra-sharp hooks, special line, a feel for when the "right" time to set the hook and the physical ability to be able to really haul back and set a hook on heavy tackle meant that inexperienced anglers often had a problem properly connecting to a shark.

By the simple fact that they are designed to hang on to a fish by latching over the corner of the jaw, rather than imbedding directly into something, circle hooks have pretty much

eliminated all of those issues. For one thing, other than touching up the point of a hook with a file once in a while, we rarely find a need to sharpen circle hooks. We'll take new hooks right from the box, smash down the barb, twist them to the leader, stick them in the bait, and we're fishing – it's that simple!

We take the barb off because we've found that the only use for a barb on a circle hook is to help keep the bait from working its way off the hook – which rarely happens. Barbs are not needed to help hold the hook in the fish during the battle, and they only make it more difficult to remove the hook when the shark has been brought to the boat. The only other modification we make to our circle hooks is that we'll bend out any offset that might have been put in during their manufacture. Offset circle hooks have a greater chance of deep-hooking a fish, which defeats much of the purpose of using the hooks in the first place. Whenever possible, we purchase non-offset hooks and then don't have to worry about bending them back.

From a fishing standpoint, using circle hooks makes life so much simpler. Instead of worrying about drop-backs and hook setting, all we do is send our baits out to the desired distance from the boat, set the reels in strike, and when a shark takes the bait the angler needs only to pick up the rod and start cranking – that's it. As soon as the line comes tight and the shark starts pulling against the drag, the hook will slip into place. Snatching back on the rod is a hard habit for many experienced anglers to break, but the action can pull a circle hook out of a fish's mouth before it latches over the jaw. This is one of the few ways a fisherman might goof up and miss a bite.

Finally, circle hooks are so efficient at holding on to fish that even if during the battle the angler quits cranking, the shark makes a run toward the boat, or there is some other kind of goof-up or malfunction that allows the shark to get a lot of slack

Continued on page 43

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John Welch, III was surfcasting off Assateague Island when he captured this 47.25-inch striper after hooking it on fresh bunker. The big linesider weighed 33.5 lbs. on the scale at Buck’s Place.



Andy Maddox of Ocean City, MD had to be smiling on the inside when he hooked into this 22-inch flounder while fishing on the “Teacher’s Pet”. The 3 lb. 14 oz. flattie was caught on a squid and shiner combination near the Rt. 90 Bridge.

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### Chum Lines continued:

line – there is very little chance that it will throw the hook. That feature in itself makes using circle hooks for sharks a no-brainer!

I wish I could say what the best size and type of circle hook is, but at this point in time the different hook manufacturers still haven’t come up with any kind of uniform sizing. For example; if the consumer buys a 13/0 hook from one manufacturer it will likely be entirely different in size and probably in shape, than a 13/0 hook made by someone else. This means that unless anglers know exactly what size and brand they want, and the particular tackle shop carries

June 9, 2010 Coastal Fisherman Page 43 what they are looking for, the best they can do is examine all the options in the store until they find a hook that “looks” like it’s about what they need. I can say, however, that what we’ve been using for sharks have been non-offset #39960D 13/0 and 16/0 circle hooks made by the Mustad Company. The 13/0 hooks are used for the smaller three to five-foot sharks we typically catch in the near shore waters, while the 16/0 hooks work better when we are fishing farther offshore with larger baits for larger sharks.

*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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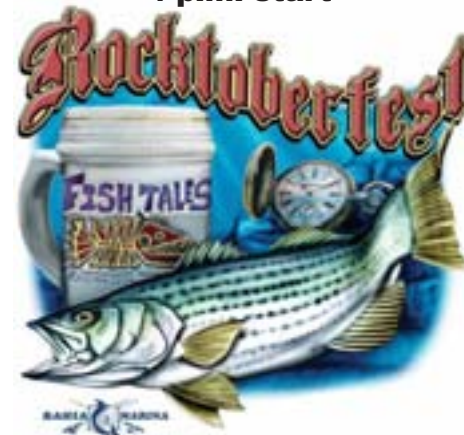
**Flounder Pounder  
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&**

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# Ship To Shore

by Pat Schrawder



## LORAN-C IS OFFICIALLY GONE

If you still depend on your LORAN for navigation, you will find yourself among the many others who have had a rude awakening when they took their boat out for the first time this season. The LORAN stations are out-gone-finished-no more.

We have known this was coming but the date had been pushed back a number of times to the point where some thought it might not happen. In fact, it was rumored that the stations will still be available for the military as a backup in case a foreign or domestic terrorist takes out our GPS satellites. If that is true, no one in authority will say so and it really doesn't matter. If you have a LORAN on your boat and want to still use it, you will not be able to do so.

For the definitive explanation

of this situation, we only need to go to the U. S. Coast Guard website to see the statements they issued this past February:

"\*\*\* Special Notice Regarding LORAN Closure: \*\*\* In accordance with the 2010 DHS Appropriations Act, the U.S. Coast Guard terminated the transmission of all U.S. LORAN-C signals on 08 Feb 2010. This termination does not affect U.S. participation in the Russian, American or Canadian LORAN-C chains. U.S. participation in these chains will continue temporarily in accordance with international agreements...."

"...The Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010 allowed for termination of the LORAN-C signal on January 4, 2010, after certification from the Commandant of the Coast Guard that it was not needed for maritime navigation and from

the Secretary of DHS (Department of Homeland Security) that it is not needed as a backup for GPS..."

"...LORAN-C has, as a result of technological advancements in the last 20 years, become an antiquated system no longer required by the armed forces, the transportation sector or the nation's security interests and is used only by a small percentage of the population. The Coast Guard understands that LORAN-C is still used by a small segment of the public and that those users will have to shift to GPS or other systems; however, continued use of limited resources to operate LORAN-C is no longer prudent use of taxpayer funds and is not allowed under the 2010 DHS Appropriation Act..."

"...The Coast Guard has enjoyed a long and close relationship with the many communities located near LORAN-C facilities and we value those relationships. The Coast Guard will continue to honor those relationships by working to minimize any adverse impacts to communities caused by site closures.

The decision to cease transmission of the LORAN-C signal reflects the president's pledge to eliminate unnecessary federal programs..."

So what does this mean for you? If you still have a LORAN, you need to give it the "deep six". Well, actually you need to deposit it in some recycling program bin. Then you need to go out and get a GPS system. The good news is that almost all GPS units on the market today are capable of converting Latitude & Longitude to TD's so your old LORAN numbers can still be used. The exact spot may be a little different due to the mathematical conversion but you will be able to get to the basic spot and then, when you find the exact location, replace your original waypoint with the new updated one.

There are plenty of choices of GPS units out there from very basic ones in the \$300 range to more deluxe units with charting and plotters. You're sure to find one to meet your needs and your budget.

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



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Ellen White of Millsboro, DE once again outfished Bill Jr. at Bill's Sport Shop, landing this 23.5-inch, 4 lb. 8 oz. flounder while drifting in the Indian River Inlet. The flattie was hooked on a spec rig tipped with a Gulp! 4-inch swimming mullet. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop.

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Bob Milardo from Montgomery, NY boated this 11 lb. 3 oz. tautog while fishing on the "Judith M" with Capt. Kane Bounds and Mates Anton Postnikov and Kevin Twilley. Weighed at Bahia Marina.



Over the Memorial Day weekend, Rich Daiker from Reisterstown, MD captured this 17 lb. striped bass while fishing with a Storm lure near the Rt. 50 Bridge. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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---	--



Jolly Paily from Yardley, PA was fishing on the "Martha Marie" with Capt. Les Clemmer when he caught this 3 lb. 12 oz. sea bass. Jolly was fishing at Site 11 using clams for bait and weighed his catch at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Michael Walsh was one happy angler after landing this 16 lb. 8 oz. striped bass from the surf at Cape Henlopen. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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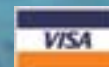


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# VA / NC Fishing Report

Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
"The Saltwater Review"

## Chincoteague

According to Donna at Captain Bob's, flounder are still biting in Chincoteague. The Queen's Sound (on both sides of the bridge), the Four Mouths (along the embankments), and Cockle Creek (around the holes) have really been producing. Silversides and a mixture of gulp and jumbo minnows are producing the best results. The Assateague Channel continues to produce in front of Tom's Cove, and there have even been reports of keeper flounder from the pier. Snapper bluefish have also arrived in the area, and the surf continues to be hot with striped bass and black drum.

## Wachapreague

Staff at Wachapreague Marina reported the flounder fishing has been very good for the past week. A citation-sized thresher shark, 550 pounds, was caught last week.

## Cape Charles

Mark, with Chris' Bait and Tackle, reports there have been a few black drum being caught around Buoy 13 and red drum in the surf at Fishermen's Island and Smith's Island. A few sheepshead are being caught by those around the Bay Bridge Tunnel. Small croaker are being caught just

north of Kiptopeake, and a few decent-sized flounder are showing up around the Cell and Buoy 42.

## Lower Bay/Bridge Tunnel

Staff at Cobb's Marina reports that there have been rumors of flounder and cobia being caught, but no one had weighed any as of yet.

At Salt Pond's Marina there were a few reports of flounder being caught.

Kathy, with Wallace's Bait and Tackle and Back River Outfitters, reported that citation-sized red drum and cobia had been brought to the dock. There were also reports of legal-sized flounder, croaker, Spanish mackerel, and speckled trout.

Staff at the York River Fishing Center reported a 5-pound, 7-ounce speckled trout from the North River and a 66-pound, 8-ounce cobia from Poquoson Flats. Anglers are also catching plenty of croaker and a couple of flounder at the Gloucester Point Pier, as well as speckled trout in the Severn River.

Dr. Julie Ball, IGFA International Representative for Virginia Beach, contributed the following:

With good weather and cooperative fish, the Memorial Day weekend ushered in the summer fishing season

without a hitch. Since the first cobia were boated over three weeks ago, the action has only heated up. Nice fish are taking baits from sight casters, as well as cut bait and live bait presented by chummers. And it looks like things will only get better, as Carolina anglers are boasting of astounding numbers of fish still heading this way. Catches are coming from all over the lower bay, with some of the best action coming from off the Grandview area, the 9-foot Shoals, and the Middle Grounds. Several big fish are coming from top water efforts, where nice fish were hooked around the CBBT and while cruising off the Virginia Beach ocean front this week.

With the recent full moon cycle, red drum are providing plenty of action. Boats are releasing dozens of bulls from the 9-foot Shoals and the seaside of Fisherman's Island and Nautilus Shoals near Buoy 10. Peelers and blue crabs are working best. Large schools of reds are also cruising at the surface near the CBBT.

A few big black drum are still taking clams near Buoys 13 and 16 off the Eastern Shore, but the majority of the schools have already moved to the islands of the CBBT. Several black drum are taking lures intended for rockfish around the islands of the Bridge Tunnel.

Spadefish are appearing on the Chesapeake Light Tower, inshore wrecks, and many lower bay structures, with a few fish already boated. Water temperatures need to inch up a few more degrees for the action to really take off. The best is yet to come with the spadefish.

Flounder pounders continue to sift through many shorts to get their limits, but a few big fish are rounding out

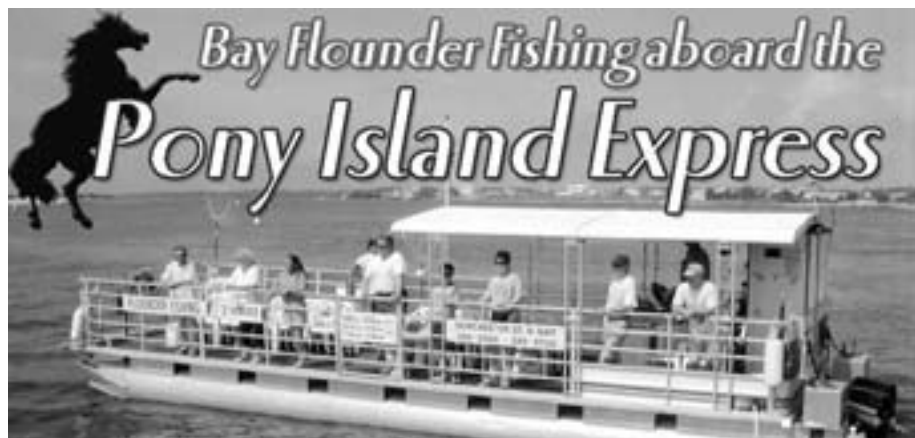
catches. Most flatfish are coming from drifting strip baits near the islands of the Bay Bridge Tunnel, near Buoys 36A, 40, and 42, and the Cell area. Some of these fish are exceeding 5 pounds. A few larger fish are also taking jigs around the pilings of the Bridge Tunnel near the 3rd and 4th islands. According to the folks at Long Bay Pointe Bait and Tackle, scattered keeper flounder and taylor blues are still available within the local inlets, where flatfish as large as 26 inches are taking drifted baits within Lynnhaven Inlet this week.

Reports of a few speckled trout and puppy drum are still coming from within Rudee Inlet, and specks are faring well from within Mobjack Bay. Small-to medium-sized croaker are an easy target as decent hauls come from all over the lower bay, with squid and Fish Bites working well. The best catches are coming from off Willoughby, near the HRBT, the small boat channel south of the 1st island of the CBBT and near the 2nd island of the CBBT. Small sea mullet are also available in these same areas.

Striped bass are still taking live bait presented over the tubes as well as lures thrown near the rocks of the artificial islands of the Bridge Tunnel. Most fish are ranging to around 28 inches, but a few rockfish are pushing to 42 inches. Sheepshead are also around, but they will make a better showing along the CBBT as the water continues to warm.

For those venturing a little further offshore, keeper-sized sea bass ranging around 3 to 4 pounds are biting on a few wrecks and structures. Even further out, deep dropping varieties are also still a good choice. For those fishing on the bottom near the Norfolk Canyon, blueline tilefish, with a smattering of grouper, wreckfish, golden tilefish, and blackbellied rosefish are available.

Continued on page 53



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Ben Mumford, Jake Emche and Jake Graves (not pictured) ended their trip with 5 flounder in the box, all caught in the Thorofare on Gulp! and shiners. The anglers were fishing on the "Karah".

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# Virginia Regulations

## (Coastal State Waters Only)



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



**BLACK SEA BASS**  
12.5" minimum 25 per person/day  
5/22 to 8/8 and 9/4 to 10/4



**BLUEFISH**  
No minimum size 10 per person



**CROAKER**  
No minimum size No creel limit



**TAUTOG**  
Season closed 5/1 to 6/24



**COBIA**  
37" minimum 1 per person/day



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



**STRIPED BASS**  
32" minimum 1 per person/day  
5/1 to 5/15



**SPECKLED TROUT**  
14" minimum 10 per person/day



**SHEEPSHEAD**  
No minimum size 4 per person



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18.5" minimum 4 per person/day



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Jim Breisch was fishing from the surf off Assateague Island a couple of weeks ago when he landed this pair of beautiful striped bass. The larger fish measured 41.5-inches and weighed 23.5 lbs. on the scale at Buck’s Place on Rt. 611 on the way to Assateague Island.

VA / NC Fishing Report continued:

Virginia Beach

According to staff at the Virginia Beach Fishing Center, there has been plenty of action in the inlets for flounder, bluefish, speckled trout, and puppy drum. Inshore, cobia and sea bass have been biting, and offshore there were reports of bluefin tuna and dolphin.

Outer Banks, NC

Offshore fishing out of Oregon Inlet continues to be hot with dolphin headlining the trollers working further offshore. Yellowfin tuna are also being caught. Deep droppers continue to have success with tilefish. Closer to shore, the cobia bite has been fantastic although they should move to the north soon. Black sea bass can be found on the wrecks along with vermillion snappers. Surf and pier fishing continue to have croakers, spot, sea mullet, bluefish, red drum, and a few pompano. Cobia are still biting during the nighttime hours. People plying the waters of the inlet

June 9, 2010 Coastal Fisherman Page 53 and sound continue to have the best success with flounder along the edges of shoals and near the marsh islands on high tide. Speckled trout and red drum fishing seems to be streaky with the old saying “you should have been here yesterday” applying when you get skunked.

South of Oregon Inlet, the spot, pompano, sea mullet, and bluefish have been caught from Ramps 49 to 55. Larger bluefish have been caught behind the motels and flounders by the jetties. Spanish mackerel and cobia were caught earlier in the week but went missing in action for the last few days.

Offshore fishing out of Cape Hatteras had the anglers chasing mostly dolphin and yellowfin tuna with the bill bite sporadic. Closer to shore, Spanish mackerel and bluefish were keeping trollers happy. The cobia seem to be moving further north. Flounder were biting in the morning and grey trout in the afternoon.



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Captain's Meeting: June 25  
Fishing Days: June 26 & 27  
Fish 1 of 2 Days  
Awards: Sunday, June 27

#### 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Canyon Kick Off

Captain's Meeting: July 1  
Fishing Days: July 2, 3 & 4  
Fish 2 of 3 Days  
Awards: Monday, July 5

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Kid's Classic

Captain's Meeting: July 16  
Fishing Days: July 17 & 18  
Fish 1 or 2 Days  
Awards: Sunday, July 18

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ladies Tournament

Captain's Meeting: July 29  
Fishing Days: July 30 & 31  
Fish 1 of 2 Days  
Awards: Saturday, July 31

#### 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Labor Day Tournament

Captain's Meeting: September 2  
Fishing Days: September 3, 4 & 5  
Fish 2 of 3 Days  
Awards: Sunday, September 5

#### 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Challenge Cup

Captain's Meeting: September 16  
Fishing Days: September 17 & 18  
Fish 2 of 2 Days  
Awards: Saturday, September 18







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"Hurricane" Murray Adams didn't bring the bad weather with him this time and was rewarded with a 3 lb. 10 oz. sea bass caught while fishing on the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Mike Kinder and Rich Silvani. The sea bass was caught on a chunk of clam at an ocean wreck. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center in West Ocean City.

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Danielle Schline, Jenn Pettolina, Stefanie Lobue, Chris Carr, Shawn Murphy and Laura Murphy had a great time bluefishing on the "Last Call" with Capt. Franky Pettolina and Mate Eric Schline. Stefanie and Jenn each caught a 10 pounder while Danielle muscled in a 9.8 lb. chopper, all on trolled hoochies, southeast of the Jack Spot. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



Roy Rea and Anthony Cichocku (pictured) teamed up with Lou Sartori, Joe Cichocku and Ed Scickline to land this 171 lb. mako shark while fishing on the "OUT-REA-GEOUS" out of the Ocean City Fishing Center. The fish was hooked in 61-degree water on a whole mackerel in 23 fathoms, southeast of the Marine Electric. The crew also released 5 blue sharks, a dusky shark and another mako during the trip.

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Robert Remo, Robert Remo, Jr. and Chester Cernava, all from Laurel, DE, caught 6 tautog weighing up to 4 lbs. while fishing with sand fleas and green crabs at the South Jetty.



Bunky McAllister from Eldersburg, MD caught this 29 lb. black drum while fishing in Quinby, VA with Jacques Remmell from West Ocean City, MD. The fish ate a chunk of clam in 15 feet of water during the incoming tide.



David Moore of Salisbury, MD caught this 38-inch striper on a bunker head while fishing off the beach on Assateague Island.

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**21th Annual Viking/Ocean Showdown**  
July 7-11  
Viking & Ocean owners go head-to-head in the "War Offshore"

**9th Annual Mid-Atlantic Tuna Tournament**  
July 14-17  
The Main Event for Tuna Fishermen  
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**19th Annual Mid-Atlantic \$500,000**  
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George Henning from Ocean City, MD, Ray Megonigal from Dover, DE and Jim Persing from Perry Hall, MD caught some nice sea bass, while Dave Van Metre from Pasadena, MD landed a tautog, all while fishing on the "Mornng Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Rich Silvani and Mike Kinder. The fish were caught on clams in 63-degree water at ocean reefs and wrecks. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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John Rupp from Milford, DE was fishing in the Bill's Sport Shop Flounder Tournament when he landed this 6.45 lb. flattie.



Dave Drzewiecki from Pasadena, MD caught a sea bass, John Vechio from Perry Hall, MD landed a tautog and Kevin Weishorn caught a monkfish, all while fishing on the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Mike Kinder and Rich Silvani. The monkfish measured 35-inches and weighed 18 lbs. 13 oz. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Bob Oakes from Ocean City, MD was tautog fishing off the 4th Street Bulkhead when he hooked this 36-inch striper while using sand fleas for bait.



Dawn Brand from Greenwich, NY and Tom Sawyer of Mechanicsville, NY boated these keeper flounder while fishing on the "Pony Island Express" with Capt. Howard Cleaver and Mate Matt Graves. The flatties were caught on live minnows in the bay behind Assateague Island near the Ocean City Airport. Pictured at Old Town Marina in downtown Ocean City.



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John Adams from Reisterstown, MD (right) landed this 125 lb. mako shark while fishing at the Hot Dog aboard the "Blackjack" with Capt. Eric Schline. The mako ate a bluefish fillet in 62-degree water and was weighed at Bahia Marina.

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TUE.	John LaMere	9-1

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Bailey's Drug Store  
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Wed. June 9	Low 11:39 am Low -----	High 05:51 am High 06:38 pm
Thurs. June 10	Low 12:47 am Low 12:28 pm	High 06:40 am High 07:27 pm
Fri. June 11	Low 01:35 am Low 01:16 pm	High 07:30 am High 08:16 pm
Sat. June 12 <b>New Moon</b>	Low 02:21 am Low 02:04 pm	High 08:21 am High 09:06 pm
Sun. June 13	Low 03:06 am Low 02:53 pm	High 09:14 am High 09:54 pm
Mon. June 14	Low 03:54 am Low 03:54 pm	High 10:06 am High 10:42 pm
Tues. June 15	Low 04:43 am Low 04:39 pm	High 10:58 am High 11:30 pm
Wed. June 16	Low 05:34 am Low 05:37 pm	High 11:52 am High -----

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# 30th Annual South Jersey Shark Tournament

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# 30th Annual Ocean City Shark Tournament

June 17-19 • OC Fishing Center  
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# 31st Annual Small Boat Tournament

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

# 21st Annual MSSA Tuna-Ment

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

~ JULY ~

# 28th Annual Canyon Kick-Off

July 2-4 • Ocean City Marlin Club  
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# 21st Annual Ocean/Viking Showdown

July 8 & 10 • Cape May, NJ  
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# 23rd Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament

July 9 - 11 • OC Fishing Center  
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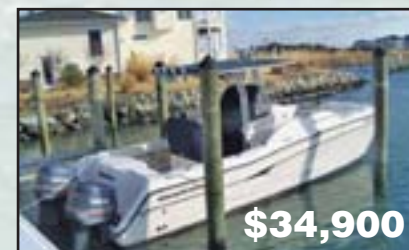
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