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COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME 45 • • • NUMBER 5 • • • MAY 22, 2020

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Ashton Hoyt from Little River, SC and Randy Brinker from Berlin, MD had a "Lucky Break" and caught 4 keeper flounders while jigging gulp around the Ocean City Inlet. Biggest fish measured 20.5" and 19". With Capt. Jason Mumford and mate Ethan Nock.



Richard Daiker strikes again, scoring these two rocks with wife Debbie. Both were caught on May 14th by the Rt. 50 bridge on Roy Rigs. Bet they were delicious!

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2020 TOURNAMENT SERIES



11th ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY TOURNAMENT

To benefit the Catherine & Charles Kratz Memorial Foundation and Scholarship Fund

Chairmen: Franky Pettolina, Chris Evans
Registration: May 29, 6:30pm
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 30 & 31
Weigh-Ins: May 30 & 31, 4:30-7:00pm at Sunset Marina

41st ANNUAL SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT

Chairmen: Boz Jefferson, Bill Regan & Colin Campbell
Registration: June 19, 6:30pm
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 20 & 21
Weigh-Ins: June 20 & 21, 3:00-6:30pm at Sunset Marina

38th ANNUAL CANYON KICK OFF

Chairmen: Al Rittmeyer & Bob Althausen
Registration: July 2, 6:30pm
FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS
Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 3, 4, 5
Weigh-Ins: July 3-5, 5:00-7:30pm at Sunset Marina

16th ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC

To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation

Chairmen: Dale Withers & Gerard Ott
Registration: July 17, 6:30pm
Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 18 & 19
Weigh-Ins: July 18, 3:00-6:30pm, July 19, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina

12th ANNUAL OCMC LADIES' TOURNAMENT "HEELS & REELS"

Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund

Chairmen: Franky Pettolina, Ryan Freese & Amanda Shick
Registration: July 30, 6:00pm
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) July 31 & August 1
Weigh-Ins: July 31 & August 1, 5:30-7:30pm, at Atlantic Tackle

62nd ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT

To benefit the to Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund

Chairmen: Jim Giles & Gary Stamm
Registration: September 3, 6:30pm
Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 4, 5, 6
Weigh-Ins: September 4, 5, 6, 6:00 - 8:00pm at Sunset Marina

5th ANNUAL OCMC vs OCLTC SHOOT-OUT

Chairmen: Pat Svehla & Frank Goodhart III
Angler Meeting: September 10, 7:00pm
Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 11, 12, 13
No Weigh-Ins

42nd ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP

Chairmen: Jon Duffie & Andy Helms
Registration: September 17, 7:00pm
Fishing Days: (2 of 2) September 18 & 19
No Weigh-Ins

Important Dates:

Last Day of Fishing
October 4 @ 5:00pm

Last Day for Catch Reports
October 5 @ 12:00pm

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Several Families were lucky enough to travel to Sunny Los Suenos, Costa Rica in February. While fishing aboard the "Dream Girl", Kylee Puller caught her first sailfish (with father Keith Puller). It was so big it couldn't fit in the picture! Also aboard were Javon Young (who caught his first mahi), Steve Sylvester, Rachel & Jim Frazetti and mate Burro Gonzales.



The rocks by the inlet to Sunset Marina were producing for Gino Rainaldi of West Ocean City. This 17 3/4" keeper could not resist a gulf and minnow mix.

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

by Larry Budd



Welcome back to another but *unique* season of the *Coastal Fisherman*!

For those of you who have followed the paper for some time, you will notice a new name and face in this column. As many of you may know, Larry Jock, who was the long-time publisher of our paper, passed away unexpectedly in January. He graces the cover of this edition to honor his family, his legacy and in recognition of his passion for this paper, this community and the people in it. While I did not have the privilege of knowing Larry, I am honored to continue the legacy of his work and continued publication of the *Coastal Fisherman*.

To those who knew Larry Jock and those that may have not, I wanted

to share some of his story:

Lawrence John Jock, Jr., (affectionately known as Big Larry), was born in Camden, NJ and was the son of Maureen (Kelly) Jock and the late Lawrence John Jock, Sr. Larry graduated from Kean University in Union, New Jersey where he met his wife Mary and received his Bachelors of Science in Accounting. He then started a 35-year career in the newspaper business where he worked primarily for Gannett before acquiring the *Coastal Fisherman* in 2005.

Larry had a big personality, while standing 5 feet 7 inches tall, he proved he didn't need to be the tallest one in the room to command its attention! Sandy Pulsifer, longtime friend and

former neighbor of the Jock's in Pennsylvania said, "When he laughed, the whole neighborhood would hear him." Larry will be missed tremendously by his family, friends and the entire Delmarva community. His robust and infectious personality lit up every room he entered. He was a truly devoted family man and was his family's rock. His genuine kindness, intense loyalty and compassion touched many lives. He excelled at everything he pursued in life and did it all with a passion second to none. His love of fishing and hunting sparked a lasting impact on the Delmarva fishing community.

To his wife Mary, his son Little Larry and his brothers Tom and John I pass my heartfelt sorrow.

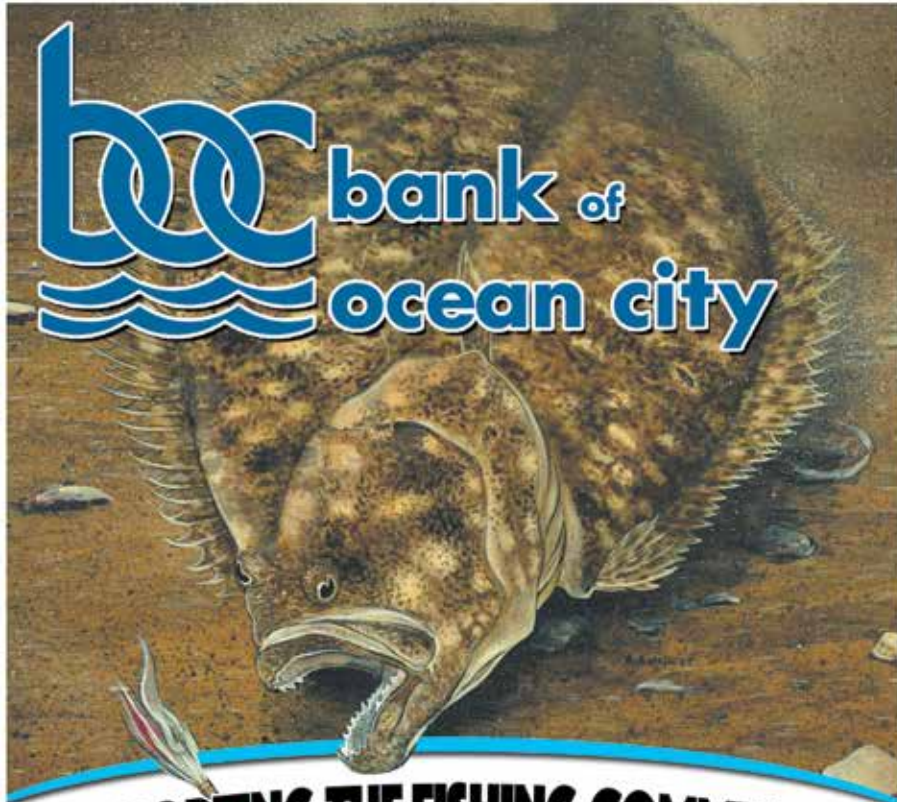
Moving forward

To say it was a difficult time to acquire a business would be an understatement. Having been a long-time reader and fan of the paper, I was excited at the opportunity to continue its legacy. While my 30+ years in the world of corporate software sales were fulfilling, the opportunity to pursue my passions for boating and fishing was a dream come true. I am sure my wife Christine was wondering what I was thinking, but her support has meant everything in this journey. We have had only 10 days to put together this first issue, but I felt

www.coastalfisherman.net compelled to get this popular publication back on the stands for this traditional start of summer. The first of many thanks goes to Mary Jock and Tom Jock for their kindness, their support and their friendship. A special thank you to Tom Jock who has graciously agreed to stay on with the paper for the season to assist in the transition. He has been the glue that has allowed this first issue to go to publication in 10 days vs. the 6 weeks it took in the past. I want to also thank Hugh Cropper, our contributors, our readers & subscribers and the many people who have called, emailed or stopped by the office to share their stories of Larry and support of the paper.

Mostly I would like to thank my advertisers. Without them there would be no Coastal Fisherman. Especially in these challenging times many remain committed to the paper and I would ask we support them, especially the restaurants, headboats and charter fleet. Don't hesitate to let them know you saw their ad.

Some will notice a few differences in this edition. This was mainly due to the time constraints to publish in time for Memorial Day weekend! The next edition will include more detailed fishing reports for Maryland and Delaware as well as more articles and contributors about our area and fishing in general. Updates to the website will also resume when I have a little time to get my feet underneath me. The core of the paper we have all grown to love will not be changing, however I do expect the Coastal Fisherman will continue to evolve as our readers and advertisers evolve. I welcome your input and ideas. Now to the news at hand. Details regarding what's open and what is permitted is changing daily if



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COASTAL FISHERMAN

is published weekly from May through September and annually in January by Coastal Fisherman, Inc. at 12748 Sunset Avenue Ocean City, MD 21842

LARRY BUDD • EDITOR AND PUBLISHER
CHRISTINE BUDD • VICE PRESIDENT
TOM JOCK • GRAPHIC DESIGN

Est. 1976

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www.coastalfisherman.net not hourly and differ between Maryland and Delaware. Phase 2 of Maryland's reopening is slated to start on June 1 and we are waiting on details of what that might change. Delaware's stay at home order is schedule to end on June first, but here is what we know as of press time on 5/21:

MARYLAND

- Stay at home order lifted on May 15th.
- Charter boats are limited to a maximum of 10 people including crew.
- Headboats are also limited to 10 total and some are operating, others are not. Check our Charter Section or the boats web sites for details.
- Marinas, boat dealers and fuel docks for the most part seem to be open. We have confirmed the pumps are open at Ocean Pines Marina, the Ocean City Fishing Center and Sunset Marina. Check their social media for hours.
- Tournaments - The schedule is on page 47. We will keep updating and posting when and if a tournament is canceled, but I am pleased to report all the operators are anxious and eager to keep these events going and are working with the local and state authorities.
- Surf Fishing - Beaches are open with normal summertime restriction on where and when to fish.
- Recreational fishing on private boats is allowed. Same house hold on boat, less than 10 people.

For those getting out on or by the water, they are being rewarded with keeper flounder, rockfish and speckled trout. Rt. 50 bridge before high tide and the Thorofare flats are reported hot spots. Off shore black drum and sea bass are plentiful around the near shore wrecks. Pictures of a swordfish brought into the Ocean City Fishing Center this week and the first mako of the season are in this edition.


DELAWARE

- Stay at Home order still in effect through June 1, then stay at home remains for those with

- underlying conditions or risk.
- Anyone coming into Delaware from out of state are required to self-quarantine for 14 days.
- Charter boats are not operating, at least out of Indian River Marina.
- Headboats are not operating.
- Marinas, boat dealers and fuel docs vary. Most boat ramps are open, and the fuel doc is open at Indian River Marina.
- Tournaments - The schedule is on page 47. We will keep updating and posting when and if a tournament is canceled, but I am pleased to report all the operators are anxious and eager to keep these events going and are working with the local and state authorities.
- Surf Fishing - Drive on beaches are open and walk on beaches will open at 5PM Friday. Fisherman must be 20 feet apart and members in a single group cannot exceed 10 and should social distance. DNREC may limit how many people may go on the beach depending on crowding.
- Recreational fishing on private boats is allowed. Same household on boat, less than 10 people.

For those getting out in Delaware before the weather turned, keeper flounder were being found in and around Lewes and Rehoboth canals. Good rockfish action on the beaches and several citation size black drum were caught at the Coral Beds and Broadkill Beach. Sand fleas, clams and female hard crabs have been the top baits. Several pictures of the drums are in this issue from Lewes Harbour Marina.



The weather has been not been cooperating recently. It has been blowing for days and the weekend does not look good as a tropical system passes off shore. We should see improvements into the early part of next week. So for now we move forward, together but 6 feet apart. Our next edition will be June 9th and then resuming weekly publication starting June 23rd. Please keep those pictures coming to CoastalFisherman@comcast.net. I can be reached at the office at 410-213-2200



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Local boat "HALLPASS" made it happen last winter while fishing out of Oregon Inlet, NC landing this whopping 107" bluefin. Fished dressed out at 534 lbs. Pictured left to right are Robert Remo, George Hall, Robert Russell and Blair Buckler.



Even a pandemic could not keep Ron Sweed from DE from catching this 18" fattie. He was fishing off the Cape Henlopen pier using mackerel strips on a top and bottom rig.

MARYLAND REGULATIONS

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Bill Grubb had a good afternoon on the beach at Fenwick Island State Park in late April, taking home this 19" black drum caught using fish bites.



Mackenzie Cathell (age 15 from Berlin) had a productive "field trip" from homeschooling on May 5 catching this 17.5" flounder on pink gulp with an Old Skool Tackle Co. flounder rig.

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A lot of folks probably remember back in the mid to late 90's when tuna chunking was so hot that fishermen were often able to attract blue and yellowfin tuna into feeding frenzies behind their boats. When the action was "right" it was as easy as sticking a butterfish on a hook, dropping it overboard, and WHAM you had one on! As much fun as it was to catch those fish, the most amazing thing to me was the opportunity to witness free-swimming tuna gliding through the water as they eagerly snapped up chunks of baitfish just a few feet from the boat. It was an incredible sight that I would often point out to my charter clients and comment, "take a good look at those fish and always remember what you're witnessing here, this is something you might never see again."

Back then the tuna were so abundant that it was almost absurd to think that Delmarva anglers wouldn't always be able to enjoy such a strong and productive fishery. Of course all things are subject to change, and even though our offshore tuna fishing can still be pretty darn good at times - it doesn't hold a candle to the way things used to be. Thinking back to how good we all had it back then (particularly the season when we easily caught our daily limits of tuna just 16-miles out near the Twin Wrecks) I for one am glad I paused long enough to take it all in, contemplate, and appreciate the wonderful opportunity I had to participate in such an incredible fishery.

Thoughts of those "glory days"

of fishing came to mind a couple years ago as I sat in attendance of the Memorial Day ceremony at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines. As the various narrators spoke of wars, battles, honor, freedom, and sacrifices, I couldn't help but connect the dots and come to the conclusion that the only reason we fishermen ever had the opportunity to enjoy and witness such sights as a school of tuna feeding behind our boat is because of all the heroic men and women who have served our country and made it a place where the rest of us can live safe, be happy, and have opportunity for recreational pursuits such as sport fishing. Think about all the countries around the world that are bordered by waters that even if they were teeming with fish the average citizen would still have no chance to go out and fish strictly for "fun" because they live under such poverty or oppression that the concept of doing anything for "recreation" is something they cannot even comprehend. Our country abounds in natural beauty and resources that are both the envy of the world and accessible to our citizens. And for hundreds of years members of our armed forces have suffered and sacrificed to ensure that this country and the way of life that it affords us all remains free from the perils others would impose upon us if they could.

Imagine if our military slipped up and allowed the "bad guys" the opportunity to wreak havoc right here on our own soil. With all of our fellow countrymen struggling daily just to survive

there wouldn't be much recreational hunting or fishing going on, and you can bet that if we ever fell under the rule of some dictator we'd no longer have the right to bear arms or cruise around where ever we wanted in our fishing boats and ATV's. There's a lot of bad people in this world that would deny us those rights if given the chance, thank God our military has taken the fight to them and kept the conflict "over there" so that we can live the lives we do in the United States.

The freedom to hunt and fish is something that's not fully appreciated, because it's a privilege that most American sportsmen have never been without. That is, until this winter when a new type of enemy snuck in under the wire, infiltrated our country, and began to ravage and kill our fellow citizens. Suddenly we found ourselves in the midst of a war on our own soil, a war that took away so many of the freedoms and privileges that as Americans we have always known but too often taken for granted. Confinement, social distancing, food and supply shortages, businesses closed, travel restrictions, school and workplace closings, jobs lost, life as we know it turned upside-down. Who would have ever thought that we'd be told we couldn't go out for a simple ride in our own boats!

Right now America is experiencing a very small taste of what it would be like around here if not for the incredible job our military forces have done to keep us safe and free. Only this time our warriors, our champions, our heroes are the men and women in healthcare. Yeah things have been bad these last few months, but you don't have to review too much world history to understand how

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much worse it could be.

I've had a few sobering moments in life when injury or ailment put me in the hospital for close to a week at a time, and believe me, when you go from feeling fine - to flat on your back with more wires and hoses sticking out of you than Frankenstein on a stormy night you sure do appreciate the thought of someday having not a care in the world other than whether or not the fish are going to bite. We all know sportsman who, for one reason or the other will never again have the opportunity to set foot on a boat, sit in a duck blind, or climb into a tree stand, and regardless of how young or healthy we might be, none of us knows if or when accident, illness, pandemic, war, or whatever, will creep into our lives and rob us of the good life we've always known and took for granted.

I can still visualize the beautiful summer days when 200-boats would be anchored-up on the Jackspot and everyone was catching tuna, back then we couldn't imagine the action ever coming to an end, but things changed and here we are! As we plow headlong into yet another fishing season that will certainly provide Delmarva anglers with a multitude of experiences, I hope that anglers will pause now and again to ponder and appreciate each moment for what it is. Just as God grants us the good heath we need to enjoy the magnificent world He created, for generations our service men and women have fought and died to ensure that we'll always live in a country that allows its citizens the opportunity to enjoy life and recreation as we do. Hopefully we'll always appreciate what we have when we have it, and never take any of our blessings for granted.



This Black Drum might be bigger than the fisherman but Benjamin Attanasi from Berwyn Pa, won the battle. The fish weighed 82.4 lbs. and measured 53". Benjamin was fishing with his dad on their boat "Silver Lining" off of Broadkill beach using clams.



Pictured is a striped marlin caught on a *bait and switch* by Capt. Monica Freese while fishing in Guatemala in late January. Special Thanks to Capt. Patrick Svehla and the crew of the Canaso. The picture was too cool not to include!

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The boys on "C Boys" made good use of the winter months in Palm Beach, FL. While fishing with Capt. Luke Blume, Paul Crampton Jr. caught this sailfish while trolling a goggle eye. Pictured with Paul are Paul Crampton III and mate Wyatt Melocik.



Patrick Smith from Ellendale, MD was one happy man after landing this citation black drum while fishing with his buddies on the "Jenna Rae". The fish weighed 73 lbs. on the scale at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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THE GALLEY

by Christine Budd

Pan-Fried Black Drum with Pecan Sauce

INGREDIENTS

- 2 black drum fillets
- 1 cup milk
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup olive oil

Sauce:

- 1 stick butter
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 tsp. champagne vinegar
- 2 tsp. fresh lemon juice
- 1 TBSP parsley, finely minced

DIRECTIONS

Rinse the fillets and pat them dry. In a small mixing bowl or shallow dish, whisk together the

milk, egg, mustard, kosher salt and cayenne pepper.

Spread the cup of flour on a shallow dish or dinner plate.

First, dredge the fish in the flour, then into the egg/milk mix and then back into the flour. Lay fillets in a single layer on a flat surface like a plate or baking sheet.

Allow the battered fish fillets to sit while making the sauce. Start by melting butter in a large, wide skillet over low heat.

Continue cooking for about 6-7 minutes, until butter is golden brown and milk fat solids have browned lightly as well.

Add pecans and cook for about one minute, until they are shiny and slightly toasted in the butter. The butter will be foamy at this stage. Remove from heat.

Whisk in the kosher salt, champagne vinegar and lemon juice. Set aside.

Add the olive oil to a skillet and heat over medium-high heat.

When the oil starts to shimmer, add the fillets.

Cook about 2 minutes per side. Don't overcook the fish, because it will dry out.

Set fish fillets on plate.

Whisk the parsley into the sauce and then divide it between the two fish pieces.

Serves 4.

Creole Black Drum

INGREDIENTS

- 2 lbs. black drum fillets
- 3 fresh tomatoes, chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1/2 green pepper, chopped
- 1 TBSP. fresh lemon juice
- Cayenne pepper, to taste
- 3 TBSP. Butter
- Olive oil

DIRECTIONS

Melt butter in a small saucepan; set aside.

Coat large baking dish with olive oil.

Lay fillets over oil; top with the fish fillets and rest of the ingredients.

Pour reserved butter over all.

Bake 15 to 20 minutes.

Serve with wild rice.

Serves 4 or 5

Browned Butter Honey Garlic Shrimp

INGREDIENTS

- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 4 tablespoons honey
- 1 tablespoon fresh squeezed lemon juice, (or juice of half a lemon)
- 1 tablespoon low sodium soy sauce
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 21- ounces (600 g) shrimp, peeled and deveined (tail on or off)
- Salt to season
- Lemon wedges, (to serve)
- Fresh chopped parsley, to serve

INSTRUCTIONS

Heat butter in a non stick pan or skillet over medium-high heat. Melt, swirling pan and stirring occasionally for about 3 minutes, or until the foam settles; the butter begins to change in color to golden brown and has a nutty fragrance.

Add the honey, lemon juice, soy sauce and garlic; stir well

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to combine all of the flavors together and cook for 30 seconds until the garlic is fragrant. Remove from heat.

Pour out just over half of the browned butter from the pan (liquid only), leaving 2 tablespoons of the honey butter mixture in the pan, and reserve the rest for later.

Add half of the shrimp to the honey/butter in the pan; sear for about 2 minutes each side, or until just cooked through and no longer opaque. Transfer to a plate; set aside.

Wipe pan over with paper towel and add 2 more tablespoons of the honey/butter mixture to the pan. (You may need to add 1 teaspoon of olive oil or extra butter to the pan if your sauce has thickened too much.) Sear the remaining shrimp for 2 minutes each side, or until just cooked through and no longer opaque.

Add the cooked shrimp back into the pan, and pour in the remaining honey/butter sauce; stirring through the shrimp to evenly coat. Season with salt and pepper if desired and garnish

with parsley. Serve with steamed vegetables; over rice or with a salad

Baked Flounder with Panko and Parmesan

INGREDIENTS

- 4 (4 ounce) flounder fillets
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 2/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 cup panko bread crumbs
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- ground black pepper to taste
- 1 pinch dried thyme

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Lightly grease a large, shallow baking dish. Arrange flounder fillets on prepared baking dish and brush with 1 tablespoon butter. Combine remaining 3 tablespoons butter with bread crumbs, Parmesan cheese, salt, pepper, and thyme in a bowl; sprinkle over flounder. Bake in preheated oven until fish flakes easily with a fork, 15 to 20 minutes. Carefully transfer fillets to a plate with a spatula.



Gary Collier From Laurel, DE was fishing in Indian River Bay using saltwater assassins in opening night color to catch this pair of 21" doormats. Gary is showing these off at Rick's Bait and Tackle in Long Neck, DE.

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Adam May thought he was going fishing for black drum on the Delaware Bay, but this 40" striper fell for his sand fleas instead. Lucky for the fish he got quickly released as he exceeds this year's limit of 28"-35".

Rockfish Fillets

INGREDIENTS

2 lbs Rockfish fillets
 1/3 cup butter
 1/2 cup fresh mushrooms
 1/2 cup blanched almonds
 Juice of 1/2 lemon
 1 TBS chopped parsley
 Salt, pepper and nutmeg to taste
 1/2 cup dry white wine or water

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Place fillets in a buttered pan, and season with salt and pepper. Chop or slice mushrooms thin, and sprinkle them with lemon juice. Chop blanched almonds. Make a mixture of the softened butter, mushrooms with lemon, almonds and parsley; season with salt, pepper and a little nutmeg. Add the white wine to the pan. Spread butter mixture evenly and rather thickly over fillets. Bake in a 450 degree oven for 10 minutes per inch of thickness of fish. Serves 4 to 6.

Baked Flounder with Savory Crumb Topping

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 cups fresh bread crumbs
 2 TBSP chopped fresh parsley
 1/4 cup dry white wine
 4 flounder fillets
 1/4 tsp. salt
 1/4 cup mayonnaise
 For Parmesan Cheese Fillets:
 3/4 cup plain dried bread crumbs instead
 1/3 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
 For Sesame Seed Fillets
 3/4 cup plain dried bread crumbs
 1/4 cup sesame seeds

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a 10-inch skillet, toast bread crumbs over medium heat, stirring frequently, until golden, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in parsley. Pour wine into 13x9-inch baking dish. Add flounder fillets, turning to coat. In a baking dish, arrange fillets, skinned side up, tucking thin ends under. Sprinkle with salt and spread mayonnaise on top. Gently pat bread crumb mixture over mayonnaise. Bake until fish is just opaque throughout and topping has crisped, about 10 minutes. To make Parmesan Cheese Fillets: Prepare as directed above but use only 2/3 cup plain dried bread crumbs and add 1/3 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese to bread-crum mixture. To make Sesame Seed Fillets: Prepare as directed above but use only 3/4 cup plain dried bread crumbs and add 1/4 cup sesame seeds to bread-crum mixture.

Striped Bass with Lemon Butter & Sage

INGREDIENTS

2 striped bass fillets
 4 TBSP butter
 Old Bay Seasoning
 1 lemon, sliced
 Salt and pepper to taste
 Sage, optional

DIRECTIONS

Melt the butter in a casserole dish under the broiler. Sprinkle the striper fillets lightly with Old Bay Seasoning, salt and pepper. Transfer fillets to the casserole dish. Return the dish to the oven and broil the fillets for 6-8 minutes, rotating halfway through. Remove from the oven and baste with the melted butter. Place the lemon slices on top and sprinkle with sliced sage, if desired. Return to the oven long enough to char the lemon. Garnish with sage and serve hot.

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The crew of the "Wrecker" braved the weather on May 14th and it paid off, landing a 74" swordfish, 19 blue line tilefish and 2 golden tilefish. Anglers Stephen Humphrey, Dale Christensen, Josh Willet and Joe Rodgers are pictured with Capt. Jeremy Blunt and mates Bobby Layton and Cody Smith at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Angler Ashton Cherivtch, 13 years old, caught this barracuda in Johnston Key, FL in just 18 inches of water on a spoon.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Charter boat "Sea Wolf" visits OC in August, but is clearly making use of their time in the NC for now. This monster bluefin was 407 lbs. dressed and was snatched by Maryland anglers Forrest Blienberger, John Rogers, Joshua Knight, Darren Eynon and Patrick Snell. Capt. Donnie White and mate Charles Hayward put them on the spot.



Bill Dacosta from Long Island braved the cold of January to venture out on the headboat "Morning Star". His efforts were rewarded with this 23.5" male. Even the fish seems to be happy to have been caught.

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Charter boat "That's Right"s time in Islamorada, FL brought smiles to Jen Pettolina of Ocean City (pictured with mate Austin Bickford) during a Christmas trip last year. Capt.'s Franky Pettolina and Ryan Freese knew enough to stay out of the picture.



Dylan Wiley may think he is dreaming, but he really did catch this 30 lbs. yellowfin tuna on April 29th while fishing on the "Reel Crazy" in the Washington Canyon.

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- If you are using a cell phone, make sure it is taking photos at the largest setting possible
- Shoot vertical photos
- Smile!

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

FISHING CHARTERS



Charlotte Vaughan shows how it is done when bass fishing! Picture credit from proud father Mike Vaughan.



The boat "FINATIC" lived up to their name and caught the first mako of the year on May 16th. Ron Griggs landed this 84", 165 lbs. female using bluefish and mackerel chum while fishing in 400 fathoms in the Norfolk Canyon. Pictured are Justin Baily, Rob Griggs, Eric Crouch, Sean Griffith, Jimmy Ward, Capt Mark Malamphy and mate Brandon Malamphy.



Saturday, May 16th, Capt John Bunting of the Judith M, sailing out of Bahia Marina, found great numbers of keeper sea bass. Everyone on the trip limited. Clams and Squid were used for bait. The fish were caught about 15 to 18 miles offshore on natural bottom. Judith M "mate Alum" Max Thumma is showing off two of his large black sea bass.

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BACK BAY & COASTAL FISHING REPORT

by BJ Pietryak

As we start to roll into the month of May and the days begin to warm from the cold bleak of winter, many of us start to look to the upcoming fishing, crabbing, and boating season. Boats are being uncovered and tuned up for the spring. Crab pots cleaned. Rods and reels strung with fresh line. Clam rakes pulled out of the sheds. As a coastal community these tasks become a part of our spring life for both residents as well as vacationers. Hopefully this report can give both the newcomers, as well as experienced anglers, some insight on what's happening on the bays, beaches, and nearshore to make your experience more productive.

Beginning in the month


of May, the water warms into the 50s and for most locals this means the start of crabbing. Traditionally, Indian River sees the first crabs being caught. Ocean City bays tend to get productive 2-3 weeks later. This year was no exception. Crabs were first caught in Indian River in late April with pots yielding 15-20 crabs, a mix of male and females. This past week has shown a build up of bigger crabs and more males. The numbers are around 20-25 per pot with only a few throwbacks. Just a note, we are starting to see females with sponge egg sacks. These females must be returned to water unharmed. The key depths seem to be 6-10 ft. of water, and if you can find small

snails in the crab traps and pots you will find larger groups of crabs. Crabbing is a great activity and can be enjoyed by all family members. A simple string with a piece of chicken on the end hung from the dock can entertain children for hours. Simple single traps, crab pots, or trotlines are a great choice for those wishing to harvest a larger amount of crabs for dinner. Turning to the back bays, they have been producing small rockfish. On Indian River the fish are coming mostly from the Indian River power plant area, as well as the various points along the bay itself. Fish are being caught on small plastic swimbaits, top water plugs, as well as other small artificials.

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Assawomen Bay is seeing rockfish being caught around the Route 50 bridge and several coming from the area of the Route 90 bridge. I spoke with Big Bird Cropper who uses his famous Roy Rig and has had several good days on the water, to include a nice 29" rockfish caught by his daughter Patricia Cropper. Both areas seem to be most productive in the 2 hrs. after high tide.

Flounders are also starting to be seen. Fish are being caught using Gulp and squid minnows on a flounder rig. The aqua clear rigs are also a good bet and keep the two hooks separated. Fish are being caught in the main channels of both Indian River and Ocean City, the Commercial Harbor, and back bays of Assateague. I'm getting a few reports from Lewes that the black drum are in the Delaware Bay. Surf clams seem to be working best. Remember to use a stout rod, as many of

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 these fish are here to spawn and are over 50 lbs. Tim Tribbitt reports from Oyster, VA that he is seeing big red and black drum. If we follow the normal schedule, we should start seeing them on our beaches and bays, in larger numbers, within 2 weeks.

From Rich King, I'm hearing a few fish are being caught on the surf. They are mostly small blues and sharks being caught on cut bait and mullet rigs. Passing rockfish and drum should move into the area over the next weeks.

Sea Bass opens in both states on May 15. I have spoken with most of the head boats and charter captains who say they will start running their trips on that date. Please be aware due to Covid-19 restrictions, only a limited number of passengers are being permitted aboard, and all captains are requiring masks and social distancing. Please make your reservations

early due to the limited spots available. The Ocean Princess, Judith M, Judy V, Morning Star, and Thelma Dale will all be running with limited spots so call early!

If going on your private boat, all the regular locations work; bass grounds, B buoy, and Site 10. However, the deeper spots like Site 11, NJ/DE Reef, and Jackspot seem to be producing much better. A simple high-low rig works the best. For those wishing to catch with jigs, this is the time to break out those Butterfly and Lucanus jigs. For bait, squid work moderately well this time of year, but most veterans will switch to fresh or salted clam.

So let's get out there and start catching some fish!

Feel free to message me on Facebook or email me at Nebeachboy@yahoo.com with any questions or comments.

Tight lines and fins up to all!



The tuna are coming! The charter boat "Smokin' Billz"(nee "Overdraft") took a run from Chincoteague to south east of the Norfolk, past 1000 fathoms in the gulf stream, to catch these two 40 lbs. yellowfin. Good sign that the tuna are near. The boat is now back in OC at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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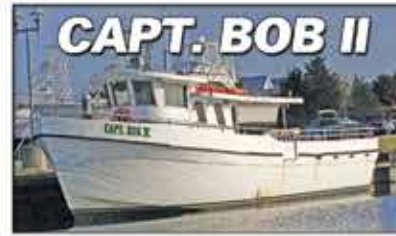
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I opened the mailbox not expecting any big surprises. Bills, some junk mail, a new magazine, but then the surprise came. A letter from my friends Suzanne and Dale Timmons. A letter I had never expected in a million years. It was a letter from the Timmons family to their advertisers in the Coastal Fisherman explaining that they had sold the paper to Mary and Larry Jock. The letter said something about Larry "getting some sand in his shoes" and having a history in publishing and wanting to make the beach his permanent home. I was devastated. Dale and Miss Suzanne were a fixture in my life. Dale's stories about Ben Sykes were my favorite fish stories. I could always count on their smiling faces whenever the Last Call had a catch worthy of the print. My fishing memories were

Coastal Fisherman memories. How could they do this to me? I went in the house and called my Mom and Dad. I had tears in my eyes. The year was 2005. That summer I met Larry. My first thought was "boy, he sure ain't Dale." He asked me some bizarre questions about the fish for the picture. I didn't think he was good with the people. It was a WTF moment before that particular slang had even been invented! And by WTF I mean What the Fish!?!? What were you thinking I meant? This is a family publication after all! I was truly worried about what was going to become of my beloved Coastal Fisherman. As the summer progressed Larry kinda grew on me. We butted heads many a time. I got ticked when he wouldn't use someone's

nickname in a photo caption. Another time we had a heated argument when he didn't run a photo of some of my anglers with a catch that I deemed paper worthy but he didn't. He pretty much told me it was his paper and his policy, and if I didn't like it I could take a walk right off the pier next to the Last Call. Which is just the sort of thing that would win me over. I have never been afraid to tell someone to take a hike myself, so maybe this guy was gonna be ok. Of course I was introduced to Mary too. That sealed the deal. I was going to let them into my fishing life.

Over the next 15 years Larry and I traveled the path from acquaintances to friends, from friends to good friends, from good friends to true buddies. I found out that his family had South Jersey roots in the same town I grew up in. Our families knew each other of old. Larry wasn't a drinker but he would come hang out at the Marlin Club and watch football with me. I don't recall who owed who the last cheeseburger from losing a bet on a Ravens/Steelers game or other such bet. Larry enjoyed Italian food and we shared many good meals with our wives over the years.

When I became President of the Marlin Club in 2008 Larry took the pictures of me presenting the seasonal awards for the first time. Something he did every year through 2019. I look back at pictures of the first year and see me wearing a sport coat and tie. Which triggers me back to a few years ago when Larry showed me the picture of my hungover self handing out a trophy before he did the photo editing to make me not look like a sweaty mess in my polo shirt and shorts. I think of all the times we shared smiles and laughed at an awards banquet or at the scales. My picture doesn't hang with the other President pictures at the Club yet because I wouldn't let Larry take it until I was done being President. We had plenty of time to stage that photo. I think about my Paperboy T-shirt. Larry always said it was one of the

www.coastalfisherman.net last of its kind. It is blood stained and tattered but it is still my good luck last day of the tournament T-shirt. Seeing Larry point and smile when he saw me coming to the scales while wearing it will always be one of my favorite memories.

I think about sitting at the Marlin Club this past January. Watching the Ravens blowing it in the playoff game against the Titans. Looking down at my phone and wondering why my buddy Johnny Oughton was calling me when he knew I was busy watching the Ravens. I could see if they were losing to the Raiders, but he had no dog in this fight. Then I saw the text pop up. "Call Me. Important." So I called him. The game no longer mattered to me. He was asking me to confirm something we both prayed wasn't true. A few minutes later we both confirmed a nightmare. Larry was gone. I cried then. I am crying now. I cried for my friend Mary. For Little Larry. For his brother Tom. For Mrs. Jock and the rest of the family. For everyone whose life Larry had touched.

This is going to be a weird season for all of us in the Ocean City fishing community. That was going to be the case before this pandemic came onto the scene. Now it is just magnified. I am looking forward to continuing to work with Tom on the paper. We both have a new boss now, and I wonder how much of my shenanigans will be tolerated by Larry Budd. From the little bit of time I have spent with him I am guessing we will hit it off fine. Jocko old buddy, I have missed you terribly. Writing this column and trying to make my deadlines won't be the same. The scales and the banquets won't be the same. But I promise we will keep the paper going strong and I will be there for anything Mary or Little Larry need. We will keep on fishing and I will keep wearing my lucky Paperboy shirt. Hugh said it best at your funeral. You were truly a Good Dude. I am a better person for having been your friend. I love ya buddy...

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The lure does not fall far from the rod, or something like that! Big Bird Cropper's daughter Patricia caught her first keeper striper this week. 29" rockfish near the Rt. 50 bridge on a Roy Rig of course.



Kevin Brownlee is doing us all a favor and thinning out this invasive species. He caught this big 'ol snakehead near Cambridge, MD on May 20th. As a reminder, MD, VA & DE encourage anglers to harvest snakeheads. If released they should only be released back into the body of water they were caught.

DELAWARE REGULATIONS

... STATE WATERS ONLY ...



BLACK SEA BASS
12.5" minimum / 15 per person/day
5/15 - 12/31



BLUEFISH
No minimum size
3 per day / 5 per day Charter



BLACK DRUM
16" minimum
3 per person/day



COBIA
TBA



CROAKER
8" minimum
No creel limit



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



SHEEPSHEAD
No limit



SPECKLED TROUT
12" minimum
No creel limit



STRIPED BASS
28-35" except 20-25" only from
7/1 - 8/31 in DE Bay



SUMMER FLOUNDER
16.5" minimum
4 per person/day



TAUTOG
16" minimum
4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15
4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31





















WEAKFISH
13" minimum
1 per person/day

2020 Heaviest Fish of the Year

COASTAL FISHERMAN



(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - TIES GO TO FIRST FISH REPORTED. HOOK & LINE ONLY)

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
 Bluefish	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	 Mako Shark ★ New	April 16, 2020 Ron Griggs Norfolk Canyon 165 lbs.	No Weights Reported
 Black Drum	No Weights Reported	★ New May 18, 2020 Benjamin Attanasi Broadkill Beach 82.4 lbs.	 Thresher Shark	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
 Cobia	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	 Bigeye Tuna	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
 Flounder	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	 Bluefin Tuna	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
 Sea Bass	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	 Longfin Tuna	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
 Sheepshead	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	 Yellowfin Tuna ★ New	April 29, 2020 Dylan Wiley Washington Canyon 30 lbs.	No Weights Reported
 Striped Bass	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	 Dolphin	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
 Tautog	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	 Wahoo	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
 Weakfish	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	 White Marlin	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported

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






Mate Ethan Nock of the charter boat "Lucky Break" made short work in catching his limit of flounder while fishing the incoming tide near the airport behind Assateague Island. The biggest fish was 21" and was caught will jigging Gulp.



The smiles tell it all. Elisabeth and Chad Muse ventured down to Costa Rica in February. While the sailfish were elusive, they were able to tag this yellowfin tuna and several others.

Federal Size & Creel Limits

3-200 Miles

 <p>BLUE MARLIN 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>DOLPHIN No minimum Length 10 per person/day</p>	 <p>YELLOWFIN TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SHARKS AUTHORIZED SPECIES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No Minimum Fork Length Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead</p> <p style="text-align: center;">54" Minimum Fork Length Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose</p> <p style="text-align: center;">71" Minimum Fork Length Male Shortfin Mako</p> <p style="text-align: center;">78" Minimum Fork Length Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead</p> <p>Only 1 shark from the lists above may be retained per vessel per trip. In addition, 1 Atlantic Sharpnose and 1 Bonnethead may be retained per person per trip. If a hammerhead shark is retained, no tunas, billfish or swordfish may be retained.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">83" Minimum Fork Length Female Shortfin Mako</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prohibited Sharks Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White</p>
 <p>WHITE MARLIN 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>WAHOO No minimum Length 2 per person/day</p>	 <p>BLUEFIN TUNA (Recreational) 2 per vessel/day/trip 27" to <47" CFL 1 per vessel/day/trip 47" to <73" CFL</p>	<p>(Charter Boat) (Headboat) 3 per vessel/day/trip 6 per vessel/day/trip 27" to <47" CFL 27" to <47" CFL 1 per vessel/day/trip 2 per vessel/day/trip 47" to <73" CFL 47" to <73" CFL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Southern Trophy Fishery closed through December 31, 2020</p>
 <p>SWORDFISH 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter) 1 per person / 15 per Headboat</p>	 <p>BIGEYE TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>		

eregulations.com

Facts about YELLOWFIN TUNA



- The current I.G.F.A. All Tackle World Record yellowfin tuna weighed 427 lbs. and was caught off Cabo San Lucas, Mexico in September 2012.

The yellowfin tuna is among the larger tuna species, reaching weights over 400 pounds, but is significantly smaller than the Atlantic and Pacific bluefin tunas, which can reach over 990 pounds, and slightly smaller than the bigeye tuna and the southern bluefin tuna.

- The second dorsal fin and the anal fin, as well as the finlets between those fins and the tail, are bright yellow, giving this fish its common name. The second dorsal and anal fins can be very long in mature specimens, reaching almost as far back as the tail and giving the appearance of sickles. The pectoral fins are also longer than the bluefin tuna, but not as long as those of the longfin albacore. The main body is a very dark metallic blue, changing to silver on the belly, which has about 20 vertical lines.

- Yellowfin tuna are epipelagic fish that inhabit the mixed surface layer of the ocean above the thermocline in 65 to 88-degree water. Sonic tracking has found that although yellowfin tuna, unlike the related bigeye tuna, mostly range in the top 330 ft. of the water column and penetrate the thermocline relatively infrequently, they are capable of diving to considerable depths. An individual fish tagged in the Indian Ocean with an archival tag spent 85% of its time in depths shallower than 246 ft., but was recorded making dives to 3,810 ft.

- Yellowfin tuna often travel in schools with similarly sized companions. They sometimes school with other tuna species and mixed schools of smaller yellowfin and skipjack tuna. They are often associated with various species of dolphins or porpoises, as well as with larger marine creatures such as whales and whale sharks. They also associate with drifting flotsam such as logs and pallets, and sonic tagging indicates some follow moving vessels

Spawning occurs throughout the year with the peak during summer months. They typically reach weights of slightly over 8 lbs. after only 18 months.

- Yellowfin tuna prey include other fish, pelagic crustaceans and squid. Like all tunas, their body shape is particularly adapted for speed, enabling them to pursue and capture fast-moving baitfish such as flying fish, sauries, and mackerel. Schooling species such as myctophids or lanternfish and similar pelagic driftfish, anchovies, and sardines are frequently taken. Large yellowfins prey on smaller members of the tuna family such as frigate mackerel and skipjack tuna. In turn, yellowfin are preyed upon when they are young by other pelagic hunters, including larger tuna, seabirds and predatory fish such as wahoo, shark and billfish. Adults are threatened only by the largest and fastest hunters, such as toothed whales, particularly the false killer whale, pelagic sharks such as the mako and great white shark, large Atlantic blue marlin, Pacific blue marlin and black marlin. The main source of mortality, however, is industrial tuna fisheries.

Yellowfins are able to escape most predators, because unlike most fish, tuna are warm-blooded and their warm muscles make them extremely strong swimmers, with speeds of up to 50 miles per hour. They can navigate enormous distances, sometimes crossing entire oceans.

- Yellowfin tuna have a typical lifespan of 8 years.

Source:
Wikipedia.com



Spring Tune up

Welcome to the 2020 season of "Ship to Shore". I am excited to be working with the new team at the Coastal Fisherman and looking forward to a great season.

The winter and spring in the Mid-Atlantic season not only inspires us to dream about warm water and good fishing, the "offseason" also inspires the manufacturers of marine electronics to develop new equipment and software for us to dream about. Fall and winter boat show season is where marine manufactures often debut new products, with much publicity focused on marine electronics, though lighting and automation have become highly publicized too. If you didn't get to any of these boat shows, here is a recap of this winters newly introduced products.

While the awards at the shows above are popular within the trade, the manufacturers spend their R&D and advertising funds to gain consumer awareness and loyalty by exhibiting and

promoting their products at Winter boat shows, such as Ft. Lauderdale and Miami. Some of the new products introduced so far in 2020 are:

- Furuno TZT3 NavNet multifunction displays
- Garmin EchoMap UHD series and GPSMAP Plus series
- Lowrance Hook Reveal fishfinders/chartplotters
- Simrad NSO evo3S Glass Bridge displays
- Standard Horizon compact handheld VHF HX890
- Lowrance GOST trolling motor
- Fusion RA210 & RA670 audio system
- ICOM M803 SSB Single Side Band radio with HAM frequencies
- ACR Electronics ResQLink 400 Personal Locator Beacon
- SiriusXM Satellite Fish Mapping
- FLIR M300 series marine cameras
- Vesper Cortex VHF/AIS/Monitor System

The annual National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) Conference conducts a product award competition, where members of the Marine Electronics industry vote on new or recently introduced products, here are the Fall 2019 winners

- Marine VHF – ICOM M605
- Satellite TV Antenna – KVH TracVision TV3
- Radar – Furuno DRS4DNXT
- Fishfinder – Furuno DFF3D Multi-Beam 3D
- Satellite Comm. Antenna – KVH TracPhone V3HTS
- Marine Camera – FLIR M400XR
- Multi-Function Display – Garmin GPSMAP 8616xsv
- IS – Furuno FA170 Class A
- Multimedia Entertainment – Fusion Apollo RA770
- Autopilot – Garmin Reactor 40 with SmartPump v2
- NMEA 2000 Sensor – Furuno SC33 Satellite Compass
- Remote Monitoring -GOST Apparition SM GPS XVR
- Marine PC Software – Nobeltec TZ Professional
- WiFi/Cellular Device – KVH TracPhone LTE-1
- Marine Apps-Utility – Garmin ActiveCaptain
- Commercial Radar – Furuno FAR2228BB IMO Radar

- www.coastalfisherman.net
- **NMEA Best New Product Award** goes to Vesper Marine Cortex
 - **NMEA Technology Award** goes to Raymarine/FLIR Clear Cruise AR
 - **NMEA Manufacturer of the Year** goes to Garmin

With quite an extensive list, it is hard to determine if there is something new that has a feature or function you would like to have. The best way to learn is to talk to dealers, friends or the manufacturer directly about their product and learn what they have to offer. With this spring's Covid-19 pandemic, there has been an increase of on-line webinars and videos developed by the marine electronics manufacturers, showcasing and teaching about their products. Even if you missed a scheduled event, many of these are recorded and you can watch anytime. Just last week Garmin conducted a webinar about transducers – a very detailed event that was helpful to all.

If your budget doesn't allow you to refit with new electronics and gadgets, not all is lost. Most manufacturers of the popular multifunction displays have released or close to release new

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www.coastalfisherman.net software that can help your older system perform new tricks!

As an example- Furuno's newest software for the TZT2, due out soon, will give you the look and feel of the newest TZT3 model for no cost. Garmin's newest free software update will give you the ability to lock your multifunction display with a personalized PIN code, keeping others away from your valuable waypoints and data. Simrad's upcoming software for their multifunction displays will add the ability to use the newest WM4 weather module and soon the SiriusXM Fish Mapping service.

While these software updates may seem simple, things can go wrong during the process. If you are unsure, it's best to contact a marine electronics professional that can take the responsibility and be sure that your unit will be properly updated without a

loss of data or settings. The most important step before updating your software is to back up your waypoints and settings to a memory card or the cloud. While most multifunction displays make this easy, something as simple as having the wrong format or size of memory card for storing your data can cause the system not to back up your data. Software updates are often available on the manufacturer's website. Downloading this data and installing it on a portable memory card can also be a stumbling point for many boaters. Thankfully, the manufacturers often provide detailed instructions on the entire process. Be sure to reserve a lot of time on a weekday that you are not going to need the unit - some updates can take hours. If there is a problem, you will want to call an electronics professional or the manufacturer. Support is often

not available on the weekends or after hours. After the successful software update, be sure to tour the multifunction displays to review the new features to see what has changed, what is the same and be sure everything is working properly - or at least the critical pages and settings you use often.

Purchasing new electronics and accessories for your boat should be a rewarding process resulting in equipment or system that makes your boating and fishing trips more informative, efficient, productive and pleasurable.

Transducer Selection Guide



Pick the Right Transducer for your Vessel
There are a lot of variables to consider when selecting a transducer for your boat. Before you get started, you might want to consider the answers to these questions:

- What model sonar, fishfinder or combo do you have?
- How do you use your sonar - fishing or just for depth?
- What material is used for your hull? How is it shaped?
- What is your boat's deadrise angle?
- Do you operate your boat in fresh or saltwater?
- How will you mount it?

Knowing the answers to these questions will make it easier to understand your options and transducer performance.

Garmin has a useful video on transducer selection at:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/1995054359831100163>



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Brent Bortner from York, Pa shows off his yield from the first day of sea bass season. Besides these two, he hit the limit of 15 fishing aboard the "Green Machine" out of the Indian River Inlet.

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Fish Spotlight SEA BASS

It's that time of the year again... Many anglers wait patiently for the start of the black sea bass season to begin. Sea bass or black fish are one of our most sought after species. The season opened in Maryland and Delaware on May 15 with both states setting this year's regulations at a 12.5 inch minimum and a creel limit of 15 per person/day.

Black sea bass (*Centropristis Striata*) are a black fish with white meat. An interesting fact is that sea bass are hermaphrodites being born female. At the size of 9-12.5" some will change to males during the winter months. The world record for sea bass is 10 lbs. 4 oz. from Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Sea bass can be found in back bay waters and as deep as 450 ft. The average depth fished by most anglers is between 60 ft. and 100 ft.

The equipment used by fishermen can vary. Rods can be spinning or conventional. They can be either light weight or medium/heavy. When fishing in deeper water,

an angler could benefit from a stronger rod to help handle the increased weight needed to keep the bait on the bottom. Between 2-12 oz. of weight is used to reach these fish bottom and wreck dwelling fish. Braid or mono can be used, with braid being the preference in deeper water due to its sensitivity. A variety of hooks can be used, to include a wide gap flounder hook, small straight shank hook and circle hooks.

The simplest rig used for these fish are the top and bottom rigs. These can be tied by yourself using two dropper loops about 10" apart with a double overhand knot at the bottom for the weight. See (photo to the right) Flat fall jigs, Butterfly jigs, as well as lucanus jigs are also used by anglers.

Bait for black sea bass can also vary. It can include squid, sand fleas, and clams. Many anglers and several party boats use salted clams. These are created by soaking clams in water and a heavy helping of kosher salt. Stir occasionally to ensure even mixing. After a few hours these

clams can be put into bags or simply left in the bucket. No refrigeration is needed, and they will last a few months. This process makes the clams much tougher and keeps them on the hook much longer. If you plan on fishing for sea bass multiple times, I suggest you buy a case or big box of clams and salt them.

The nice thing about these fish, especially for new anglers, is that it is a "do nothing" style of fishing. When over a wreck or structure, simply drop your rig down to the bottom and wait until you feel the fish tugging, then pull up and reel!

These fish are found around structures such as wrecks, artificial reefs, and/or coral bottoms. Many artificial reefs lie off our waters. In Delaware, go to the Delaware Reef Foundation to get a free map of these locations and in Maryland the Ocean City Reef Foundation offers a reef map for a modest price. These maps show locations and details of the reef's composition; old ships, barges, concrete blocks, subway

cars and cables are some of the items you will find. Ships and cables in particular are some of the best structures for holding big numbers of these delicious fish, but be aware that they are very prone to hanging up your rigs, so expect to lose a few.

These sites can also be found on many charts. The areas around us include the bass grounds, African Queen Site, Sites 10 and 11 in Delaware, NJ/DE reef, Jack's Spot, and Marine Electric. Look for them in shallower water (60ft) in the spring months and then go deeper (80-120ft) as the water warms in summer.

Several options are available to fish for sea bass. If you own your own boat, you can either drift the wrecks or anchor on them. A drift of 1.5 mph is best. Private charter boats are also available, but can get expensive. Head boats or party boats are best for single anglers and new anglers as they are most affordable. They have all equipment needed, including bait, and have mates who will help you and make your experiences

11th Annual OCMC Memorial Day Tournament
 May 30 & 31, 2020

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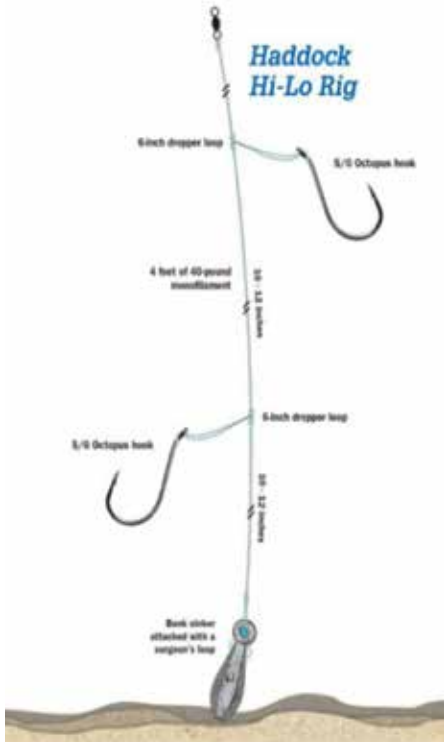
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www.coastalfisherman.net enjoyable. Just a reminder, due to Covid 19 these boats are running capacity restrictions. You should call or check websites for a reservation early as walk ups may not be available. Some of the best charters and head boats in the area are in the Fishing Charters section of this paper. Sea bass is prized for its flavor and can be cooked in many ways. So get out there and catch some!



Charter boat "Chasing Tides" pounded the opening week for sea bass. Capt. Chase Eberle and mates Adam Wilson and Cade Seely took this group out of OC and hit their limits. Learn more about this sought after fish in the article to the left.

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It was a "Frenzi" indeed when Pete Renzi, Keith Brasure and Amanda Jo Brasure went sea bass fishing last Sunday off Ocean City.



The tilefish did not stand a chance when charter boat "Turnin Fins" headed to the Washington Canyon for their first trip of the season! Anglers Paul Reyburn (JPR Rods), Rusty and Rhonda Daub, and Steve Hannon were well taken care of by Capt. Ron Callis and mate Jake Shaffer.

MARYLAND & DELAWARE CITATION SIZES

Atlantic Coast

	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u>		<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u>
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	SHARK:		
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"	Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Blue Marlin**	Any Size	Any Size	Mako*	Any Size	250 lbs. or 83"
Cobia	44"	45 Lbs. or 48"	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"	Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"
Golden Tilefish	35"	35" or 40"	TUNA:		
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"
Red Drum*	36"	45"	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"
Sailfish*	Any Size	-	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"
Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"
Speckled Trout	24"	-	White Marlin**	Any Size	Any Size
Striped Bass	40"	34 lbs. or 44"			

























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

eregulations.com

2020 First Fish of the Year COASTAL FISHERMAN



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

Species	2020	2019	Species	2020	2019
 Bluefish	No Reported Catches	April 17, 2019 Big Bird Cropper South Jetty	 Mako Shark	 April 16, 2020 Ron Griggs "Finatic" 165 lbs.	May 18, 2019 Brandon Malamphy "Finatic" Wilmington Canyon
 Black Drum	 April 19, 2020 Bill Grubb Fenwick Island State Park	April 9, 2019 Allen Sklar Assateague Surf	 Thresher Shark	No Reported Catches	May 18, 2019 All Anglers "Over-Board" Jackspot
 Cobia	No Reported Catches	June 2, 2019 Tony Lane Fenwick Surf	 Bigeye Tuna	No Reported Catches	May 27, 2019 Pat Petrera "Priceless" Poor Man's Canyon
 Flounder	 May 5, 2020 Mackenzie Cathell Thorofare	April 4, 2019 Kristin Lennox Sinepuxent Bay	 Bluefin Tuna	No Reported Catches	May 7, 2019 Scott Wells "Restless Lady II" Wilmington Canyon
 Sea Bass	No Reported Catches	May 15, 2019 Tom Lane "Morningstar" Artificial Reef	 Longfin Tuna	No Reported Catches	June 1, 2019 Ed Luhrman Baltimore Canyon
 Sheepshead	No Reported Catches	May 26, 2019 Mark Shwetz "On the Run" South Jetty	 Yellowfin Tuna	 April 29, 2020 Dylan Wiley Washington Canyon	May 25, 2019 Ryan Young "Brenda Lou" Poor Man's Canyon
 Striped Bass	 May 7, 2020 Patricia Cropper Rt. 50 Bridge	April 12, 2019 Kern Ducote Rt. 90 Bridge	 Dolphin	No Reported Catches	May 19, 2019 Bill Johnson "Bubblehead" Wilmington Canyon
 Tautog	 January 2, 2020 Patrick Enoch "Morningstar" Artificial Reef	January 4, 2019 Dan Iacangelo "Morningstar" Ocean Wreck	 Wahoo	No Reported Catches	June 23, 2019 Vince Cusimano "My Time" Washington Canyon
 Weakfish	No Reported Catches	May 19, 2019 Jackson Chin Indian River Inlet	 White Marlin	No Reported Catches	June 1, 2019 "Uncle Keith" Poor Man's Canyon

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



Palm Beach, FL was the place to be this winter! Mike McKahan (r) tricked this bull dolphin while fishing on the "Brenda Lou". Shown with Jon Henry (l).



The day time black drum bite is on. KB Brittingham from Delaware caught a 59.9 lbs. fish today at the Coral beds using chowder clams. Bait and weight were taken from Lewes Harbour Marina.

 The advertisement features silhouettes of four veterans against an American flag background. Above them are several military medals. Below the silhouettes is the text "BOATS 4 HEROES". At the bottom, there are two dog tags: one says "SUPPORT THE TROOPS!" and the other says "HELP THE CAUSE".

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 The advertisement is for Fenwick BAIT and TACKLE. It features a fish icon, a Facebook logo, and various brand logos including Gulp!, PENN, TEBCO, QUANTUM, TCA, EAGLE CLAW, POWER PRO, and SHIMANO.

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Matt Schnieder with a fat 21" tog on May 5th, his first tog and on his first drop!

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

MAY

11th Annual OCMC MEMORIAL DAY TOURNAMENT
MAY 29 - 31 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

JUNE

39TH Annual SOUTH JERSEY SHARK TOURNAMENT
June 4 - 6 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

24TH Annual MAKO MANIA *Canceled*
June 5 - 7 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

MIDATLANTIC TUNA TOURNAMENT
June 18 - 21 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

41ST Annual MARLIN CLUB SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT
June 20 - 21 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

6TH ANNUAL KIDS CATCH ALL *Canceled*
June 20 - 21 • Indian River Marina, DE

CBSFA TUNA-FORTUNA TOURNAMENT
June 26 - 28 • Ocean City, MD • 410-868-5488

JULY

38TH Annual MARLIN CLUB CANYON KICK-OFF
July 3 - 5 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613



Tides & Moon Phases OCEAN CITY INLET

Fri. May 22	Low 02:26 am Low 02:09 pm	High 08:31 am High 09:02 pm
Sat. May 23	Low 03:05 am Low 02:45 pm	High 09:12 am High 09:42 pm
Sun. May 24	Low 03:45 am Low 03:25 pm	High 09:54 am High 10:21 pm
Mon. May 25	Low 04:27 am Low 04:08 pm	High 10:35 am High 11:01 pm
Tue. May 26	Low 05:13 am Low 04:55 pm	High 11:17 am High 11:44 pm
Wed. May 27	Low 06:03 am Low 05:49 pm	High 12:03 am High -----
Thur. May 28	Low 06:55 am Low 06:49 pm	High 12:31 am High 12:57 pm
Fri. May 29	Low 07:49 am Low 07:52 pm	High 01:26 am High 02:00 pm

Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge.
Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high tide
Delaware Bay Entrance - subtract 1 hour 25 minutes to high tide
- subtract 45 minutes to low tide
Wachapreague, VA - add 4 minutes for high tide
- 21 minutes for low tide
Quinby Inlet, VA - subtract 6 minutes for high tide
These tides are only meant to be a guide, as tides can be affected by storms and weather fronts.



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Call Jimmy Fields



MECHANICAL MAN - 2008 68' Weaver
Custom Sportfish - Call Jimmy Fields



2012 42' Invincible
Call Jimmy Fields



LIBATION 2000 46' Buddy Harris
Call Rich Sowden



SUTHERN'S PRIDE - 2004 61' Viking
Call Preston Stofer



IRONED OUT - 1989 61' Buddy Davis
Call Jeff James



FLORIDIAN - 1990 60' Custom
Carolina - Call Jimmy Fields



HALCYON - 1998 55' Viking
Call Jimmy Fields



SALVATION - 1977 Omie Tillet Sportsman
Custom Carolina - Call Jeff James



GRET'S THREE J'S - 2008 43' Gillikin
Express - Call Ronnie Fields



CHUBBY - 1995 42' Liberty
Call Jeff James



NATURAL - 1978 53' Monterey
Call Jimmy Fields



MR DUCKS - 1993 50' Hatteras
Call Ronnie Fields



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Call Jeff James



DONA LUCY - 2017 41' Ronin Custom
Call Jimmy Fields



DREAMIN' ON - 2002 40' LUHRS
Call Terry Layton



CONSTELLATION - 1984 37'
Sunny Briggs - Call Ronnie Fields



CLEAR SHOT - 2006 33' Rampage Express
Call Jimmy Fields



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Call Terry Layton



2004 35' Marlago
Call Terry Layton

