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Priceless

COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME 40 • • • NUMBER 1 • • • APRIL 29, 2015



This is one group of happy anglers after Ken Westerfeld from Queens, NY captured a 28.8 lb. tautog on January 2nd to establish a new I.G.F.A. All Tackle World Record. Ken's catch shattered the old record of 25 lbs. set back in 1998 by an angler in Ocean City, NJ. Ken was fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Ben Zickefosse, Matt Casamassima, Rich O'Connell, Daniel Yadegar, Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. The world record tautog, caught on an ocean wreck in 80-feet of water, measured 35 3/4-inches and sported a 25 1/4-inch girth. Ken fought the 23-year-old fish for less than 10 minutes after it ate a Jonah crab on 50 lb. braided line. Weighed at Sunset Marina.



On March 25th, the first mako shark of the season was caught by angler Andy Smelter while fishing on the "Nontypical" with Jim Hughes, Dave Peterson, Kevin McCabe and Capt. Terry Layton. Andy hooked the 67.5-inch, 100 lb. mako on a horse ballyhoo dressed up with a pink and white Joe Shute lure in 200 fathoms in the Baltimore Canyon where Capt. Terry came across 65-degree water. It was so cold that the anglers had to chip ice off the boat before leaving the dock. The first mako sharks caught in our area are typically boated in late April or early May, making this the earliest mako caught in many years.



Last week, big bluefish were found just off the coast of Delmarva and Paula Gallagher of Milford, DE was there to land this 35.5-inch, 12 lb. 3 oz. chopper while fishing with bunker off the beach near the Indian River Inlet. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop.

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Johnny Coffiey from Wilmington, DE is no stranger to the pages of the *Coastal Fisherman* and on this day he landed a nice 14 lb. tog while fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. Back in January, the fish ate a white crab in 70 feet of water on an ocean wreck.

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Here's a picture that makes you go aaahhhh! Cameron Powell was fishing with his daughter, Adalynn at Massey's Landing Pier when he landed this 9 lb. 5 oz. bluefish while using fresh bunker for bait. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Fresh bunker was the downfall of these 4 bluefish caught by Russ Norris and Bernie Robinson while fishing at the Roosevelt Inlet. Their largest chopper measured 32-inches. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Bob Watson of Millsboro, DE caught his limit of flounder on April 20th while drifting minnows in the Indian River Inlet. Bob's largest flatie of the day measured 21-inches. Photo courtesy of Bill's Sport Shop in Lewes, DE.




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OCEAN CITY FISHING REPORT

BY LARRY JOCK



Welcome to another year of the *Coastal Fisherman*. It is an exciting year as we are celebrating the publications 40th year anniversary.

One new feature this year that you will want to check out is the "How Old is Your..." chart on page 28. One of the most frequent questions we receive on the docks from anglers is, "How old is this fish?" We have put together a chart for several species and will be featuring one each week this season. We have started out with a chart for flounder and I hope you find it as interesting and useful as I do.

The big news so far this year is the World Record tautog caught on January 2nd by Ken Westerfeld during a trip aboard the charter boat, "Fish Bound". Ken's big tog weighed a whopping 28.8 lbs., shattering the old I.G.F.A. All Tackle World Record of 25 lbs. set back in 1998. Ken is known for targeting big tautog and traveled all the way down from Queens, New York for his trip with Capt. Kane Bounds. Ken hooked the fish on a Jonah crab (white crab) on an old wreck in 80-feet of water. Ken used a tautog/snafu rig with a 4/0 Gamakatsu red octopus hook on 50 lb. braided line and a 50 lb. leader. A snafu rig is basically a rig that has hooks snelled to each end of a strip of leader with a dropper loop in the middle. If you would like to make a snafu rig, you can find a good instructional video on Youtube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_zzaM_-4GQ.

The 35 3/4-inch world record tautog was huge, sporting a 25 1/4-inch girth. It was quite a catch!

The other news that came out over the winter was that after 34 years, the organizers of the Ocean City Shark Tournament have decided to pull the plug on the event. With changes in regulations, a greater emphasis on conservation, a change in the time of year that



Cold water temperatures delayed the arrival of flounder to our local bays, but on April 18th, Rosanna Nicoletos of Ocean Pines, MD boated the first one of the season, a 22-incher caught while drifting a minnow and white Gulp! combination in 6-feet of water, north of the Rt. 90 Bridge.

sharks are caught off our coast and several years of poor weather made it difficult to continue the tournament. Hat's off to all those involved and a big thanks for bringing us many years of exciting tournaments.

This leaves Capt. Steve Harman's Mako Mania Shark Tournament as the remaining big shark tournament left in Ocean City. This is a great tournament and I would expect it to become even bigger and richer in the years to come.

Unfortunately, this season is off to a slow start with unseasonably cold temperatures, both in the air and in the water, leaving anglers in the warm confines of their home and fish further south.

Luckily, tautog fishing has been good when the weather allowed anglers to get out on

ocean structure. The Ocean City Reef Foundation continues to expand their reef system, creating habitats for not only tautog, but sea bass and flounder as well. There is no doubt that fishing on ocean structure will continue to be a fast growing segment of our recreational fishing community.

Right now, we have large schools of bunker migrating

along our coast and some large, chopper bluefish are having a field day. Big bluefish are being caught by surfcasters, more so off Delaware than Ocean City and Assateague. I am not sure why this is, but my guess is that it may have something to do with the dredging being done off Ocean City.

Anglers fishing off Assateague are struggling right now. Bluefish and an occasional black drum are being caught, but the striper bite is almost nonexistent. Surf fishermen are baiting their hooks with the standard chuck of bunker or bunker head, looking for the big striper that is typically heading north this time of year. Reports are coming in from Chesapeake Bay anglers that the fish are starting to dump out of the rivers, so the migrating stripers should be heading this way, just a little later than we are used to seeing.

In the bay, very few flounder have hit the cleaning table. Those that have been caught have come from north of the Rt. 90 Bridge, from the Thorofare and a couple from the bay behind Assateague. Anglers fishing from the Rt. 50 Bridge are catching some bluefish and a few short stripers. Those fishing around the South Jetty are finding a limited number of tautog.

Upcoming Tournament

The first local tournament of the year is the 6th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Memorial Day Tournament on May 23rd and 24th. This used to be the OCMC Bluefish Tournament but organizers have added categories for tuna and makos, opening up possibilities for those looking to venture further offshore.

See you at the scales!

COASTAL FISHERMAN

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

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It's a good thing that tautog like cold water because we have certainly had enough of it this year. Joining the legion of New York residents who venture down for world class tog fishing during the winter months was Mike Calvin from New York, NY who released this beautiful tog (if you can call tautog "beautiful") while fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" at the end of January. The 14 lb. blackfish ate a white crab in 100 feet of water on a wreck north of the Ocean City Inlet. As always, Capt. Kane Bounds was at the helm and mate Kevin Twilley ran the cockpit.



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Mike Andrews from Dover, DE got in on the good bluefish bite at Broadkill Beach last week, landing 4 on cut bunker (2 pictured). The largest gator measured 33-inches and weighed 11 lbs. 2 oz. on the scale at Bill's Sport Shop in Lewes, DE.



Local anglers Loren Cohee, Tony Diesel and Travis Brown ventured down to North Carolina and landed this swordfish on a whole mackerel while fishing at The Point.

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Mid-Atlantic Council Initiates Action to Manage Blueline Tilefish

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council voted to move forward with development of measures for the long-term management of blueline tilefish in the Mid-Atlantic. The Council will consider several approaches, including creation of a new fishery management plan (FMP) and development of an amendment to add blueline tilefish to the existing Golden Tilefish FMP.

This decision follows the Council's request earlier this year for an emergency rule to restrict commercial and recreational catch of blueline tilefish in the Mid-Atlantic. The Council recommended emergency action given recent evidence that commercial and recreational landings of blueline tilefish in the Mid-Atlantic are increasing rapidly and the species' biological characteristics make it highly susceptible to depletion. Regulations have been established in the South Atlantic to restrict commercial and recreational landings of the fish, and the states of Virginia and Maryland have regulations in place, but there are currently no federal regulations for the stock in the Mid-Atlantic.

The Council discussed the advantages and disadvantages of different long-term management approaches during its meeting this week in Long Branch, New Jersey. One option is for the Council to develop a new FMP for blueline tilefish and possibly for other species in the deepwater complex such as blackbelly rosefish, wreckfish, and snowy grouper. Another option is to add blueline tilefish to the existing FMP for golden tilefish.

After extensive discussion, the Council decided to gather public input during scoping hearings before deciding whether to develop an amendment or a new FMP. Information about the scoping process for this action will be posted on the Council's website at www.mafmc.org in the coming weeks.

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Matty Casamassima from Long Island, NY muscled in this 14 lb. tautog after hooking it on a green crab back in January. Matty was fishing on an ocean wreck aboard the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. Unfortunately for Matty, on any other day this would have the pool winner but this catch was made on the same day that the 28.8 pounder was caught that set a new world record. Still a great catch!



This was one striper that wasn't going to get away! This past winter, Kim Zimmerman held on for dear life after landing this 41-inch striped bass while trolling at the Sliver with Todd Zimmerman and Nate Gregory on the "Jeepers Keepers"

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CHUM LINES

BY CAPT. MARK SAMPSON



For the last three months I've been running fishing charters in the lower Florida Keys. Because of constantly changing weather, wind, tides and the movements of fish, the fishing that we do down there has us always trying to figure out where we're going to go next, and we seldom end up fishing the same locations two days in a row. Some trips we'd target large fish like tarpon or sharks and on others we might be looking for smaller quarry such as snapper, mackerel, barracuda, permit or bonefish. Some days we end up targeting both large and small fish on the same trip. On days like that, you can probably only imagine the variety of tackle we need to have with us to cover all the options, and when you're fishing from a 17-foot skiff you don't have the luxury of loading her down with extra tackle "just in case"! What you bring and what you leave behind can be crucial to the success or failure of the trip.

In three months, we fished almost every day and fell into a routine of heading out in the morning, chasing fish most of the day, running back,

cleaning the boat, straightening up the tackle and then doing whatever we'd have to do to be prepared for whatever the next day would require, which could mean catching bait, tying flies, making leaders, getting chum, fueling the boat and always checking tides and the weather forecast.

Each morning, depending upon what we were fishing for and our clients preferences, the tackle we'd load on the boat might be anything from fly rods to medium-weight conventional rods and reels to light or heavy spinning tackle. What we'd be using at the end of our line would also vary from an endless array of artificial lures and flies to all kinds of cut or live bait. Though many of our trips were booked months in advance, others would sometimes be arranged just the night before which always had me scrambling to pull things together so that everything would be in order for our trip and I would be able to provide my clients with the best possible chance for success at whatever it was we'd be trying to catch in the morning. And

down in the Keys, with so many options and so much to be ready for, you can bet that every last minute booking translated into a late night of preparation.

Though the waters around Delmarva might not provide us with quite as many options as we find in the south, local anglers certainly have a pretty diverse smorgasbord of fishing opportunities to choose from that are constantly in a state of change as the season progresses. When you consider that in any given week someone might find themselves fishing for bluefish, flounder, tautog, sea bass, sharks, tuna, stripers, billfish, dolphin and any of a number of other fish that frequent our waters, it's easy to see how advance preparation is just as necessary a component for success here as anywhere else. You're not going to fish for tautog today and then go tuna fishing tomorrow without taking the time to make some serious modifications to bait, tackle and equipment!

Of course, "being prepared" means a lot more than just having the right bait and tackle aboard for a given trip. After all, the success of a fishing trip is not predicated solely upon whether or not fish were caught. Most anglers will likely recall absolutely wonderful fishing trips where

not a single fish was boated, just as they will other outings that were pretty much "miserable", even though they caught a lot of fish. To be properly prepared requires anglers to look beyond the fishing part of their trip and consider all the big and little things that might contribute to the success or the demise of an outing.

I've seen anglers hail trips as an amazing success for no other reason than because of the incredible food they brought along for lunch. Safety and comfort must always be taken into consideration, and if neglected, can ruin a trip in the blink of an eye. Anglers must always properly prepare for protection from too much sun, the bitter cold and the chance of rain. They should have adequate food, water, first aid supplies and fuel. They should also make sure that they have a boat of the right size and hull configuration to deal with whatever sea conditions might be encountered. Of course their boat needs to be reliable enough to get them to and from their destination without a glitch.

Being prepared also means being able to properly handle whatever might be caught during the day, which would include having the necessary gaffs, nets and de-hooking



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tools, as well as coolers with enough ice and holding capacity to properly chill anything the anglers might wish to bring home. Big things – little things, there is so much that goes into making a fishing trip a success, and only through advance preparation will it all come together smoothly out on the fishing grounds.

There's something known as "The Five P's of Task Accomplishment" that states "Prior planning prevents poor performance", which absolutely hits the nail on the head when it comes to pulling off a successful fishing trip. Anywhere I've ever fished, and no matter what kind of fishing was involved, I've come to know that the single most important thing an angler can do to help ensure a successful fishing trip is to prepare-prepare-prepare ahead of time for what they might encounter while out on the water.

So far I've only presented a rough outline of what type of things need to be prepared for without going into much detail about how to get it done. But don't worry, I won't leave you hanging – I have a plan! In the weeks ahead I'll use this column to go into greater detail about not only what needs to be taken into consideration when planning out a fishing trip, but also some ideas and tips about how to get it done. From the boat to the tackle, the bait and equipment. From tying leaders to following the tides. I might even go so far as to discuss a little about how to choose a good fishing partner which is an often overlooked but very important component of planning for and pulling off a successful fishing trip.

The new fishing season is upon – let's get ready for action!

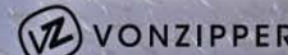
Mark Sampson is an outdoor writer and Captain of the charter boat, "Fish Finder", docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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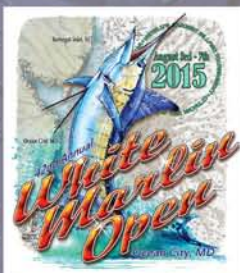
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Thank God for bluefish right now because cold water temperatures have delayed the influx of flounder to our local waters this season. Allen Hastings from Middletown, DE was soaking fresh bunker at Herring Point when he hooked this 32-inch, 8 lb. 8 oz. bluefish and weighed his catch at Bill's Sport Shop.

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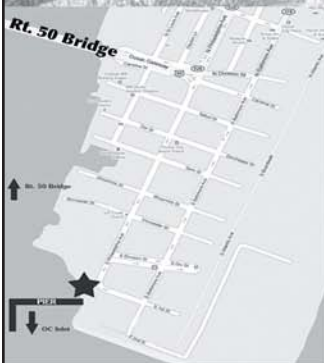
Sam Melendez is smiling on the inside after taking the trip down from northern New Jersey to spend the day fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. Sam was rewarded with a 15 lb. 11 oz. tautog hooked on a green crab on an ocean wreck off the coast of Delaware.

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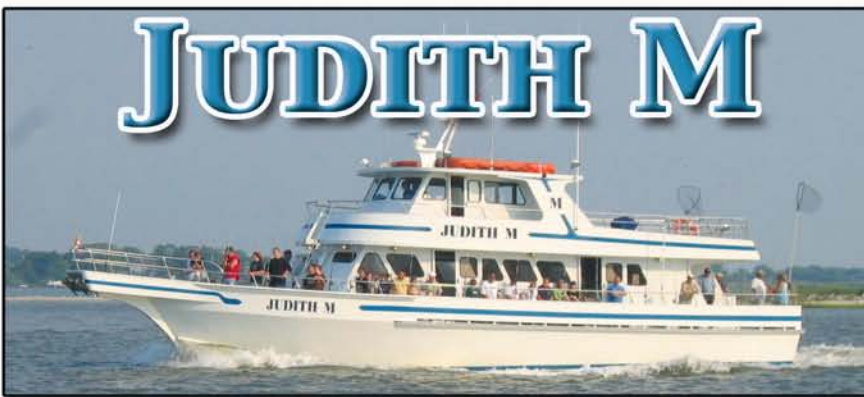
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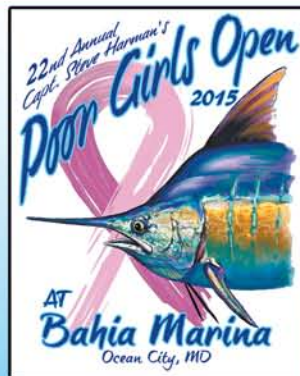
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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS




On February 7th, Chan Park was one happy angler after landing a personal best, 16 lb. tautog while fishing on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. The 27.5-inch blackfish was caught at an ocean wreck on a white crab.



Alfred Correnti was soaking fresh bunker from the beach beside the Cape Henlopen Pier when he hooked into this pair of bluefish weighing up to 9 lbs. 11 oz. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Frankie "Two Fingers" Graziano from Wilmington, DE and Chan "Tog Slayer" Park from Silver Spring, MD joined Capt. Monty "Reef Builder" Hawkins for some early season tautog and cod fishing on the headboat "Morning Star" and they came home with some really nice fish. Frankie led the way with cod weighing up to 8 lbs. and tog up to 12 lbs. The "Morning Star" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



An early season favorite to win "Heaviest Bluefish Landed in Delaware" arrived at the scale on April 22nd after Tony Ciferni of Dover, DE landed a 16 lb. 13 oz. chopper while fishing from a kayak at Cape Henlopen State Park. Tony used bunker to fool the 38-inch gator and weighed his catch at Bill's Sport Shop. Stay tuned to see if Tony's catch hangs on to the top spot!



After the *Coastal Fisherman* Winter Issue went to press, Staton Whaley, Nate Abercrombie and Noah McVicker caught stripers up to 27 lbs. while trolling at Little Gull Shoal with Capt. John Prather on the "Ocean City Guide Service". Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



When rockfish season opened in the Chesapeake Bay on April 18th, Craig Costantino of Berlin, MD was there to take advantage of it, landing this 47-inch while trolling mojo rigs in Tangier Sound. Craig was fishing with Bob Lemley, Jeff Bradford and Bob Anderson. The anglers caught their limit of 4 rockfish by 10:00 am with fish measuring between 43 and 49-inches.



On April 22nd, Mike Surowiec, Dan McGeady, Luis Mispireta, Nick Schwechtje, John Fryer, Bob Murphy and Lou Pennalla caught their limit of tasty tautog after dropping green crabs on Delaware Bay structure. The anglers were fishing on the charter boat, "Katydid" with Capt. Brent Wiest and mate Chris Vann. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Pat Coomes, Capt. Monty Hawkins, Chan Park and Frank Graziano show off some quality tautog caught while fishing on the headboat, "Morning Star". The tog were fooled with white crabs dropped on an ocean wreck. Pat's blackfish led the way, coming in at almost 17 lbs. Chan was not far behind with a 15 pounder and Frank's weighed in at 14 lbs. The "Morning Star" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Jake Lathroum from Ocean City, MD caught and released this sailfish during a trip to Stuart, FL this past winter with family members Angie, Spunky and Ali Lathroum from the "Reel Inn". The Lathroum's spent a day fishing on the Ocean City charter boat, "No Quarter" with Capt. Kyle Peet and mate Bobby Layton. During the season, the "No Quarter" runs out of Sunset Marina.

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At the end of January, this 17.5 lb. beast was muscled in by John Letizia from New York, NY during a trip aboard the "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. The tog was hooked on a green crab in 100 feet of water on a wreck near the Old Grounds.

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Clyde Hunter from Jessup, MD, Young Bae Yoon from Annapolis, MD and Mark Laurenzi from Potomac, MD landed some big tog back in February while fishing on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. The tog were caught on an ocean wreck while using white crab for bait. The fish weighed between 12 and 14 lbs. The "Morning Star" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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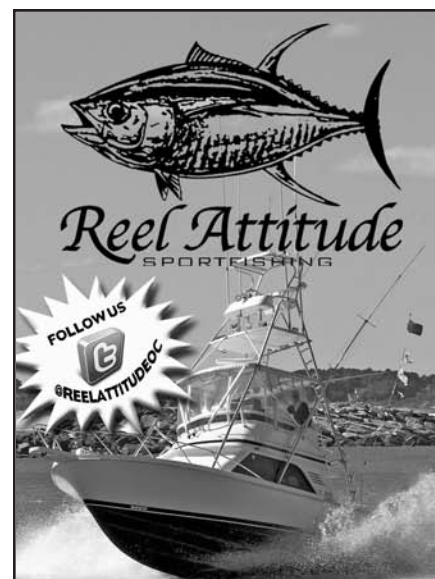
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Some local anglers took a trip to Makina, Guatemala where they released 44 sailfish during 3 days of fishing on the "Makina" with Capt. Juanga Lopez and mates Sapo and Luis Ramirez. Pictured with the crew are anglers Schrader Grady, Brooks Grady, Darren Helwig, Brandon Turner and Jonathan Mason.

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BAY FISHING CHARTERS



Gary German of Ocean City, MD is all smiles after landing an early season flattie while fishing in 3-feet of water just north of the Thorofare. The 19-inch flounder was caught at low tide in 60-degree water on a white Gulp! and shiner combination.



Tony Ciferni from Dover, DE shows off his catch of bluefish weighing up to 10 lbs. Tony landed the gators on April 23rd while fishing with fresh bunker from the beach at Cape Henlopen State Park. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop.

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- Names & towns of others in photo
- Species harvested
- Location of harvest
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- Turkeys - weight, beard & spur length
- Deer - antler points, score and/or weight (if available)
- Waterfowl - type, number of birds harvested, any banded?
- Any other interesting information about the hunt

KEYS TO TAKING A GOOD HUNTING PICTURE:

- Have the hunter face into the sun to minimize shadows
- Make sure the side of the animal is facing flat towards the camera
- Set your camera to the best quality and largest picture size available
- If you are using a cell phone, make sure it is taking photos at the largest setting possible
- Shoot vertical photos
- 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.

BAY FISHING CHARTERS



On the opening day of rockfish season in the Chesapeake Bay, Capt. Bob Lemley put his anglers on some really nice fish during a calm day in the Tangier Sound. Jeff Bradford muscled in this 49-inch rockfish after hooking it on a white mojo rig. The anglers, including Robert Anderson and Craig Costantino, finished the day with their limit of 4 rockfish between 43 and 49-inches.



Mike Snedaker from Selbyville, DE took advantage of the good striper bite in the Chesapeake Bay this spring, landing a 42-incher on a tandem rig off Deal Island, MD. Mike is pictured with his son, Colby "Saltwater Cowboy" Snedaker who gives his dad a "thumbs up" for his catch.

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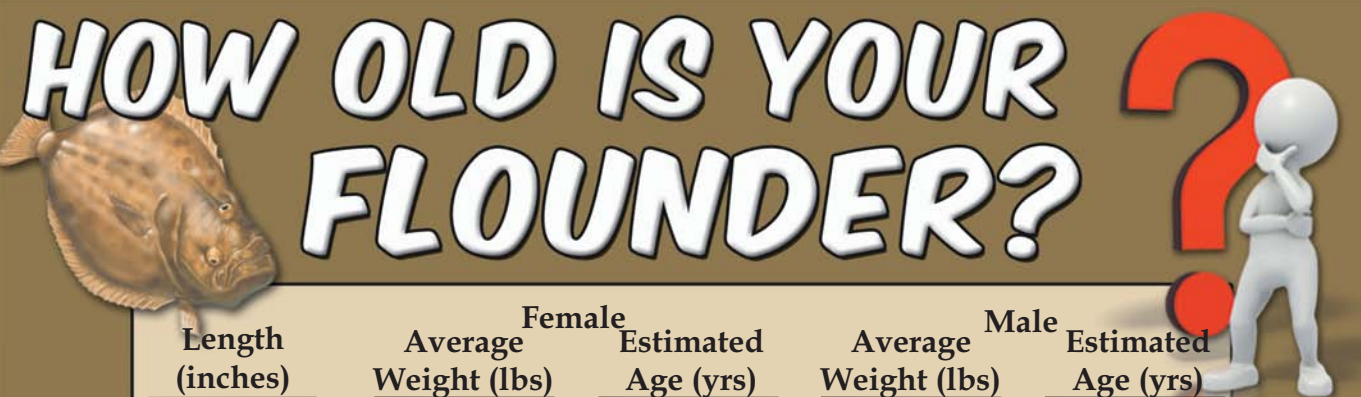
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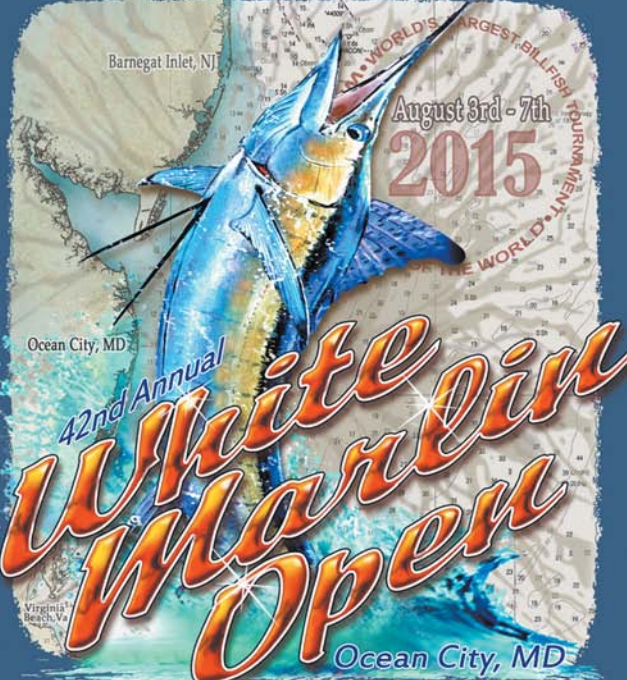
HOW OLD IS YOUR FLOUNDER?



Length (inches)	Average Weight (lbs)	Female Estimated Age (yrs)	Average Weight (lbs)	Male Estimated Age (yrs)
16.5	2.4	3.9	2.3	4.5
17.0	2.6	4.1	2.6	4.7
17.5	2.9	4.3	2.8	5.0
18.0	3.2	4.4	3.1	5.2
18.5	3.4	4.6	3.3	5.5
19.0	3.7	4.8	3.6	5.8
19.5	4.1	5.0	3.9	6.1
20.0	4.4	5.2	4.3	6.4
20.5	4.8	5.4	4.6	6.7
21.0	5.1	5.6	5.0	7.1
21.5	5.5	5.8	5.4	7.5
22.0	6.0	6.0	5.8	7.9
22.5	6.4	6.3	6.2	8.3
23.0	6.9	6.5	6.6	8.8
23.5	7.4	6.8	7.1	9.3
24.0	7.9	7.0	7.6	9.9
24.5	8.4	7.3	8.1	10.5
25.0	9.0	7.6	8.7	11.2
25.5	9.5	7.9	9.2	12.0
26.0	10.1	8.2	9.8	13.0
26.5	10.8	8.5	10.4	14.2
27.0	11.4	8.9	11.0	>15
27.5	12.1	9.3	11.0	>15
28.0	12.8	9.7	12.4	>15
28.5	13.6	10.1	13.1	>15
29.0	14.3	10.5	13.8	>15
29.5	15.1	11.0	14.6	>15
30.0	16.0	11.5	15.4	>15

Source: Northeast Fisheries Science Center

WORLD'S LARGEST BILLFISH TOURNAMENT



August 3rd - 7th
2015

42nd Annual
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Chase Patton, 4 years old, of Douglasville, PA was fishing from the surf at Herring Point when he landed a couple of bluefish (1 pictured) while using bunker for bait. Chase's largest chopper measured 30-inches. Photo courtesy of Bill's Sport Shop.



Some black drum have been caught by anglers fishing off Assateague Island this spring and Tom Nelson from Ocean Pines, MD has the distinction of landing the first one of the year. On April 17th, Tom caught this 30-inch, 20 lb. black drum while fishing with sand fleas. Congratulations, Tom.

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Capt. Brent Wiest on the charter boat, "Katydid" took Greg Warehime to an ocean reef last week and Greg was rewarded with this 7 lb. 6 oz. citation tautog. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Ed Golden put his tackle to the test after hooking this 13 lb. 5 oz. bluefish while soaking cut bunker in the suds at Broadkill Beach. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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This past winter, Josh Farr of Ocean City, MD boated this striped bass, estimated at over 40 lbs., while trolling mojo rigs off the coast of Ocean City.



This 28-inch, 15 lb. 2 oz. tautog fell at the hands of Shawn McCulley of Clifton Heights, PA while fishing with white crabs on ocean structure. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop.

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DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

BY LARRY JOCK



Welcome to another season of Delaware fishing reports in the Coastal Fisherman. We saw some excellent fishing out of Delaware last year, primarily with anglers hitting ocean structure in search of big flatties.

This year is off to a very slow start with water temperatures below normal, hovering in the upper-40's to mid-50's. Flounder are just starting to creep into local waters but fortunately, the tog bite on ocean structure is good and the chopper bluefish have really shown up in the surf. Actually, the bluefish bite off the coast of Delaware has been light years better than what we are seeing off Assateague Island. You would think the bite would be the same right up the coast, but that's not what we have seen.

We still haven't seen the stripers showing up along the coast on their migration to northern waters.

At Lewes Harbour Marina, Joe Morris said big blues were big news. Bluefish showed up this past week in numbers not seen for several seasons. Bunker have been plentiful and their abundance in the region evidently attracted migrating blues, keying in on the ample food supply. Bluefish pushed into the Delaware Bay and were reported as far north as Port Mahon. Anglers along Beach Plum Island did well also, with



On April 17th, Jeff Purdy of Lewes, DE captured the first flounder of the year in Delaware, landing 4 flatties in the Lewes Canal. The fish measured up to 19.5-inches and were caught on live minnows. Photo courtesy of Bill's Sport Shop.

the best action happening at the end of flood tide. Jim Haug told of a good bite on Broadkill Wednesday and Thursday. Mike Hacker had a 31-incher there. Ed Golden got a whopping 13.3 pound slammer on Saturday while soaking fresh bunker in the suds at Broadkill. Blues also made an appearance at the Roosevelt Inlet. Russ Norris and Bernie Robinson had fish measuring


up to 32-inches while baiting with bunker from the jetty rocks on Saturday. Ron Roark and his sons landed three fish weighing up to 10 pounds in the Broadkill River on Sunday. Bluefish also roamed the shallows inside Cape Henlopen. Both kayakers and beachcasters got into fish around the Cape Henlopen Pier. Alfred Correnti captured blues weighing 9.7 and 4.3 pounds while using fresh bunker from

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the sand between the Pier and the Cape on Friday.

Ocean surfcasters encountered blues from Cape Henlopen to Fenwick Island, as well as in the Indian River Inlet. They also moved way up into the Indian River. Joe said he checked in a 9.3 pound chopper on Saturday that Cameron Powell caught from the pier at Massey's Landing.

It would be great if bluefish remain in the area through the rest of spring and all summer like they used to. They provide great sport and offer opportunities for land bound anglers and boaters who enjoy trolling or chumming for the choppers.

Tautog action was pretty good on Delaware Bay structure, when boaters were able to make it out. Cold wind kept crews at the dock many days. Captain Brent had a group of diehard toggers that braved the breeze on Wednesday and were rewarded with their 27 blackfish limit while reef fishing on the "Katydid". Greg Warehime got a 7.43 pound citation tog during a trip aboard the "Katydid" on Saturday. On Sunday, Captain Brent put a citation 7.26 pounder in the box himself. Cool weather has kept water temps from rising much, and Bay water is still just above 50 degrees. With some sustained warmth, a blackfish bite should commence along the Breakwaters. So far, tog catches have been limited to wrecks at the mouth of the Delaware Bay and at artificial reefs, such as Sites 6 and 7 at Brown Shoal. Tog fishermen have relied on clams and shrimp as bait the



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last few weeks because crabs were very hard to come by since they hadn't been potting in extra cold water. However, Joe said green crabs are finally becoming available, and he should have them through the end of the season, that lasts until May 11th.

Chilly, windy weather also hampered the efforts of flounder fishermen trying to work the Lewes Canal. An occasional flattie was caught when the water was clean and boaters could get a decent drift, but it hasn't busted loose yet. There were a couple limits of flounder reported from the Canal when conditions were better last week, so the fish are there and should become active soon.

The annual Canal Flounder Tournament takes place Friday May 15th. Those interested in fishing the event can sign up with a \$25 cash entry fee at Lewes Harbour Marina.

At the Hook'em & Cook'em Tackle Shop in the Indian River Marina, John reported that bluefish are snapping off the beach and in the Inlet. Their bellies are full of bunker, so those fishing with finger mullet are having the best success. Clayton at Hook'em & Cook'em Outfitters in Bethany said that they also found them in the Back Bay chasing bunker in shallow water. When the bunker dump out of the back bays, the Inlet should really heat up with some good chopper action.

A few tautog are being caught in the Indian River Inlet as well. Fishing the North Wall during the incoming tide and the South Wall during the outgoing tide seemed to be the best strategy. Green crabs or white leggers are the baits of choice.

Unfortunately, only a few flounder have been caught in the Indian River Channel and in the Inlet and stripers have been hit or miss.

As air temperatures increase, getting more anglers on the water, and ocean and bay temperatures increase to get the fish moving in, we should see a lot of changes take place in the next few weeks.

Until next week, tight lines!

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A favorite of the *Coastal Fisherman*, Shirley German of Ocean City, MD traveled to Key Largo, FL with her husband Gary and captured this nice porgy while fishing on the "Sailors Choice" with Capt. Jamie (pictured). Shirley used a strip of squid to hook the fish on a natural reef.

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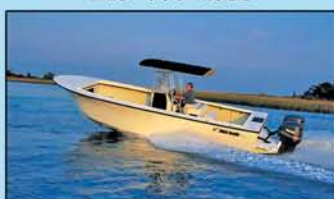
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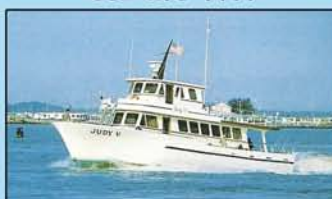
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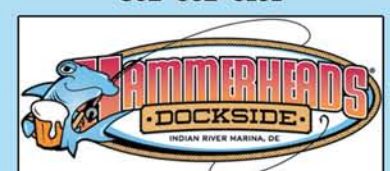
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3 pineapple slices
4 flounder fillets
Salt and pepper
1 ½ TBSP. extra-virgin olive oil
2 TBSP plus 1 tsp. lime juice
1 can (15 oz.) black beans, rinsed
½ cup cilantro, chopped
½ small red onion, finely chopped
2 TBSP. finely chopped jalapeno
8 corn tortillas (6-inch)

Preheat the broiler.
Arrange the pineapple on a foil-lined baking sheet.
Broil until lightly browned.
Let pineapple cool, then

chop.

Season the fillets with salt and pepper; rub with ½ TBSP. extra-virgin olive oil.

Arrange the fillets on a baking sheet and drizzle with 1 tsp. lime juice.

Broil until opaque and flaky, 8 to 10 minutes.

Toss the pineapple with the black beans, cilantro, onion, jalapeno and remaining 2 TBSP. lime juice and 1 TBSP. of the oil; season.

Using a fork, flake the fish and divide among the tortillas.

Top with salsa.

Serves 4.

Roast Sea Bass with Mushrooms and Baby Corn

1 ¾ lbs. sea bass fillets
2 tsp. chili powder

Salt and pepper
2 TBSP. olive oil
2 TBSP. dry white wine or water
3 cloves garlic, minced
¾ lb. shitake mushrooms, brushed clean, stemmed, and sliced
1 can baby ears of corn, drained and halved
4 green onions, including tender green parts sliced thin

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Sprinkle fish with paprika, and salt and pepper to taste.

Pour the olive oil and wine into a baking dish large enough to hold the fillets in a single layer.

Scatter the garlic over the bottom of the dish and place the fillets in it.

Arrange the mushrooms on top.

Roast 15 minutes.

Baste the mushrooms and fish with the pan juices.

Scatter the baby corn ears over the fish and continue to

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cook, basting once or twice, until the corn is heated through and the fish is opaque throughout, about 5 minutes longer.

Remove from the oven and garnish with the green onions.
Serves 4.

Seafood Kabobs

¼ cup lemon juice
¼ cup olive oil
3 tsp. snipped fresh dill, divided
½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. white pepper
1 ½ lbs any firm fresh fish, cut into 1 ½ inch pieces
18 uncooked large shrimp, peeled and deveined
18 sea scallops
1 each large green, red and yellow peppers, cut into 1-inch pieces

In a small bowl, combine the lemon juice, oil, 1 tsp. dill, salt and pepper.

Place the fish, shrimp and scallops in a large resealable plastic bag.

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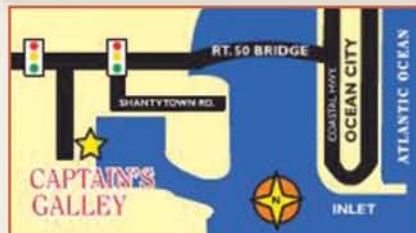
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Place the peppers in another resealable plastic bag.

Divide the marinade between both bags; seal and turn to coat.

Refrigerate for 20 minutes.

Drain and discard marinade.

On 6 metal or soaked wooden skewers, alternately thread the fish, shrimp, scallops and peppers.

Sprinkle with remaining dill.

Broil 6-inches from the heat or grill, covered, over medium heat for 4-5 minutes on each side or until fish flakes easily with a fork, shrimp turn pink and scallops are firm and opaque.

Serves 6.

White Wine-Steamed Clams in Packets

10 to 12 lbs. (about 100)

littleneck clams,
scrubbed

4 shallots, thinly sliced

8 cloves garlic, thinly
sliced

½ cup chopped fresh
parsley

2 cups white wine

2 ½ sticks unsalted butter,
sliced

Salt and pepper

Preheat grill to medium.

Make the foil packets.

Tear off twenty 20-inch long pieces of heavy duty foil.

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For each packet, stack 2 sheets of foil and pull up the edges to form a bowl shape; put about 10 clams in each packet.

Divide the shallots, garlic and parsley among the packets.

Drizzle each with about 3 TBSP. wine and top with 2 TBSP. butter and season with salt and pepper.

Gather the edges of the foil at the top and crimp to seal.

Place the packets on the grill; cook 10 to 12 minutes or until the clams open. (Discard any unopened clams.)

Serves 10.

Shrimp Pasta Alfredo

3 cups uncooked bow tie
pasta

2 cups frozen peas

1 lb. medium shrimp
cooked, tails removed,
peeled and deveined

1 jar (15 oz.) alfredo sauce

¼ cup shredded parmesan
cheese

In a dutch oven, cook pasta according to package directions, adding peas during the last 3 minutes of cooking; drain and return to pan.

Stir in shrimp and sauce; heat through over medium heat, stirring occasionally.

Sprinkle with cheese.

Serves 4.

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Grilled Red Drum Fillets

2 large red drum fillets
 ½ onion, sliced
 1 tomato, sliced
 ½ stick butter, sliced
 2 tsp. lemon pepper
 1 tsp. salt

Place fillets on a sheet of foil large enough to wrap them.

Place ½ of the onion slices under fillets and ½ over fillets.

Place sliced tomato over onions and fish.

Sprinkle lemon pepper and salt over all.

Wrap in foil and grill over medium-hot fire for 30 minutes.

Serves 2 to 3.

Baked Flounder with Feta and Tomatoes

1 TBSP. extra-virgin olive oil
 1 ½ cups chopped onion
 3 cups chopped tomato
 ¼ cup dry white wine
 2 tsp. fresh oregano,

divided
 1 tsp. red wine vinegar
 3/8 tsp. kosher salt,
 divided
 ¼ tsp. black pepper
 Dash crushed red pepper
 4 flounder fillets
 1 TBSP. chopped fresh parsley
 ½ cup feta cheese

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Heat a large ovenproof skillet over medium heat.

Add oil and onion; saute for 5 minutes.

Stir in tomato, wine, 1 tsp. oregano, vinegar, 1/8 tsp. salt, black pepper and crushed red pepper; bring to a simmer; cook 3 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Sprinkle fish evenly with remaining ¼ tsp. salt.

Place fish in the tomato mixture.

Bake at 400 degrees for 18 minutes.

Sprinkle with remaining 1 tsp. oregano, parsley and feta.

Serves 4



Dispite a picky tog bite, these anglers on the charter boat, "Reef Chief" ended their day with 15 in the box and 1 codfish after dropping white crabs on an artificial reef. Fishing with Capt. Chris Mizurak were Joe McNeal, Matt McLeod, Tyrone Waters and Bob Telford (not pictured). The largest tog weighed 11 lbs. 10 oz.

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BUCKTAILS TO BALLYHOO

BY CAPT. LANCE SMITH



Welcome to the 2015 fishing season everyone! As a new columnist for the *Coastal Fisherman*, let me introduce myself.

I, along with my father, have captained/mated aboard our boat the "Longfin" for the past 20 years or so. In addition to offshore fishing, if you ever see a white and green pontoon in the bay, with a big headed chocolate lab onboard, that's me fishing for dinner.

Don't get me wrong, I live for the explosion of a yellowfin on the flatline, or a white marlin's fin that magically appears behind a perfectly skipping ballyhoo on the short rigger, but I get my greatest enjoyment in life from teaching people who are interested in learning about fishing.

Offshore fishing, in a way, has brought me full circle back to my roots, fishing in the bay and on ocean wrecks. I still have the

task of preparing everything for a day's fishing, which sometimes includes my parents, three sisters, eight nieces and nephews and three dogs, but I actually do get to wind in fish! Sure, I still have to tie on hooks, untangle backlashes and occasionally pull errant hooks from human flesh, but there is just something about setting the hook on your own fish and bringing it to the net.

So as I plan to follow our fishing season's progression, both inshore and offshore through the summer, passing along to reader every tip and tactic I can think of, let us begin with tautog.

These hard fighting, delicious, structure oriented monsters will put your tackle, and your patience to the ultimate test. As I write this, the inshore artificial wrecks and reefs have been welcoming the first of these bucktooth beauties. They will invade the inlet and the bay and

can be caught from the shore at places such as the Bulkhead that runs from 2nd to 4th Street, the Eastern span of the Rt. 50 Bridge and around the North Jetty. If you have a boat that is capable of reaching the inshore reefs such as Russell's, Purnell's or the Bass Grounds, and you have a depthfinder, an anchor, a "must have" chart from the Ocean City Reef

Foundation (www.ocreeffoundation.com), and the desire to brave the chilly spring winds, you are soon to be addicted.

Location is the most important factor when it comes to consistently catching tautog. If you aren't directly over top of a wreck or reef, or directly adjacent to a bulkhead or jetty, you might as well not bother dropping a line. When you drop your baited rig (we will discuss this shortly) to the bottom, lift it up a foot or two and let it drop again. Do this in a circular motion with your rod until you feel something other than sand. If you are just pounding sand and you can't really feel any minor depth changes or hard substrate, move to another part of the boat or bulkhead. If you feel your sinker drop into a hole that is significantly deeper than the surrounding area, you are almost guaranteed to get a bite if the fish are feeding.

If you must cast out, such as off the North Jetty or from the bulkheads downtown, try to keep your casts as short as possible. Casting for tautog is the easiest way to get snagged. At the bulkheads, there is a drop-off of twenty feet or more just a few

yards from where you will be standing and it can be a difficult location to master. When fishing these locations, I prefer to use a heavier weight than usual so the current will not drag my rig into a snag. Cast out and let your rig sink to the bottom in free spool. Now, holding your rod as high above your head as possible, begin to slowly wind in until you feel the sinker touch rock or you feel the taut line of a snag beginning to form. Keep your line tight and leave it there until you get a bite. If you don't manage a bite within 5 minutes or so, it is possible to effectively "jump" your rig over the structure by using a hard hook setting action and winding like mad!

When it comes to anchoring, most professional "toggers" prefer a double anchor setup that allows them to more accurately position themselves over an area of hard bottom, and keeps the boat from drifting off of that exact spot. There are various anchors and anchoring methods out there but the simplest one I have found is a single anchor setup and a marker buoy. Wreck anchors can be used as well but should only be employed when the seas are mild. I like to cruise around in circles once my GPS has indicated that I have arrived at my destination and I drop a marker buoy on the highest looking spot. I'll then circle around and drop another buoy on structure that I can find within 20 yards or so of the first marker. This allows for some error in my anchoring scheme.

Once you have deployed

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your marker buoys, position the boat on top of them and allow yourself to drift off a hundred yards or so. By noting the direction of your drift you can then run up-current of the markers and set your anchor (length of rope, chain, scope, etc. determined by current and wind). Allow yourself to drift back toward your markers until you are able to come tight on the anchor and are sitting in a spot you believe is on top of hard bottom. This may take several attempts and can be frustrating at times, but if you are sitting over sand or have to cast any distance to reach structure, you are going to have a very long day. Sometimes simply letting some line out, tying the anchor off to a different cleat, or even turning the boats wheel over in one direction can change your entire fishing day.

Besides accurate anchoring, tautog require stout tackle. When I first started tog fishing in the bay I used my flounder rod. That setup was fine for the cooperative, sub-legal to legal size tog, but even with the heaviest line I could fill my reel with, I lost tautog that still haunt me. It was then that I purchased musky rods with conventional reels to add to my arsenal. Overkill? No. A 14" tautog can bend a stiff musky rod in half, hang you up in the rocks and leave you telling stories of the 15 pounder that got away.

Conventional levelwind or other open-faced reels, spooled with 30 to 50 lb. braid are the go to set-ups for tog. Spinning gear will work, but when fighting current/tide, the ability to thumb the spool and keep your bait in the strike zone with a baitcaster is the way to go.

Bait consists of crabs, crabs, and crabs. You can use clams but this will often attract unwanted species such as dogfish sharks. Any species of crabs that you can catch locally will work with green crabs being the most available type for purchase in local tackle shops. Sand fleas are also an excellent bait for tog when fishing from the Inlet and north within the bay. Always purchase twice the amount of crabs that you think you will need. As you are about to find out, tautog are notorious bait thieves.

Once you have located
Continued on Page 48

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Page 48 Coastal Fisherman April 29, 2015
Bucktails to Ballyhoo, cont'd.

structure and successfully anchored over it, whether it is an inshore reef, the South Jetty or the rocks off of Martha's Landing, put your patience and trigger finger on hold. Connect a 3 to 5-foot leader of 50 lb. mono to your braid utilizing a line-to-line knot or a swivel. At the bottom of the leader, attach a 4 to 8 oz. bank sinker (depending on current) using any knot with which you are comfortable. Approximately 12 to 16-inches above the sinker, tie a surgeon's loop (a VERY simple knot you can find anywhere on the internet) or another comparable knot to form a loop. At this point you can use a loop-to-loop connection to attach a #3 to #5 blackfish hook (sold at every local tackle shop by Shur Strike) with an extra long shank to your leader. You can also use short shanked, octopus style hooks in the same size range by cutting one end of the surgeon's loop and snelling the hook on to the remaining tag end. Basically, any bottom rig, with any knots you know, with sufficient weight, a properly sized hook and a leader that will withstand constant

abrasion will do.

So, if anchoring correctly or finding a suitable location to fish from shore seemed difficult, you may find hooking your first tog to be on the verge of impossible! When tog feed on mussels and crabs, they first crush the bait with their front teeth; suck the whole mess in and attempt to spit out the shells (and your hook). The correct time to set the hook on a tog is somewhere in the middle of this jumble of taps, tugs and pulls. Some larger tog will simply thump the bait and take off, almost ripping the rod from your hands, but typically, the bite is much like that of a sunfish or bluegill pecking at a worm. You may miss him a few times, but keep re-baiting and dropping your rig back into the same hole until you get a hook up. I typically wait until the third tap on my line at which point I engage my reel, wind in any slack until my rod tip almost touches the water, feel for a bit of weight on my line, and then swing up hard for the hook set. If the fish is there you must begin reeling immediately. If you attempt to engage your reel after the hook set, or drop your rod tip

any without winding, the fish will either hang you up in the rocky bottom or spit the hook. You must win the first 10 seconds of the fight or be prepared to re-bait or re-rig if the fish drags you back into its lair.

Tide, current and water temperature also play an important role in catching tautog. In the early spring, look for fish in the bay to be near structure such as the jetties which are dark in color and retain the sun's heat. Also, try to fish during the outgoing tide as the waters flushing from the muddy flats of the bay will be warmer this time of year. Current, whether fishing from shore or anchored ten miles off the coast, can put tog either on or off the bite. Too much or too little current and they may not bite at all in the same place that you caught a hundred the day before.

Perhaps most importantly, regardless of these other variables, is water clarity. Although not nearly as dependent on sight for feeding as flounder are, when the tide changes one way or the other and the weeds in the current disappear, the bite can become fast and furious for a short period

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of time.

If you don't have access to your own boat or a friend's, or you don't want to fish from the shoreline, you can try one of Ocean City's many headboats. The "Morning Star", "Judith M" and the "Angler" all fish for tautog at one point or another during the season. Just call ahead and ask if they have any tog-specific trips lined up. If you already have some knowledge of this fishery and you are looking to gain some more experience or target some larger fish, there are some smaller charter boats such as the "Fish Bound" and the "Reef Chief" that specifically target these fish on ocean structure.

Whether you are dropping your crab next to a barnacle encrusted piling or a coral covered railway car 100 feet down, once you land one of these incredible fish you will be back for more. So keep your knots tight and your green crabs juicy, and just maybe we'll see your smiling mug in the next issue.

Lance Smith is an outdoor writer and Captain of his family's boat, the "Longfin".



Ocean City Marlin Club

2015 Tournament Series



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<p>6th Annual Memorial Day Tournament <i>To Benefit the Catherine & Charles Kratz Memorial Foundation and Scholarship Fund</i> Chairmen: Franky Pettolina & Terry Layton Registration: May 22, 6:30pm Captain's Meeting: 8:00pm Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 23 & 24 Weigh Ins: May 23 & 24, 4:00-6:30pm Awards Banquet: May 24th 6:30-9:00pm</p>	<p>36th Annual Small Boat Tournament Chairmen: Bill Regan, Boz Jefferson & Colin Campbell Registration: June 19, 6:30pm Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 20 & 21 Weigh Ins: June 20 & 21 3:00-6:30pm Eastern Shore Style Crab Feast: June 21, 6:30-9:00pm</p>	<p>33rd Annual Canyon Kick-Off Chairman: Dave Birkett & Franky Pettolina Registration: July 2, 6:30pm FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 3, 4 & 5 Weigh Ins: July 3, 4 & 5, 5:00-7:30pm Awards Banquet: July 5, 6:30-9:00pm</p>	<p>11th Annual Kid's Classic <i>To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation</i> Chairmen: Dale Withers & Gerard Ott Registration: July 17, 6:30pm Fishing Days: (1 of 2 of 2) July 18 & 19 Weigh Ins: July 18 3:00-6:30pm, July 19 3:00-6:00pm Sunday Carnival & Awards: July 19, 5:00-8:00pm EVERY ANGLER RECEIVES AN AWARD!</p>
<p>7th Annual OCMC Ladies' Tournament "Heels & Reels" <i>To benefit the OCMC Auxiliary Scholarship Fund</i> Chairmen: Franky Pettolina & Amanda Shick Registration: July 30, 6:00pm Captain's Meeting: 8:00pm Fishing Days: (1 of 2) July 31 & August 1 Weigh Ins: July 31 & August 1, 5:00-7:30pm Awards Banquet: August 1, 6:30-9:00pm</p>	<p>57th Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament Chairmen: Franky Pettolina, Steve Poore, Bob Wimbrow & Bill Fenwick Registration: September 3, 6:30pm FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS Captain's Meeting: 8:00pm Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 4, 5 & 6 Weigh Ins: September 4, 5 & 6, 5:30-7:30pm Awards Banquet: September 6, 6:30-9:00pm</p>	<p>37th Annual Charles Kratz & Scott Smith Challenge Cup Chairmen: Jon C. Duffie & Andy Helms Registration: September 17, 7:00pm Fishing Days: (2 of 2) Sept. 18 & 19, No weigh-ins Italian Night: Sept. 18, 6:30-9:00pm Awards Banquet: Sept. 19, 6:30-9:00pm Invitation Only</p>	<p>3rd Annual OCMC Rockfish Tournament <i>To benefit the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital</i> Chairmen: Colin Campbell & Jeremy Blunt Registration: December 4, 6:00pm Fishing Days: (5 of 9) December 5-13 Weigh Ins: December 5-13, Time: 3:00-5:00pm Awards Banquet: December 13, Time: 5:00-7:30pm</p>

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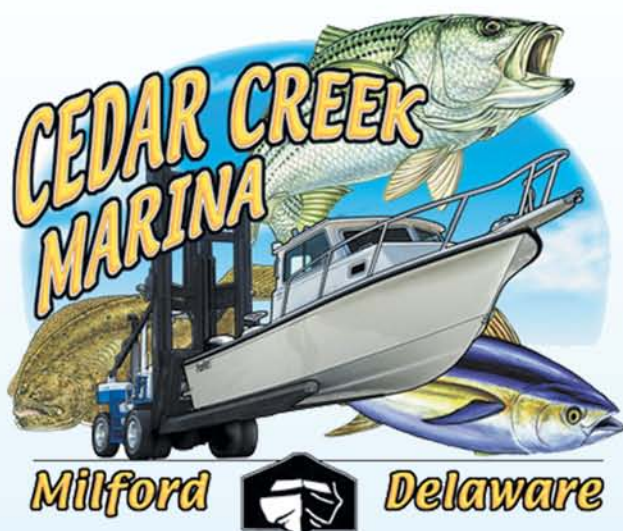












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BY STEVE KATZ

STEVE'S MARINE SERVICE



Modern marine electronics are not needed to signal that spring has arrived. A drive through the local marinas will confirm everyone is getting their boats ready for the fishing season. After this winter's record breaking cold weather, some extra checks are needed before heading out to sea.

Always on the top of my list are the boat's batteries. Partially charged batteries can easily freeze, damaging them permanently. A fully charged battery should test or read 12.65 volts. Anything less is a concern and should be investigated. Other battery tests can and should be conducted if the battery seems to have a problem or is not taking a charge. A traditional load test or the conductance testing should be done. A

conductance test is often available at battery retailers at no charge. This is a quick test that reports the capacity in cold cranking amps (CCA) or similar rating and often gives a status of the batteries health. If you think you have a faulty battery, it should be replaced, allowing for a trouble free summer.

A quick note on battery types, cranking batteries are made to supply a lot of power in a short burst (to start an engine). Deep cycle batteries are designed to supply moderate power for a long duration (to supply electronics). Unlike starting batteries, deep cycles batteries can withstand the effects of continual deep discharge and recharge.

Another critical area to be checked this spring are the

bilge pumps, especially after the deep freezing this past winter. Each bilge pump should be checked for operation on manual mode and on automatic mode. Also check the discharge hoses to be sure the hoses and fittings have not cracked.

Moving up to the helm and your navigation electronics, now is a good time to connect and power up each piece of equipment, (NOTE fishfinders/sonar transducers should not be powered on while out of the water.) Turn on your VHF radio, conduct a radio check, listen to the marine weather and be sure all functions are operating properly and that your transmission and reception are loud and clear. Check the GPS signal reception on your chart plotter and navigation equipment and review built-in or ad-on chart electronics. Review your waypoints, confirming that all of your data is still there from last year. Operate the radar briefly,

confirming the system is picking up and displaying targets as expected and that they are plotted on the screen in the proper orientation.

Since last season, most of the marine electronics manufacturers have released updated software for many types of hardware. While it is not always mandatory to update your equipment's software, you should ask a marine electronics technician to check for and install software updates as necessary. You can also contact the manufacturer to determine if a software update is available and is needed. If you have added a new component to an electronic system, a software update is often mandatory for proper functionality.

While it may seem obvious, now is a great time to install a new or replacement transducer while your boat is out of the water. Transom mount, thru-hull or in-hull, there are many transducers that can improve your existing



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sonar.

A CHIRP style transducer is a popular upgrade this spring, with many different styles available, such as tilted element thru-hull for smaller and midsize boats and pocket mount (into the boats hull) for larger boats. If adding a CHIRP transducer, the display unit needs to be CHIRP compatible, either using an add-on sonar module or one of the modern displays that have CHIRP capability built-in.

Also this season, side view or down view transducers are popular, often complimenting the traditional fishfinder sonar. Combined with a matching display unit, these high frequency transducers (up to 800kHz) display an image of objects (hopefully fish) in the water both below and/or to the side of the boat. The higher frequency transducers have shorter wavelengths and more cycles per second, producing a more detailed image but at a reduced range as compared to

traditional frequencies. Originally popular with freshwater fishing, where searching for bottom structure is important, the technology has moved to saltwater, allowing boaters to "see" the water off to the sides of their boat and provide "photographic type" imaging of the water column below the bottom of the boat, often identifying the baitfish that attract larger fish.

Whether in Ocean City, Maryland, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida or Miami, Florida, this winters boat shows were an opportunity to see and learn about many new marine electronic products. If you missed anything, I will review some of the new products in the weeks to follow.

Captain Steve Katz is the owner of Steve's Marine Service and holds NMEA, AMEI and NMEA2000 certificates along with ABYC Master Technician certification and factory training from many manufacturers.

April 29, 2015 Coastal Fisherman Page 51



Capt. Kyle Peet and mates Travis Brown and Bobby Layton (not pictured) muscled in this giant bluefin tuna that weighed 435 lbs. dressed while fishing in 500 fathoms at the Point in North Carolina aboard the charter boat, "No Quarter".

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After working hard all season at their tackle shop, Lewes Harbour Marina, Capt. Joe Morris and his wife, Amanda love to spend some time in the Keys where Joe caught this brilliant blue parrotfish on a piece of cut bait and Amanda landed this vividly marked black grouper with light tackle on a Hawk Channel patch reef. Interestingly, Capt. Joe isn't employing the full "Lewes Harbour Stretch".

Calling Volunteers To Fish Maryland Ocean Reefs



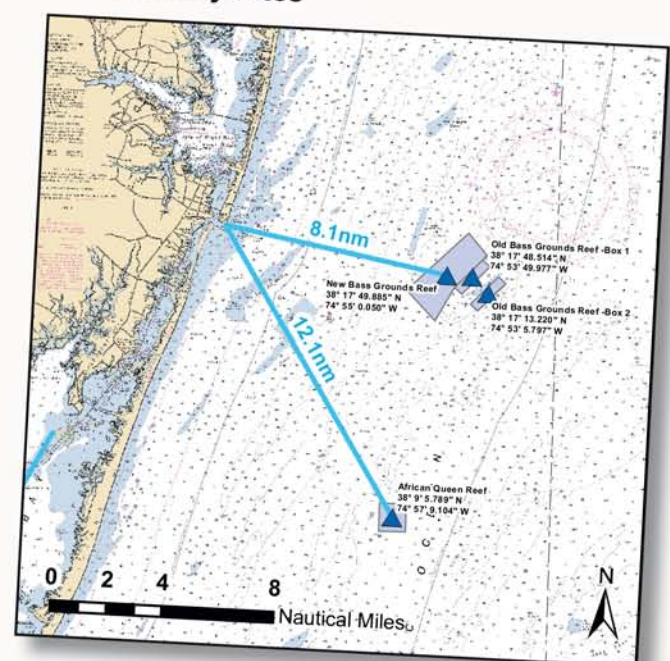
Can you....

1. Participate in a webinar training on May 21st at 6 pm?
2. Fish on one of these sites?
3. Make at least 1-2 trips per month over June-July-August?
4. Fish at least 1 hour on each trip?
5. Measure fish that you catch?
6. Report EVERY trip?
7. Get a Free Hat!

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2015 Survey Sites



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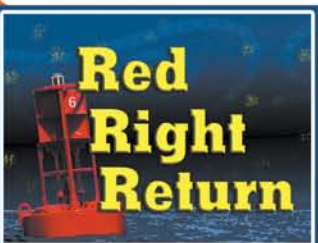
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- 2015 - 210 LXF Tan & White with F150XA Yamaha 4 Strokes
- 2015 - 210 LXF Horizon Blue & White with F150XA Yamaha 4 Strokes
- 2015 - 210 LXF Ice Blue & White with F150XA Yamaha 4 Strokes
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52 CEMETARY ROAD • SELBYVILLE, DE



Local angler, Monica Freese took a trip this past winter to Los Suenos, Costa Rica with her husband Ryan and was fishing with Capt. Howard Lynch on the "Tuna Bite" when she released this blue marlin on a 30-wide Shimano reel

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Terry and Jill Layton from Ocean City, MD had a great time fishing with their friends, Jimmy and Jennifer Fields in Costa Rica this past winter. The group landed this sailfish, one of 32 hooked during 2 trips aboard the "Trophy Box" with Capt. Ronnie Fields.



Back in March, Paul Turner of PT's Marine in West Ocean City, MD took some time off to head to the Keys where he hooked this big barracuda while fishing the back waters with Frank Goodhart and Capt. Mark Sampson.

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Could there be a new King in town? Last winter, Mike Matha of Berlin, MD ventured down to Greenbackville, VA and landed this 51.5-inch striper while trolling tandem rigs off the coast, south of the Sugar Lumps. Mike was fishing with Dr. Oswaldo Nicastro.

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VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

BY DR. JULIE BALL
I.G.F.A REPRESENTATIVE



At last! Catches are improving most everywhere as the spring fishing scene finally comes to life.

Tautog was still the biggest draw last week, as the bite within Bay waters continues to sizzle. But don't wait too long to target these fish since the season closes on the 1st of May. Excellent catches are coming from the structure and pilings of the Bay Bridge Tunnel and several lower Bay wrecks. Anglers using fiddler crabs and blue crabs are experiencing steady action, with easy limits of fish ranging from around 4 to 8-pounds. Scattered catches to 10-pounders are also coming from these same areas. Larger tog continue to come from offshore, deep water wrecks, but the action is much slower, with both sea bass and cod also competing for offerings on

these structures. Sea bass will remain out of season until May 19th.

The flounder bite is still emerging in lower Bay waters. Scattered keepers are rewarding those who put in their time along the Eastern Shore seaside inlets, Oyster, Magothy Bay and Back River Reef. Some decent flatfish ranging up to around 21-inches are coming from both Rudee and Lynnhaven Inlets on strip bait and minnows. This action should continue to improve as the water warms up.

Red drum remain active along the barrier islands of the Eastern Shore, with some nice fish taking offerings mostly among the breakers off Smith and Fisherman's Islands. Peeler crabs, blue crabs and bunker fished on the bottom will give you a chance at

tangling with a bull red. Although the action is not hot yet, the red drum bite will only improve over the weeks ahead. Some smaller black drum are also hitting in these same areas.

The lower Bay Rivers are giving up good numbers of croaker, while Little Creek, Ocean View and Buckroe anglers are finding medium-sized hardheads on bloodworms and squid, especially at night.

Casters working the surflines along the oceanfront are also finding some willing croaker recently, along with some nice snapper-sized bluefish. Big bluefish also thrilled anglers within Rudee last week. Puppy drum are hitting in Rudee, Lynnhaven, and Little Creek Inlets on topwater lures and grubs.

Folks will likely show little

interest when the Bay trophy striped bass season begins on May 1st, but if you plan to target these fish, be sure to get your Trophy striped bass permit and review the changes in this year's rockfish regulations.

Tilefish, grouper, black-bellied rosefish and other deep water bottom species are still available in water over 50 fathoms near the Canyon. As the dogfish begin to move out this month, more boats will venture out to try their luck.

Offshore action is heading our way as boats running to Carolina are finding a mixed bag of yellowfin tuna, blackfin tuna and bluefin tuna. Gaffer mahi are beginning to show, along with scattered wahoo. A few boats from Virginia will test some warmer water moving into range near the Cigar this week in hopes of finding tuna.

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

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Schrader Grady from Prince Frederick, MD caught this bull dolphin while fishing in Los Suenos, Costa Rica on the "Tuna Bite" with Brooks Grady, Darren Helwig, Bill O'Neil and Capt. Howard Lynch.



In March, local angler Frank Goodhart caught and released this tarpon while fishing in the back waters between Big Pine and Key West with Paul Turner and Capt. Mark Sampson.

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	<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"	14 lbs. or 33"	Hammerhead *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Blue Marlin **	Any Size	Any Size	Mako *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Cobia	44"	-	Thresher *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	Tiger *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	Tuna:		
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lbs. or 32"
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 36"	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"	30 lbs. or 40"			

* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program

*** Use curved-fork-length measurements

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



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These local anglers ventured down to Hatteras, NC to do some bottom fishing on the "GodSpeed" and were rewarded with 6 golden tilefish, 1 grouper and several blackbelly rosefish. All of the fish were caught while dropping baits in 160 fathoms. Pictured are Dave Oliphant, Ray Brehm, Danny and Dean Bichner and Andrea Wilson.

Pick Up Your Coastal Fisherman At These Locations

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Oceanic Fishing Pier

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Park Place Hotel - 3rd Street

Wockenfuss Candy - 7th St. Boardwalk
Layton's Restaurant - 16th Street

Bahia Marina - 22nd Street
28th St. Pit & Pub

Anthony's Beer, Wine & Deli - 33rd Street

Minit Market - 33rd Street
Dough Roller - 41st Street

Advanced Marina - 66th Street
Dough Roller - 69th Street

Exxon Wine Rack - 86th Street
Layton's Restaurant - 92nd Street

Coffee Beanery - 94th Street
Oyster Bay Tackle

7-Eleven - 120th Street
Wawa - 120th Street

OCEAN CITY (cont'd)

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TIDES & MOON PHASES

OCEAN CITY INLET

Wed. April 29	Low 11:40 am Low -----	High 05:34 am High 05:55 pm
Thurs. April 30	Low 12:01 am Low 12:19 pm	High 06:11 am High 06:35 pm
Fri. May 1	Low 12:47 am Low 12:54 pm	High 06:49 am High 07:16 pm
Sat. May 2	Low 01:28 am Low 01:26 pm	High 07:28 am High 07:56 pm
Sun. May 3 Full Moon	Low 02:06 am Low 01:58 pm	High 08:07 am High 08:36 pm
Mon. May 4	Low 02:43 am Low 02:32 pm	High 08:48 am High 09:16 pm
Tues. May 5	Low 03:21 am Low 03:09 pm	High 09:28 am High 09:55 pm
Wed. May 6	Low 04:01 am Low 03:50 pm	High 10:09 am High 10:36 pm
Thurs. May 7	Low 04:44 am Low 04:35 pm	High 10:51 am High 11:18 pm
Fri. May 8	Low 05:33 am Low 05:26 pm	High 11:36 am High -----
Sat. May 9	Low 06:26 am Low 06:23 pm	High 12:05 am High 12:28 pm
Sun. May 10	Low 07:21 am Low 07:25 pm	High 12:59 am High 01:27 pm
Mon. May 11 Last Quarter	Low 08:18 am Low 08:30 pm	High 01:59 am High 02:33 pm
Tues. May 12	Low 09:15 am Low 09:37 pm	High 03:04 am High 03:42 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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... MAY ...

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... JUNE ...

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**36th Annual Marlin Club
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33rd Annual Marlin Club Canyon Kick-Off
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PRICE REDUCED
\$4,000,000

RAVAGANZA - 2008 70' Jarrett Bay
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SHIP'S CAFE - 1987 60' Merritt
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\$1,895,000

BLUE DOG - 2006 64' Caison
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NEW PRICE
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REEL AFFAIR - 2001 55' Ricky
Scarborough - Call Jeff James



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1988 58' Monterey
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WHY NOT - 1992 45' Ricky Scarborough
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FULL CHOKE - 2002 38' Jarrett Bay
Express Custom Carolina - Call Jeff James



\$259,900

KILLER WHALER - 2008 34' Boston
Whaler - Call Gary Stamm



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8 LURES - 2006 41' Luhrs Convertible
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NEW PRICE
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MISTRESS - 2008 33' Albemarle
330 Express - Call Jeff James



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NATURAL ABILITY - 2006 32' Carolina
Classic - Call Steve Trattner



MAJOR PRICE REDUCTION
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PEGASUS - 1998 48' Ocean
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SEA ROBIN - 2000 28' Carolina
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