

Priceless

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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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The tuna are here and early! Perhaps it was the mild winter we had or lack of big spring storms, either way lots of captains have been watching the water temps itching to get out. Owner of the "Full Service" Brendan Barbey saw an eddy forming in the Baltimore Canyon and decided to make a run last Friday. The crew of Capt. Jim Barbey, Jim Bugg, Yanni Harris, Jordan Ayers and Jeff Rosenkilde ran 60 miles out into 300 fathoms. They were just setting the spread when Jeff connected with this 95 lb. bigeye that hit a good old cedar plug with a blue & white Ilander at 5:27 AM! While they did find some nice temperature breaks in the low to mid 60's, this was the only bite for the day.



George Sauer from Snow Hill, MD finished April with a bang! He fished the surf off of the Virginia side of Assateague Island and caught 4 stripers and 2 black drum. Three of the rocks were over 40" with the largest at 46". Sand fleas did the trick that day.



The black drum were snapping up and down the coast this week. Bob Morris caught at Tower Shores, DE which is just south of the 3 R's. Fishbite clams was the weapon of choice!



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The crew of the "Pier Pressure" were all smiles last Saturday! After a slow start in the morning to fix their trailer, they got on the water by 2:30PM and fished the Poor Man's Canyon until sunset. It was worth the effort when angler Charlie Watson connected with this eyeball that hit on their Sterling Tackle Wide Tracker. This was the 2nd bigeye tuna caught this season and at 113.2 lbs., it is not our Heaviest for the season! They also landed the 2nd yellowfin tuna! Rounding out the crew were Capt. Ray Novak, Tony Seen, Bill Johnson, Alisha Burger and Ray Novak Sr. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Greg Pepper from Ridgely, MD has a solid grip on these two flatfish that he caught with Preston Wells! The pair were fishing the back bays of Ocean City with minnows and white Gulp on the "One More Drift". The largest was 21".



May Day was the day for Vance Atkins of Frankford, DE! He spent the 1st on the sand at the 3 R's and landed this currently 'in the slot' 33" rockfish using sand fleas.

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THE Offshore Report

by Larry Budd

This Week Last Year

- A big Nor'easter parked its self off the coast for 4 days. The Mother's Day Storm as it came to be known ravaged the beaches from Cape Henlopen to Assateague. It also pushed what little warm water that was headed our way east and south.
- Calvin Malone beached and released a rare 5 foot shortnose sturgeon in the surf at Assateague Island.
- Capt. Brent Wiest set a new DE State record with a 20.48 lb. tautog he caught at an ocean structure.
- The weather and cold canyon waters kept the battlewagons in their slips.
- The flounder action in the Thorofare was good for those able to get out around the wind and weather.

What a difference a year makes. This time last year we were in the middle of what would become to be known as the Mother's Day Nor'easter of 2022. The storm pummeled the beaches up and down the coast for 4 days, taking a lot of the beach and dunes away with it. It also had lingering effect to offshore fishing. It was still early in the season for the canyons to be active, but some warm water was seen north and west from the gulf stream prior to the storm. After the blow the warmer water had been pushed west and south. Some say this storm was a major contributor to the difficult offshore season we had all of last year.

Fast forward to this year. On Friday of last week, I was anticipating my report and fully expected to be discussing what we were hearing from captains

on when they expected to go out. Instead, I got several calls for 'First Fish' of the season catches offshore! The first came from Sean Welsh, owner of the "Restless Lady", who let me know about a boat out of Sunset Marina that went out and had an early hookup. The crew of the "Full Service" headed 60 miles out into the Baltimore Canyon and found nice temperature breaks ranging in the mid 60's. They were still in the process of setting their first spread for the day when they got a hit at 5:27AM on a cedar plug and a blue & white Ilander. The sun was barely up when angler Jeff Rosenkilde grabbed the rod with the crew, still unsure of what they had on the line. It did not take long for them to figure out they had a bigeye on the line, and since it hit on a 50, it only took 45 minutes to get the 95 lb. eyeball to the boat. So congratulations to the crew for landing the first bigeye tuna of the season and about a month earlier than usual! I had at this point slotted this fish as the current Heaviest for the season, but as I soon learned, that was not to be the case!

Several other crews ventured out over the weekend, most last minute like "Full Service". Saturday saw Capt. Chris Little on the charter boat "Talkin' Trash" head out to the Poor Man's Canyon from the Ocean City Fishing Center. They fished in 400 fathoms and were finding 65° water. They went deep

dropping and had a productive day landing 9 golden tilefish and 3 rosies. They changed tactics when they found a nice weed line and saw two mahi! Angler Brad Hubbard of Bel Air, MD was able to get one on the line and earned the title for First Mahi caught for the 2023 season! However, as they say, the day wasn't done.

I mentioned that the early bite was cited a few times this week as when anglers were getting hits. So it was natural that the crew of the "Pier Pressure" made plans to drive down to Ocean City from Baltimore in time to get in the water by 3AM Saturday morning. Well, a faulty wheel bearing on the trailer had a different idea and shot a big hole in that plan! Undaunted, Capt. Ray Novak and crew spent the early morning hours fixing the trailer and got in the water finally by 2:30 PM, almost 12 hours behind schedule. They fished in the Poor Man's Canyon until just about sunset and were rewarded with 2 nice catches, a bigeye and a yellowfin tuna. The eyeball weighed in at 113.2 lbs. at the Ocean City Fishing Center making it not only the 2nd bigeye of the season, but the current heaviest.

Sunday saw another set of nice catches. Capt. Keith Kaler and crew on the "Reel Chaos" fished both the Poor Man's and Baltimore Canyons where they found 65°-68° water. They were trolling plastic baits on a wide tracker spreader bar and tricked two yellowfin, one from each canyon! Sunday also saw the largest tuna catch of the week from the "Hocus Pocus". Capt. Yanni Harris also headed to the Poor Man's and fished in

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 100 fathoms, finding 64° water. They were using spreader bars and managed an incredible 5 yellowfin tunas! As if that were not enough, they found a big weed line with a 5° temperature break and tons of mahi. They were able to snag a nice one.

And finally, a little closer to shore, a pending DE State record was for tog was caught! Angler James Milano of North Babylon, NY headed out to an ocean structure with Capt. Joe Azato on the chart boat "No Limit" and landed the 22.9 lb. record fish. This beats the previous record only set last year!

So overall a good weekend for those that ventured out. With these reports and a nice forecast for next weekend, we expect a lot more action is coming!

Until next week, keep sharing your catch with us by emailing or texting to CoastalFisherman@comcast.net! I will be at my son's college graduation this weekend, but after that I will see you at the docks! §

Upcoming Tournaments

- The **Lewes Harbour Marina** will hold the Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament on May 19th. This event raises awareness for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. For more info check Facebook or call (302) 645-6227.
- **Old Inlet Bait & Tackle and the Delaware Fisherwomen** will again be hosting the Cast for a Cure Surf Fishing Tournament on May 20th. This event benefits the Tunnell Cancer Center Special Needs Fund. More at OldInlet.com.
- The first offshore contest of 2023 is scheduled for Memorial Day Weekend, May 27-28. **The 14th Annual Franky Pettolina Memorial Day Tournament** is sponsored by the Ocean City Marlin Club. Weigh ins will be at Sunset Marina's Tournament Scales from 4:30-7:00pm each day. More at OCMarlinClub.com.



The tuna have arrived! Shortly after our report of the 1st bigeye tuna for 2023, we got word from the "Kilroy" out of the Ocean City Fishing Center that angler Chris Kroh hooked into the first yellowfin tuna. This 36" and ~30 lb. yellowfin hit first thing in the morning on a ballyhoo just outside of the Poor Man's Canyon. It was the only hit for Capt. Tyler Storm and fellow anglers Charles Storm and Thomas Tyler.

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Saltwater author John Unkart did some 'research' at Assateague Island last week and found a good morning bite. He went 2 for 3 on stripers with both over 40" and largest at 4 feet! He also reported there were black drum and bluefish in the surf, all hitting on live sand fleas with Fishbites Sand Flea Strips.

You don't always have to get in a boat to catch some nice fish! Johnny Lee from Salisbury, MD nabbed this 17" tog off the rocks by the Cambria Hotel in Ocean City using live sand fleas from Fenwick Bait & Tackle.

	2023 MARYLAND · DELAWARE · VIRGINIA			CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES			
	MD	DE **	VA	MD	DE **	MD	
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	8 lbs. or 22"	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"	35 lbs.
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	80 lbs. or 46"	Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"	30"
Black Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	5 lbs.	White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"	16 lbs. or 36"	SHARK:			
Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size	Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Cobia	44"	45 lbs. or 48"	55 lbs. or 50"	Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	3 lbs. or 20"	Thresher*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	25 lbs.	Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	6 lbs. or 26"	Swordfish	47"	Any Size	100 lbs.
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	30 lbs.	TUNA:			
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	1.5 lb. or 16"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"	40 lbs.
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	20 lbs.	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"	32"
Red Drum*	36"	45"	-	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Sailfish*	Any Size	-	-	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"	100 lbs. or 60"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	10 lbs. or 24"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	4 lbs. or 26"				
Speckled Trout	24"	-	5 lbs. or 24"				
Striped Bass	40"	44"	44"				
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	9 lbs. or 23"				

* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program
 ** DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release
 *** Use curved-fork-length measurements



We often look to the Eastern Shore of Virginia to get a glimpse of what is headed to the Maryland and Delaware waters. That's why we are glad to see catches like this one. Michael Lupiwok Jr took a drive down south from Berlin, MD to fish with CL Marshall of "Tangier Sound Charters". Michael caught this 21" speckled trout on peepers in Crisfield, MD, a good sign of things to come!

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Sometimes you need a good luck charm or just your golfing buddy to break a dry spell. Richard Parker's last keeper was in the paper 2 years ago. This year on his 1st trip out he took his golf buddy Greg Abate out to the Thorofare to try their luck using a squid/shiner combo on the outgoing tide. Only one bite, but this 17" flounder counted!

J.R. Griffith from Milford, DE caught some nice fish while working the beach off of Assateague Island. This 41" rockfish was caught and released using sand fleas. J.R. also released a 40½" striper as well.

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The brothers Hutchison from Bethany Beach, DE are even now! Last year we reported Brian's sailfish catch and this year we are happy to report Brandon caught his first sail on a family trip to Jupiter, FL this past winter. Brandon caught this 67" sail in only 180 feet of water on the "Double Trouble" with his dad John and brother Brian. The group also boated some yellowtail snappers for tacos!



Most think of flounder as a summer time catch, however there is a winter species that can be caught in the winter months. Angler Jerry Postorino snagged this 20" flatfish in late January while fishing with Capt. Chase Eberle on the "Tide Runner". They were fishing a local wreck in 100' of water using white crab.

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FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Cooler weather means colder water inshore. Due to the cool down the fishing was slower than previous weeks. Anglers who put in the effort and time did manage to catch some nice fish though. New regulations as to FIN (fisherman identification numbers) and new federal size restrictions for rockfish (31 inches maximum) are coming to our waters. I discussed these in the Delaware Report this week so be sure to check them out.

Tog & Bluefish

Tog fishing remains pretty good with many anglers catching a few to bring home for dinner. This year I am seeing even more anglers releasing the big 10 plus pound fish so they can breed.

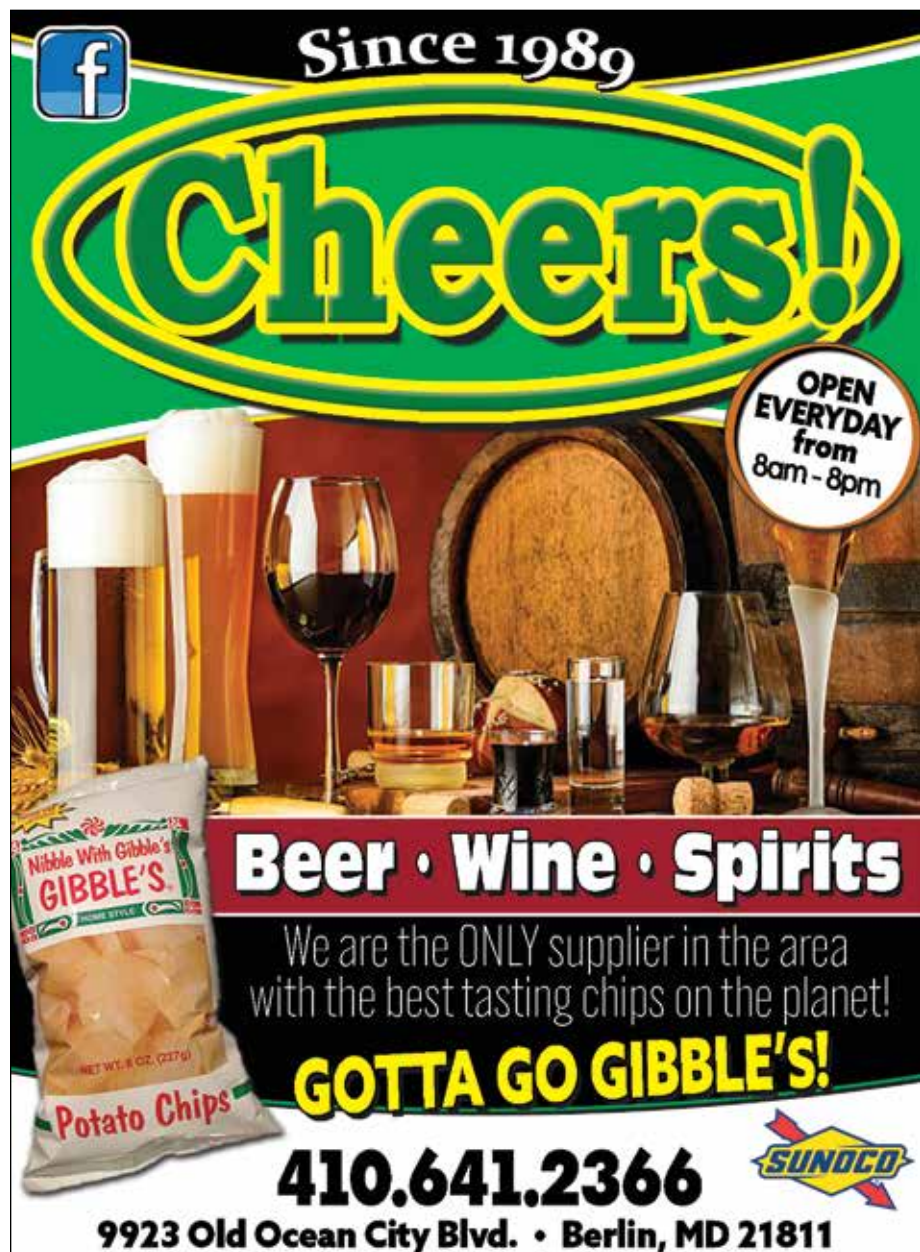
It is great to see our anglers taking an interest in the future of our waters and the protection of its resources. "Just a Toy Sport Fishing" returned to the docks with some happy anglers. Limits of the elusive blackfish were had by all. That's some good eating for dinners to come. Kelly Keliz fished with Kane Bounds on the charter "Fish Bounds" and despite big storms, wind and hail they did manage a great catch of a massive tog. Kelly reports the fish was released and swam away strong. Great catch and even better release. Dennis Muhlienforth fished later in the week with Kevin and Kane and hooked some really nice tog on nearby wrecks. Hunter Tipon fished

away from the fleet at the Rt. 90 Bridge and came home with two fish for dinner. The tog bite has been mainly on green crab as well as sand fleas. Just a reminder to anglers, tog are notorious bait stealers and careful attention must be paid when fishing for these fish. Most of the time if you delay setting the hook at the first sign of a bite the fish will be gone, and so will your bait. Tautog season closes May 16th. I have received a few reports of small and medium bluefish both in the surf as well as on the near shore wrecks. Cut bait as well as squid and clam are the best baits.

Black Drum & Rockfish

The start of the black drum season has been good. The beaches are producing fish all along the Maryland coast. Sand fleas have been the best bait with clam and crab as a close second. Assateague Island has been a big producer for drum. Eric Field was on the beach and got a nice medium size drum last Thursday. The incoming tide just past a slack low was the correct time to be on the beach. David Moore had a productive day fishing the south end of Assateague Island. He caught a 42" striper as well as 2 black drum. David was out earlier in the week with Morgan Mericle and Russell Lederman and pulled in a striped bass just over slot. David really seems to have the surf dialed in, great job. Both the rockfish, as well as the black drum run is in full swing on the island and now is the time to target these fish. A fish finder rig incorporating a sliding sinker followed by a leader of 5-10 feet of

www.coastalfisherman.net fluorocarbon and ending in a 6/0-8/0 circle hook is the normal set up for these fish. Bait consists of fresh clams if they can be found, cut blue crabs or peeler crabs, and sand fleas. This year anglers have been putting a piece of Fishbites on the hook along with the sand fleas and have been doing surprisingly well for both species. Fishbites now offer flea, shrimp, clam, and other flavors in their product. Most tackle stores in the area have started stocking up on these due to the demand. Amazon is a good alternative if local shops are sold out. But please support our local shops first and when doing so you can usually pick up a few tips on where and when to target the fish. Scott Phillips also got in on the striper runs at Assateague and drug a 40" fish onto the beach. Quick pictures were taken, and the fish was released to be caught another day. Gary Harmison snuck out after work one evening and hauled in a huge striper from the surf. Clams and crabs are doing the trick for most anglers on the surf. Gary, like others, returned later in the week, and again, had a great morning catching another big fish. It really seems like these fish are moving through the area right along the shoreline, so now is the time to get out and catch a once in a lifetime fish. As always, Shaun and Morgan were out with Big Bird Cropper and caught several blues and a nice 31" rock near the Rt. 50 Bridge. Do you Roy Rig? I heard of a few other anglers who fished the two bridges in Ocean City who caught decent size blues and small rock on cut bait and paddle tails. These fish stage just inside of the eddy behind the pilings waiting for bait to be swept by. The bluefish will be in the middle to upper water column with the rockfish closer to the



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bottom. So adjust the depth of your bait accordingly with the fish you want to target. Cut bait on a circle hook, fished off the bridge is a good bait to use, however many anglers opt for a swim bait for a livelier action. Roy Rigs, Deadly Duo, Salt Strong or just about any heavy swim bait will work. If a live spot is available this will be the best bait to use. Many times, while fishing the bridge in the evening, I can outfish even experienced anglers. Spot when bought at a tackle shop are expensive but definitely worth the cost. Using a sabiki rig on a light line with small pieces of shrimp on any dock will usually get you a few to save money. A portable aerator will keep the bait alive for a few hours as you fish. If you plan on fishing the bridge invest in a drop net or bridge net to bring your catch up from the water. I have seen many anglers lose big fish trying to crank them up to the bridge. Flounder have slowed down this week as have the crab count in traps due to the cold weather. Hopefully next week will bring warmer water and better catches.



Until next week...
Tight lines and fins up \$

So many First Fish this week! Anthony Carrieri with Tori Kramer were fishing the south Ocean City Jetty with sand fleas on the "Stella Marie" with Capt. Vince Cannulli when they caught this surprise sheephead! The 15" and 1.8 lb. convict bucked the norms showing up almost a month earlier than usual!

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Scott Phillips did not have to wait long for action on Assateague Island! He caught this 40" striper on his first catch using peeler crab and sand flea Fishbites!

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This is the first report of a red drum we have received. Michael Lupiwok, Sr. snared this 36" one near Crisfield, MD using a Rumble Fish lure. He was fishing with Mike Lupiwok on "Tangier Sound Charters".



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FIRST 2023

Fish of the Year

(AS REPORTED TO THE COASTAL FISHERMAN - MUST BE OF LEGAL LIMIT AND REPORTED WITH PHOTO)

Species	2023	2022	Species	2023	2022
 Bluefish	April 19 Dave Moore Assateague Island	April 26 Morgan Mericle South OC Jetty	 Thresher Shark		May 20 Mike Eid "HotLine" Fingers
 Black Drum	April 3 Jeremy Zinn 145th Street, OC	March 29 Jay Phillips Assateague Island	 Bigeye Tuna NEW	May 5 Jeff Rosenkilde "Full Service" Baltimore Canyon	June 12 Richie Widmayer "HotLine" Baltimore Canyon
 Cobia		June 11 Numen Bilal Fenwick Island Beach	 Bluefin Tuna		May 17 Andrew Dietz "Take Em" SE Poor Man's
 Summer Flounder	March 27 Dakota Bittner Thorofare	April 3 Scott Lenox Thorofare	 Longfin Tuna		June 5 Chad Tingle "Sea Bear" Wilmington Canyon
 Sea Bass		May 15 Jeremy Michalski Jack Spot	 Yellowfin Tuna NEW	May 6 Chris Kroh "Kilroy" Poorman's Canyon	May 17 James Haren "Take Em" SE Poor Man's
 Sheepshead NEW	May 5 Anthony Carrieri Ocean City Jetty	June 4 Blake Gunther OC Inlet	 Dolphin NEW	May 6 Brad Hubbard "Talkin' Trash" Poorman's Canyon	May 29 Adam Davidson "HotLine" East of Poor Man's
 Striped Bass	April 15 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	April 20 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	 Swordfish		June 4 The Crew "Espadon" Poor Man's Canyon
 Tautog NEW	January 31 Josh Schwemlein Ocean Structure	March 27 Michael Guigley Stinky Beach	 Blue Marlin		June 13 The Crew "Rhonda's Osprey" Poor Man's Canyon
 Wahoo		June 30 Tim McCartney "Chasin Tides" Hot Dog	 White Marlin		June 6 Kevin Gibb "WRECKER" Baltimore Canyon

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



It's good to take a kid fishing and remove an invasive species! 10 year old Kamron Henderson of Millsboro, DE caught this 36" and 32 lb. blue catfish in the Nanticoke River. Pictured with his brother Terry Abreu.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Dave Caffrey of "On the Run" Charters put anglers Houston Frey, Donnie Dicus, Cara Washington along with Terry and Patrick Klug onto some nice fish. The group worked the Thorofare to find these 5 keeper flounder.



Our own Virginia fishing reporter Matt Abell with Sea Hawk Sport Fishing on the Eastern Shore of VA got his little buddy Nick from New York onto his 1st keeper flounder. A whopping 23 inches!

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FISHING CHARTERS



Judith Schaible from Millsboro, DE hooked into a nice fattie in the bay behind Assateague Island. She was fishing with Capt. Jason Mumford on the "Lucky Break" using minnows on the outgoing tide.



Capt. Chris Mizurak on the headboat "Angler" got his crew into some nice tog fishing last weekend. Jim Choi snagged his limit of blackfish with the largest at 8 lbs.

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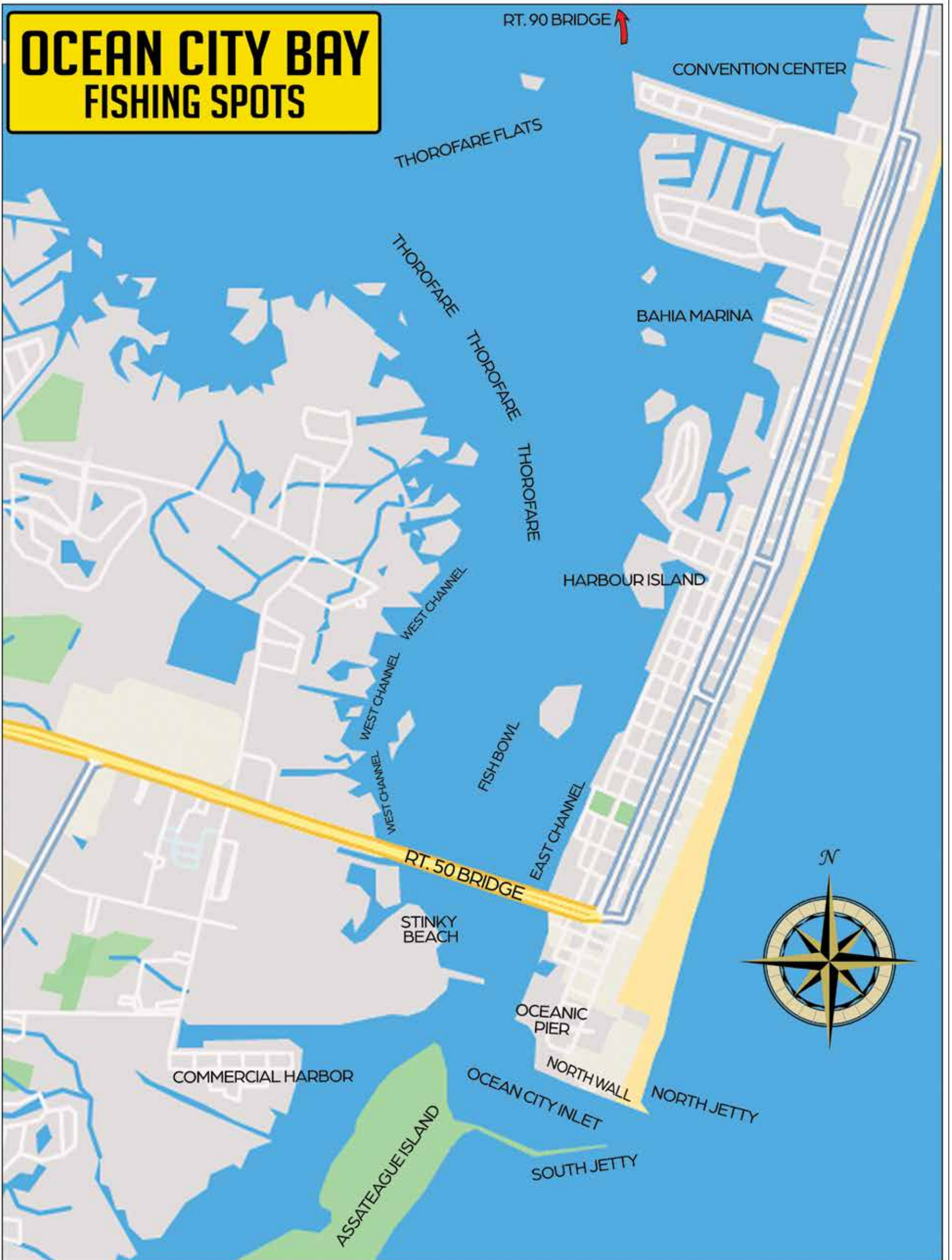
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FISHING CHARTERS



Records are made to be broken, and that is just what James Milano of North Babylon, NY did last week. He was fishing with Capt. Jon Azato on the charter boat "No Limit" out of the Indian River Marina at an ocean structure when this tog hit on white crab legs. The beast tipped the scales at 22.9 lbs. and measures 34" in length with a girth of 24"! This blackfish is now a pending Delaware state record besting the previous one set last year by over a pound. Sharing the adventure with James were Gary Yearwood, Norman Katrobos, Rodney Miller, Jason Larson and mate Terry Hartlaub. James' Wife Kelly was also aboard and she holds the Womens IGFA record for tautog for the 18 lb. fish she caught last year! Pictured at the Indian River Marina.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Kane Bounds had a busy week on his charter boat "Fish Bound". Over his four trips, all his anglers got to their 3 per man limits and released 9 jumbo tog despite having to move around a lot. Largest for the week was at 16 lbs.



The Thorofare in Ocean City has been a hot spot this spring for flounder. Mark Watson and Ted Pike from Virginia got in on the action while fishing with Capt. Dave Caffrey from "On the Run" sport fishing landing these 2 using Gulp. Pictured at Bahia Marina.

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FISHING CHARTERS



The headboat "Angler" had beautiful weather for it's summer season opener last Saturday. Capt. Chris Mizurak reported that anglers caught a mix of tog with most throwbacks and 9 keepers up to 9 lbs. Sea bass were in the mix, but they will need to wait until the 15th!



Capt. Jason Mumford and mate Ethan Nock on the charter boat "Lucky Break" put anglers Peter, Karen & Mary Arrabal from Cincinnati, OH and Clara Robbins of Eldersburg, MD onto 2 keep flounder up to 22" and a nice 17" tog. The flounder were tricked by minnows and Otter Tails. The tog hit on green crab. All were caught at the South OC Jetty.

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Kelly Stephens and Tuna & Tiara's Pam Taylor got into some great sailfish action this past winter. They were on the west coast of Costa Rica to participate in the Los Sueños Triple Crown Ladies Tournament on the "D.A. Seas". On this day Kelly hooked into a sailfish that put on quite a nice show!

2023 MARYLAND REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY



BLACK SEA BASS
13" minimum / 15 per person/day
May 15 - December 11



BLUEFISH
8" minimum
3 per person/day or
5 per person/day Charter



BLACK DRUM
16" minimum
1 per person/day up to 6 per boat/day



COBIA
40" minimum
1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/15
Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers



CROAKER
9" minimum
25 per person/day



RED DRUM
18-27" minimum
1 per person/day



SHEEPSHEAD
4 per person/day



SPECKLED TROUT
14" minimum
4 per person/day



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16" minimum
4 per person/day



TAUTOG
16" minimum
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2 per person/day 7/1 - 10/31
4 per person/day 11/1 - 12/31



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by Steve Katz



Time in Type

The beginning of a new fishing season always brings new boats, new captains, new mates, and new boat owners. These are not always "showroom" new boats or the first day on the job, but often a new boat, a mate turned captain, or a weekend angler turned full time charter mate. In the above examples, our egos and time "hanging out" at the marina often convince us that we are prepared for the new role onboard a sport fishing boat or even a weekend family bay boat.

Except for the maritime Standards of Training and Certification of Watchkeeping (STCW) credentials for seafarers working on board commercial vessels such as offshore fleet, tankers, ferries and passenger vessels, there are not many hands-on requirements testing for operating or working on a pleasure boat or even a 6-passenger type charter boat. Yes, the proverbial "Captains License" is a popular and

critical credential, though USCG testing does not require a hands-on "sea test" like a vehicle driver's license test. On-the-job experience and hands-on training are critical for the non-commercial boating and fishing activities. As a "Captain" operating your boat safely in all conditions and ensuring the safety of your passengers is of course the most important task while on the water. When it comes to fishing, knowing how, where and what to catch is important whether it's for a fun family trip or as a charter boat crew where the customers are looking forward to a memorable fishing trip. This fishing experience is just as important as other on-board jobs.

Parallels in Aviation

The aviation world has many similarities to the boating world and a popular aviation phrase draws parallel to our maritime needs - "Time in Type"

In Aviation, "the number of hours in your logbook

does not determine if you are a good pilot" though total flight hours is a popular measuring stick for pilots. Every year pilots with thousands of hours of flight time find ways to be involved in accidents. Turns out many of these experienced pilots were transitioning to new airplane types - both more complex and less complex. This is why the FAA and other international aviation licensing bodies require "time in type" where there is specific training time required in a specific type of aircraft to legally fly the aircraft.

Many non-pilots may

understand that operating a more sophisticated aircraft requires a lot of learning, though some may not realize that flying a simpler aircraft requires training too. These simpler planes have many manual systems that must be operated by the pilot versus the automatic systems in a more modern aircraft. For example, a simpler plane requires the pilot to manually turn on the heat to the pitot tube vs an automatic heated tube in a sophisticated aircraft - knowing this is a big deal since an iced pitot tube can adversely affect accurate velocity readings.

This aviation parallel of "time in type" carries over to pleasure boats. Whether it is the propulsion system, steering system, fuel systems, bilge pumps or navigation electronics -



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learning the way these systems work on each boat is of utmost importance for a successful and pleasurable time on the water.

New Beginnings

Just like in aviation, an older boat may require more manual intervention than a newer boat. For example, an older boat may have a complex system of valves and or pumps that need to be operated to transfer fuel or allow fuel to flow to the engine tanks, whereas a newer boat may have an automatic fuel system or even been

designed with larger tanks that don't require any fuel transfer systems. If your experience is with a modern Viking sportfish and you are now running a custom Carolina boat - you may need to manually retract the trim tabs when fishing as compared to the automatic tab systems on modern Vikings.

Operating the marine electronics on a new boat may not be as intuitive as an older boat that has a few screens, often new boats have complex systems behind the scenes

presenting the navigation and fishing information on the captain's displays, requiring many switches and breakers to be turned to their proper position. Additionally, many manufacturers are incorporating virtual switches (in place of mechanical switches) on the chartplotters or dedicated screens. Something as simple as turning on the navigation lights or operating a bilge pump manually is not as intuitive

as it once was in an older or less sophisticated boat.

How to Learn

Here is a good example of learning: A long time proficient mate recently moved up to a captain's position on a boat he had never fished or operated, the boat is 30 years newer and much more sophisticated than he was experienced with. The boat owner has a busy travel schedule that didn't allow for downtime to take the time to learn as

continued on Page 33



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A mahi was caught in the Poor Man's in May! Capt. Chris Little on the charter boat "Talkin' Trash" decided to make a run last Saturday and threw together a crew last minute. They ran about 60 miles into the Poor Man's Canyon where they found water up to 67°s in 400 fathoms! Brad Hubbard saw two dolphin lurking under a weed line and caught one to earn the title of First Mahi for the season. Fellow anglers Zach Little, Don Isaac, Pete Weaver, Brian Skillman and Jim Frazetti also bagged 9 golden tilefish, 4 tunnies and 4 rosies.

2023 DELAWARE REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - December 11</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH No minimum size 3 per day / 5 per day Charter</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 3 per person/day</p>	 <p>COBIA 37" Minimum • 1 per person or vessel</p>
 <p>CROAKER 8" Minimum • No Limit</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 20-27" minimum 5 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD No limit</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 12" minimum No creel limit</p>
 <p>28-31" Coming! STRIPED BASS 28-35" except 20-25" only from 7/1 - 8/31 in DE Bay 1 per person/day Catch & Release only from 4/1 - 5/31 on Spawning Grounds</p>	 <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 16" minimum 4 per person/day</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

eregulations.com



Modern Engine Compartment with Sonar

Continued from Page 29

you go. This new Captain was not the least bit shy to immediately reach out to other captains with similar boats and those industry professionals familiar with that model boat and ask for tips and training before he began traveling on the tournament circuit. This allowed him to get accurate and relevant information for his exact boat and allowed him to become proficient very quickly. Unfortunately, there are some captains who don't do this and learn a little at a time, though when something unexpected comes up the repair or fix takes longer than expected due to inexperience with that boat.

If you are buying a new boat, often the boat dealer or manufacturer has orientation classes to familiarize you with the model and options included in your boat. The manufacturer often functions as a support

department, helping you along the learning curve. When you buy a second-hand boat, often the sales staff or manufacturer are not as helpful due to lack of training or resources, in this situation it's often best to reach out to others with similar boats or those trades people familiar with your boat.

Same goes for fishing mates, there are a lot of different types of fishing techniques and learning on the job might be too frustrating for charter guests or owners - it's best to learn from a more experienced crew, even if it means riding along on another boat to learn a technique that's new to you.

Working on improving your "Time in Type" when it comes to boating and fishing is a lifelong pursuit, keeping an open mind will help you learn and improve for all on-the-water adventures. §



There have been some serious threats to the DE State record for tautog this year, including a new record. Dave Tibbett came close with this 20¼ lb. blackfish he caught at an ocean structure with Capt. Carey Evans on the charter boat "Grizzly".

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

MAY

Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament
May 19 • Lewes Harbour Marina • 302-645-6227

Cast for a Cure Team Surf Fishing Tournament
May 20 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974

14th Annual Franky Pettonlina Memorial Day Tournament
May 27-28 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

JUNE

2nd Annual Blues for D.U.

June 2-4 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

3rd Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament
June 16-17 • Ocean City, MD • 410-212-7159

School's Out Tuna Tournament

June 21 - 25 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

8th Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament
June 24-25 • Indian River Marina • 302-227-3071

44th Annual OCMC Small Boat Tournament
June 24-25 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

5th Annual Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam
Kayak Fishing Tournament

June 24-25 • Ocean City, MD • 410-868-5488

JULY

41st Annual Canyon Kick Off

June 30 - July 2 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

MidAtlantic Cup

July 4 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

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36th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament

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For complete tournament coverage results, pick up the Coastal Fisherman every week from May through September or go to our website at www.coastalfisherman.net



Bid Bird Cropper is already adjusting to the upcoming reduced rockfish limits. He used his trusty Roy Rig to hook this 31" striper at the south Ocean City Jetty. For now the coastal slot remains 28-35" but recent rulings by the ASMFC will require MD, DE and VA to reduce this to 28-31" no later than July 2nd. So striper hunters should follow us to stay up to date!

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DELAWARE

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Last week saw a definite cool down both in the air temperatures as well as the water. Rain and strong wind storms kept many anglers off the water and beaches. Tog still remains pretty strong as the season comes to an end along with lots of by-catches of sea bass which is set to open on May 15th. Small rockfish are in the back bays along with some flounder. On the beaches and in the Delaware Bay, black drum and over slot rockfish are beginning to make an appearance.

New Regulations

I will start this issue clarifying some recent changes to our fishing regulations. First is the matter of FIN, or Fisherman

Identification Number. All anglers fishing the Delaware waters will need to have acquired a FIN from the state, even when fishing on a vessel with a vessel fishing permit. FIN numbers are free and can be obtained by visiting the web site : www.delaware-fin.com or by calling the free/automated number: 1-800-432-9228. It is my understanding that law enforcement will be checking all persons on each vessel, not just the owner/ captain this summer.

The second change is that as of July 2nd the slot for rockfish will become no less than 28" and a max size of 31". Yes, folks this is a 3 inch slot. The ASMFC mandate will be on the entire east

coast. It is believed that the Chesapeake Bay will not be required to follow this guideline, but at this time confirmation from the state of Maryland or ASMFC could not be obtained. If this is the case, it seems a little silly to not include the main spawning area of the striped bass for this reduction. The current regulation for the Atlantic Ocean is 28"-35". The Chesapeake Bay is currently having their trophy season with a minimum size of 35". This season goes from May 1-15. From May 16 - July 15 their season calls for one fish with a minimum size of 19 inches and no maximum size. This may be subject to change once the final guideline is confirmed.

Near Shore Wrecks & Reefs

The near shore reefs are still producing some decent catches of tog. Many anglers targeting tog are also reporting good catches of sea bass. Sea bass season is currently closed but opens on May 15. The current regulation for the upcoming season is May 15-Sept 30 with minimum size of 13 inches and a creel limit of 15. The added change to this regulation is that scup (porgy) possession limit will drop from 50 to 40 per day. We seemed to have made out with these limits compared to other states that are decreasing catch creel limits as well as longer closed seasons. Tony Walls caught 3 tog near Indian River Inlet all around 15". All the fish were released unharmed. Greg Ruditys reported some good trips on the "Double Trouble Charters"

with many anglers bringing home keeper tog. Katie Kazimir was out at Site 11 on the "Hall'N Ass". The group released a lot of fish and managed to bring a few home for dinner. The fish bite turned on in the afternoon and the bait of choice was green crabs. Dave Tribbet joined a select group of anglers that can say he released a 20 lb. tog. His fish was 20.4 lbs. Great job by Captain Carrie as well as angler Dave Tribbet for releasing a trophy fish so it can breed again. Captain Carrie is out of Lewes Harbour Marina in Lewes. David Farkas was fishing Indian River and caught a few tog on green crab.

Flounder

Flounder, which started off very strong, appears to have slowed down with the temperature drop last week. Anglers did still manage a few to bring home for dinner.

Tom Passwater brought home 3 keeper fish with "Bad Wind Charters", weeded through a bunch of shorts but did manage to get a limit. They went out later in the week and again brought home fish for dinner. All were caught in the Indian River area.

Rockfish & Black Drum

The surf has been the best area for both rockfish and black drum.

Michael Wankmiller was on the DE/MD line when he caught an over slot 45" rockfish off the Fenwick surf. The fish was caught on sand fleas. Charles Ritter went out for a couple hours and was rewarded with a 37" striper. Fish was released unharmed. Jimi Labita was fishing the Indian River Bay and pulled a nice 30" striper. Ryan West was also fishing the inlet and brought in a couple small rockfish.

Henry Busby was fishing the beach just south of IR and pulled a rockfish out of the surf. Gary Harmison pulled a big over slot fish out of the same beach area as Henry. Mark Gilch was on the Delaware Bay and pulled a 40.25". Robert Wilkerson was fishing sand fleas on the beach and caught a nice black drum for dinner. Jon Smith pulled a 20 lb drum out of the surf on May 1st. Sand fleas and clams have been the best baits this past week. Delaware Bay has not yet started to produce the big breeders it is known for. A few fish have been caught but I believe we are still a week or two away from the main group arriving. The weather is supposed to be warmer in the coming week. Hopefully this will warm the water and bring in the big fish.

Until next week...

Tight lines and fins up §



While Assateague gets a lot of attention for its surf action, the beaches on the Delaware Bay are hot spots too! Dustin Lloyd got some fresh clams from Lewes Harbor Marina and caught this 35" striper!

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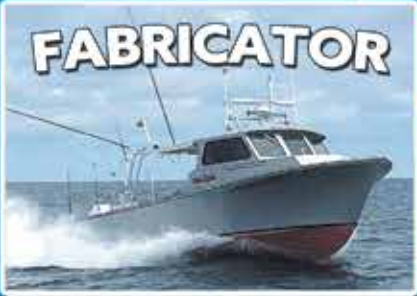
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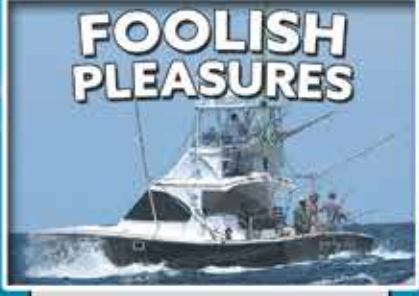
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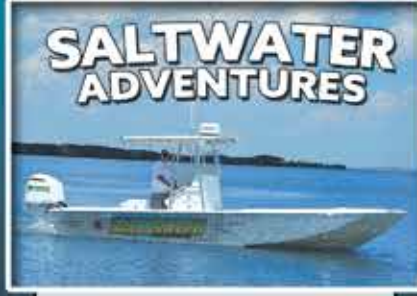
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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



Coconut Crusted Flounder over Pineapple Fried Rice

Ingredients:

- 6-8 flounder fillets, around 4 oz. each
- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoon lime juice
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 cup shredded unsweetened coconut
- 1 tablespoon coconut oil
- 1 medium sweet onion, chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 1 cup pineapple chunks
- 1 cup baby spinach, chopped
- About 2 cups instant basmati brown rice in bags
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce

Directions:

Preheat the broiler.

Make a breading station by



whisking the egg, lime juice, salt and honey in a shallow bowl. Place the coconut on a plate. Line and spray a cookie sheet with non-stick cooking spray.

Dip each fillet into the egg mixture and "bread" with the coconut. Since the fillets are

so thin we are going to broil them, so there's no need to coat both sides of the fish with the coconut. Just coat one side and lay on the baking sheet.

Place the fillets under the broiler for 8-10 minutes until the coconut crisps up and browns.

While the fish is cooking, heat the coconut oil in a non-stick skillet and sauté the onion and pepper.

Chop/dice the pineapple and add to the onion and peppers.

Mix in the chopped spinach.

Once the spinach wilts, add the bag of instant rice.

Mix everything well, allowing the flavors to blend. Add the soy sauce and remove from heat. At this point the fish should be cooked.

Take about ¾ cup of rice and topped with 2 smaller fillets and serve with a side of peas.

Baked Rockfish Almondine

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 lbs. rockfish
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/4 cup slivered almonds
- 1/4 cup parsley chopped
- 3 lemons
- 1 lb. asparagus

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. Start to steam your rice of choice.

Trim the tougher ends of the asparagus off and discard. Spread the asparagus evenly on top of the parchment paper. Slice 2 of the lemons and spread evenly on top of the asparagus. Set aside.

Rinse the fish and pat dry with a paper towel. Season both sides with kosher salt and fresh ground black pepper. Lay the fish evenly across the lemon slices.

In a small sauté pan melt the butter. Add the almonds, juice from remaining lemon and parsley. Sauté for 3-4 minutes. Carefully spoon over each fillet.

Cover with aluminum foil and bake in the oven for 10 minutes, then uncover and bake another



10 minutes or until fish flakes easily with a fork.

Serve over steamed rice along with the cooked asparagus and lemon.

Black Drum with Jalapeño Maque Choux

Ingredients:

(2) 6 oz. portions of black drum fillets

Blackened Seasoning:

- 2 tsp. smoked paprika
- 2 tsp. brown sugar
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 1/2 tsp. cumin
- 1/2 tsp. chili powder
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper

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All other ingredients:

1 cup corn, fresh or frozen
1 jalapeno, seeded and cut into thin strips

1 red onion, julienned, about 3/4 cup

1/4 cup of cherry tomatoes, halved

2 tbsp. butter

Splash of white wine (prefer a Sauvignon Blanc)

Directions:

Add avocado oil to a cast iron pan and turn heat to high.

Add vegetables to the pan, and cook 5-10 minutes until you see a nice char forming on the vegetables.

Coat both sides of the fish with blackening seasoning.

Season veggies with salt and pepper and a pinch of blackening seasoning and move to the side, but keep them moving to brown evenly.

Add fish to the pan with 1 tbsp. of butter.

Cook for 3-4 minutes, flip and cook for another 3 minutes with heat turned down.

Remove fish from pan.

Deglaze pan with wine, to release the browning.

Keep turning vegetables over and add 1-2 tbsp. of butter.

Let wine simmer until it reduces, then turn off heat.

Plate vegetables in the bottom of a shallow bowl, and add

black drum on top.

Finish with parmesan cheese and serve.

Bacon Scallops with Lemon Butter Sauce

Ingredients:

5 strips bacon, uncooked & chopped

1 lb. scallops

Salt and pepper

2 tbsp olive oil

3 tbsp. lemon juice, fresh squeezed

2 tbsp. wine or more lemon juice

2 tbsp. butter, softened but not melted

2 tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped

Directions:

Cook chopped bacon in a skillet until cooked.

Dry scallops with paper towels. Season with salt and pepper.

Heat the large skillet until very hot, add 2 tablespoons of olive oil and immediately add



scallops. Sear on high heat, about 3-4 minutes on each side. Remove from the skillet.

Add 3 tablespoons lemon juice and 2 tablespoons white wine. Scrape the bottom of the pan.

Remove from heat, add softened butter (but not melted) - to create a creamy sauce. Add chopped bacon. Add back seared scallops. Top with chopped parsley.

Mix spices in a small bowl and cover the fish entirely.

Heat butter in the skillet (it has to be very hot) and place fish in it. Cook 4 minutes on one side and then another 3 minutes on another side.

Move to the plate, squeeze some lemon on top and serve!

NOTES:

Do not move fish during

Easy Blackened Tautog

Ingredients:

1 tautog fillet (8 oz.)

2 tablespoons butter

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon paprika

1 teaspoon black pepper

Pinch of cumin

1 teaspoon thyme or oregano

1 teaspoon garlic powder

1/2 lemon

Directions:

Rinse fillet in cold water and pat dry with paper towels.



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cooking otherwise it may stick to the skillet.

You can check the internal temperature by sticking meat thermometer into the thickest part of the fish. It should read 145 degrees Fahrenheit when fully cooked.

Top fish with chopped green onions, lemon slices, chopped cilantro or parsley.

If you want to slice the fish, move it to the cutting board and slice into equal pieces using a sharp knife.

Basic Sheet Pan Baked Fish

Ingredients:

1 lb. potatoes cut into bite-sized pieces (baby golden)

1/2 lb. trimmed green beans or asparagus



1 1/2 lb white fish (cod or flounder)

Olive oil

Kosher salt and black pepper

Lemon

Chopped fresh herbs, like chives, basil, or parsley

Directions:

Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

On a sheet pan, toss baby potatoes in 1 Tbsp. olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Move to 1/3 of the sheet pan, as pictured.

Toss green beans or asparagus with 1/2 Tbsp. olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Cozy these up next to the potatoes.

Lay fish on remaining third of pan, drizzle in olive oil and season with salt, pepper, and

fresh lemon juice. Leave lemon halves on sheet pan.

Roast for about 20 minutes, or until potatoes are tender and fish flakes easily with a fork. Season to taste with additional salt and pepper and lemon juice. Top with herbs.

Serves 4.

Best Maryland Crab Dip

Ingredients:

8 ounces whipped cream cheese

1/2 cup tartar sauce

2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce

1 teaspoon hot sauce, optional

2 tablespoons Old Bay seasoning

1 tablespoon lemon juice

1 pound jumbo lump or lump crab meat*

1/4 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese

1/4 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Fresh chopped parsley to garnish

Sliced and toasted baguette for dipping

Olive oil cooking spray

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Lightly grease a shallow baking dish with cooking spray. I like to use my pie dish.

In a large mixing bowl, combine the whipped cream cheese, tartar sauce, Worcestershire sauce, hot sauce, Old Bay and lemon juice. Next fold in the crab meat, half the Monterey Jack cheese, and half the mozzarella cheese with a rubber spatula. Be careful not to break up the crab meat!

Transfer the mixture into your baking dish, and top the dip with the remaining shredded cheese. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until cheese is melted and dip is heated through.

Garnish with parsley and serve with toasted baguette.

* You can use lump crab or jumbo lump crab meat for this recipe. In my opinion, the only time it's really beneficial to use



jumbo lump crab meat is for crab cakes where you really want the crab to shine.

In a dip, it's not quite as important to only have jumbo

lump crab meat since there are plenty of other ingredients. You will save a lot of money using lump crab meat instead!

Coastal Cocktail Hour

Oyster Shooters

Ingredients:

1 cup vodka

1/2 cup cocktail sauce

1/4 cup fresh lemon juice

1/8 tsp. ground black pepper

Hot sauce, to taste

Celery salt, to taste

8 small oysters, shucked

2 tsp. refrigerated horseradish

Chopped fresh parsley

Small lemon wedges, for garnish

Directions:

In chilled bowl, stir vodka, cocktail sauce, lemon juice, pepper and hot sauce. Wet rims



of 8 chilled shot glasses; dip rims into celery salt.

Place 1 oyster in each shot glass; evenly pour cocktail mixture over oysters. Sprinkle each with parsley and evenly top with horseradish; garnish with lemon wedges. §

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Anita Chandler was one of the 201 anglers as well as one of the 22 women who entered the annual Old Inlet Spring Surf Fishing Tournament last weekend. She got on the board early with this 17" bluefish from the surf at the Delaware Seashore State Park.



There has been lots of action in the surf at the Fenwick Island drive on beach. Nick Crater from Middletown, PA caught and quickly released this rockfish using bloodworm Fishbites.

2023 FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles

 <p>BLUE MARLIN 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>YELLOWFIN TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day</p>	 <p>BIGEYE TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>GOLDEN TILEFISH No minimum • 8 per person/day</p>
 <p>WHITE MARLIN 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p> <p>NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit</p>	 <p>BLUEFIN TUNA 27" to <47" curved fork length 2 per vessel/day or trip 47" to <73" curved fork length 1 per vessel/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 3 per Charter/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 6 per Headboat/day or trip 47" to <73" curved fork length 2 per Headboat/day or trip</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>BLUELINE TILEFISH 5/1 - 10/31 3 per person (Recreational) 5 per person Uninspected (Charter) 7 per person Inspected (Charter)</p>
 <p>DOLPHIN No minimum Length Boat Limit 54 Charter Limit Daily 10 per angler</p>	<p>No Minimum Fork Length Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead</p> <p>54" Minimum Fork Length Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose</p> <p>78" Minimum Fork Length Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead</p>	 <p>SAILFISH Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>WAHOO No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day</p>

SHARKS

AUTHORIZED SPECIES

NOTE: Only 1 shark from the lists above may be retained per vessel per trip. In addition, 1 Atlantic Sharpnose, 1 Bonnethead and 1 Oceanic Whitetip may be retained per person per trip. If a hammerhead shark is retained, no tunas, billfish or swordfish may be retained.

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, **Shortfin Mako**, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White

Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov



Connor Shoff caught one of the early summer flounder in the Ocean City Bay this year. He landed this 17" flattie while fishing with his dad Jason using Gulp!



Steve McGlannan caught a beauty of a striper while fishing the surf at Assateague Island. He used a fish finder rig with chunks of bunker to hook this rock just before low tide.



UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!

14th ANNUAL FRANKY PETTOLINA MEMORIAL DAY TOURNAMENT
To benefit the Catherine & Charles Kratz Memorial Foundation and Scholarship Fund
Registration: May 26, 6:30 - 8:00pm
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 27 & 28
Weigh-Ins: May 27 & 28 4:30-7:00pm at Sunset Marina

TOURNAMENT SERIES 2023 SCHEDULE

* You do NOT have to be a Member to Participate in this Tournament

<p>44th ANNUAL SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT Registration: June 23, 6:30-8:00pm Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 24 & 25 Weigh-Ins: June 24 & 25, 3:00-6:30pm at Sunset Marina</p>	<p>41st ANNUAL CANYON KICK OFF * Registration: June 29, 6:30-8:00pm FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS Fishing Days: (2 of 3) June 30, July 1 & 2 Weigh-Ins: June 30, July 1 & 2, 5:00-7:30pm at Sunset Marina</p>	<p>19th ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC * To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation Registration: July 21, 6:00-8:00pm Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 22 & 23 Weigh-Ins: July 22, 3:00-6:30pm and July 23, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina</p>
<p>15th ANNUAL OCMC LADIES' TOURNAMENT "HEELS & REELS"* To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund Registration: August 3, 6:00-8:00pm Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 4 & 5 Weigh-Ins: August 4 & 5 5:30-7:30pm at Atlantic Tackle</p>	<p>65th ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT * Registration: August 30, 6:30-8:00pm Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 1, 2, & 3 Weigh-Ins: September 1, 2, & 3 6:00-8:00pm at Sunset Marina</p>	<p>8th ANNUAL OCMC vs OCLTC SHOOT-OUT TBD</p> <p>45th ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP Registration: Sept. 13, 6:00-8:00pm Fishing Days: (2 or 3) Sept. 14, 15 & 16 No Weigh-Ins</p>

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Chum Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson

Because it might mean that school will be starting an hour or two late, there might be some kids who enjoy waking up to a foggy morning, but I can't say that I've ever heard a boater peep a kind word about it. In one way or another, rain, sleet, ice, and even strong winds can sometimes be beneficial to man, but when it comes to fog - there really doesn't seem to be any good that comes of it. Overall, fog is just a big and potentially dangerous "imposition" to our activities and nothing defines "spring at the beach" like a good helping of the damp white stuff.

The reason coastal residents are subject to so much fog in the early season lies just off the beach - this time of the year the ocean waters are still cold, and when warm humid air travels over the cooler water the moisture condenses to form fog. This is why springtime fog is more prevalent in areas close to the ocean, since the land tends to warm-up more quickly than the ocean, it's not as likely to produce fog like very large

bodies of water will. Fog can form for other reasons as well and there are names for the different types. The fog that forms when warm air passes over a cooler surface (like the ocean) is known as "advection" fog. Obviously, advection fog is the type that most early season fishermen and boaters have to deal with. Anglers often head out on foggy mornings with the assumption that as the day progresses the sun will eventually "burn-off" the fog. Unfortunately, this type of fog does not go away just because the day warms up, it takes a steady breeze to come along and mix the air at the earth's surface to dissipate advection fog. This explains why anglers will often experience days when they have to endure the fog from the time they leave the dock until they return.

No one should head offshore in the fog unless their vessel is equipped with good and reliable radar, even then, some boaters will maintain that for safety reasons radar should be used to bring you home in the fog - not take you out

in it. An unfortunate downside to the precise navigation afforded by GPS units these days is that a lot of boaters who don't have radar (usually small boat owners) are willing to head out in the fog figuring that even though they can't see more than 30-yards, they can still navigate to and from the fishing grounds. Of course the problem is that even though some GPS units can be pre-programmed to show obstacles such as docks, buoys, jetties, and land masses, there's none on the market that show other boats, and you had better believe that even on a foggy day there is going to be a gang of other boats out there!

Boaters have told me they'll run without radar in the fog because they figure other boats will be equipped with it and avoid them. Unfortunately what many (without radar) don't realize is that, depending upon how a radar is tuned, small boats may or may not show up on the screen. This is particularly the case on choppy days when small boats tend to blend in

www.coastalfisherman.net with the swells. Even if they are spotted on someone else's radar it might be impossible for the other boat to maneuver in time to avoid a collision particularly if that vessel is a large merchant ship or a tugboat with a barge.

Many boaters are also unaware that during times of restricted visibility (like in the fog) they are required by maritime law to produce an appropriate sound signal. A powerboat traveling or "making way" is required to produce one "prolonged" (4-6 second) blast on its whistle (horn) every two minutes or less. When not making way (drifting) a powerboat will produce two prolonged blasts. Vessels over 12-meters (40-feet) while at anchor in the fog must rapidly ring a bell for five seconds every minute. Even though boats less than 12-meters aren't required to carry a bell they must still be able to make some type of sound signal every minute.

So what I'm saying is that, by the rules, anytime we're out in the fog we're also supposed to be blowing our horns or ringing our bells. Do we all do this? No, of course not. Is anyone going to be fined or sighted for not using the appropriate signals? Not likely UNLESS of course there

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www.coastalfisherman.net is an incident (like a collision) and then you can bet that anyone who was not making the proper signals will be looking at some charges. At the very least, boaters should know what proper fog signals are so that when they hear someone using them out on the water they'll have some idea what's going on.

By the way, vessels are also required to have their navigation or "running" lights on (red and green sidelights, white masthead and stern light) during times of restricted visibility. It seems like most boaters do this but there's always some that don't. And while running lights don't project very far in the fog, they're the first thing that becomes visible when you get close to another boat, particularly if that boat is all white so the extra visibility they afford can be the difference between a near miss or being run into - turn your lights on!

Even in our back bay waters skippers need to take the necessary precautions in the fog, in fact, probably even more so considering most boats won't have radar, there's not as much room for everyone to spread out and avoid each other, and many will be operating with limited boating experience. Fog is nothing for boaters to take lightly, often it unexpectedly descends upon us and we have no choice but to deal with it, other times we can make a simple and safe decision not to venture out in it. Even the best captain in the world, doing all the right things, can end up in trouble if some ding-dong plows into them while running too fast in zero visibility. The best a boater can do to avoid catastrophe is to have at least some understanding of fog, follow the rules, slow down, and always err on the side of caution. §

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There are some fat flounder in the Thorofare this year. Jeffery Smith of Rocky Ridge, MD tricked this 21" very fat flattie with a minnow near the Ocean Pines Marina while fishing on the "Reel Excel".

FACTS ABOUT FLOUNDER

- The IGFA world record summer flounder weighed 22 lbs. 7 oz. and was caught in Montauk, NY in 1975.
- The IGFA world record winter flounder weighed 7 lbs. and was caught in Fire Island, NY in 1986.
- Color of the body depends on the habitat. Flounder are usually brown colored with various red, orange, green and blue markings on the body. They can change the color of their body to blend in with the colors of the environment in 2 to 8 seconds.
- The color of the body also indicates the emotional state of the flounder. Threatened animals are usually pale-colored.
- Flounder have bulging eyes on two short stalks that are located on one side of the head. Their eyes can move independently from each other. Based on the position of the eyes, flounder can be divided into two basic categories: right eye and left eye flounder.
- Flounder are a carnivore (meateater). Its diet is based on fish, shrimp and crabs.
- Flounder are ambush predators. It lays motionless and waits for potential prey to appear and grabs it in a blink of an eye.
- Well-camouflaged flounder are also safe from numerous sea predators when it lays motionless on the sea floor.
- Flounder use it's fins to bury itself into the sand. Eyes are usually the only visible part of the body.
- Natural enemies of flounder are sharks, eels and humans.
- Mating season of flounder takes place during the warmest months of the year.
- Female flounder release up to 100,000 eggs in the water at the same time when male flounder release sperm cells. Larvae (fry) hatch from the fertilized eggs a couple of weeks later.
- Larvae look like typical fish with eyes on both sides of their head. It freely swims and feeds on miniature crustaceans and plankton.
- Transformation of larvae into juvenile fish (metamorphosis) starts a couple of days after hatching. Their body starts to flatten, dorsal and anal fins become more elongated and young flounder lose it's swimming bladder (it provides buoyancy required for active swimming). Either the left or right eye migrates toward the top of the head. Side of the body where eyes are located becomes darker colored and represents the top of the fish. Other side starts to fade and becomes bottom part of the body.
- Flounder can survive from 3 to 10 years in the wild.

Source: softschools.com



VIRGINIA

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



Well mother nature is keeping us on our toes and boats moored at the dock. Changing temperatures, long awaited rain and unpredictable winds have created some strategic springtime challenges for all of us who cast hopes and baits in the beautiful waters of the Eastern Shore.

The biggest news of the past week has centered around the central Chesapeake and the waters off Crisfield on down to the Va line with the opening of trophy rock season. As week one comes to a close, we've seen anglers brave wind and waves in pursuit of magnum sized striped prey. Long lost are the days of trolling huge spreads of umbrellas and tandems, and replaced by fish finders, circle hooks and chunks of peelers. These current techniques are driven by the fact that the trophy season has

been pushed so far back into warmer climates, that it provides these striped spoils of the shallows with a buffet of crabs to satisfy their ravenous appetite. While we all miss the days of trolling up giant linesiders the shallow grassy flats of the Chesapeake offer a chance for a bycatch of reds, blacks and specs. The best action has been on the rising tide and also during the hours as the sun is consumed by the horizon of evening.

The waters around the Va barrier islands have been plagued with environmental elements which are far from conducive to boating a limit of flounder. The most crucial part of finding fantastic flounder action has been locating clean, clear water. Wednesday, I was fortunate enough to take a charter out in-between the rain drops and gusts of wind. After a

slow start during the last of a muddy flood tide, the water cleared up and almost instantaneously silence was replaced by the sound of flopping flounder and salty seaside smiles. We seemed to have more bites on silversides and pink gulp on the top teaser of a Sea Hawk flounder rig. Chartreuse with orange or salmon red gulp was a close second. Either way, we had a great trip despite the less than favorable conditions.

The surf has been fairly quiet as high winds have limited angler effort. Those that have partaken in conquering the building breakers have been casting modified fish finder rigs tipped with a half of peeler secured by elastic bait thread. The rough surf has created the need for heavy surf sinkers and even the unsavory spudnick as a means of keeping your bait in the strike zone.

The whitewater wash is still producing some black drum action. However, the sands of the ESVA have seen more stripes washing ashore as they move north back up the coast. Just don't forget the rock season doesn't open in Va till the middle of the month, so return those supersized stripers to fight another day.

Some specs are showing up on the seaside. Anglers are casting paddle tails in and around seaside creeks and oyster rocks. Mirrolures have also lured some of these toothy trophies into the net. Good numbers of rock have also bent some rods and stretched some lines as folks search the salty shallows.

The real secret to the success with a rod and reel lies within the experience and time that is invested. So remember, there has never been a citation landed from a couch and never a second chance at a day lost. So grab your rod and make memories (even if they are wet and wind blown) enjoying this wonderful place we call home! §

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Greg Volpitta of Monkton, MD and Danny Cox from West OC tried their luck in this year's Capt. Zed's Spring Flounder Tournament as they have for many years! While they did not place in the event held by Trident Tackle in Wachapreague, VA., they managed 5 nice keepers using minnows with the largest at 22". The top slot went to Edward Crouse Jr. for his 3 lb., 6 oz fish that measured 24 1/2".

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Young 6 year old Jaxon Snead can barely hold onto this 31" black drum almost as big as him! He was fishing the suds off Assateague Island using sand fleas and orange Fishbites. A shout out to Chris Taylor for helping with the rod while Jaxon cranked the reel.

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Shaun Flaherty was channeling his inner 'Gorton's Fisherman' while fishing in the rain on the Rt. 50 Bridge with Morgan Mericle! The pair netted 3 keepers and stopped counting catches after 20.



Bobby Quillen was not going to miss out on this year's black drum run! This was his second one for the season from the surf at Assateague Island.

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. MAY 10	High ----- High 12:13 pm	Low 06:22 am Low 06:07 pm
THUR. MAY 11	High 12:59 am High 01:17 pm	Low 07:23 am Low 07:12 pm
FRI. MAY 12 Third Qtr. Moon	High 02:06 am High 02:31 pm	Low 08:23 am Low 08:21 pm
SAT. MAY 13	High 03:17 am High 03:48 pm	Low 09:22 am Low 09:32 pm
SUN. MAY 14	High 04:21 am High 04:54 pm	Low 10:18 am Low 10:41 pm
MON. MAY 15	High 05:18 am High 05:52 pm	Low 11:11 am Low 11:45 pm
TUE. MAY 16	High 06:08 am High 06:43 pm	Low ----- Low 12:01 am
WED. MAY 17	High 06:54 am High 07:31 pm	Low 12:43 am Low 12:47 pm

source: usharbors.com

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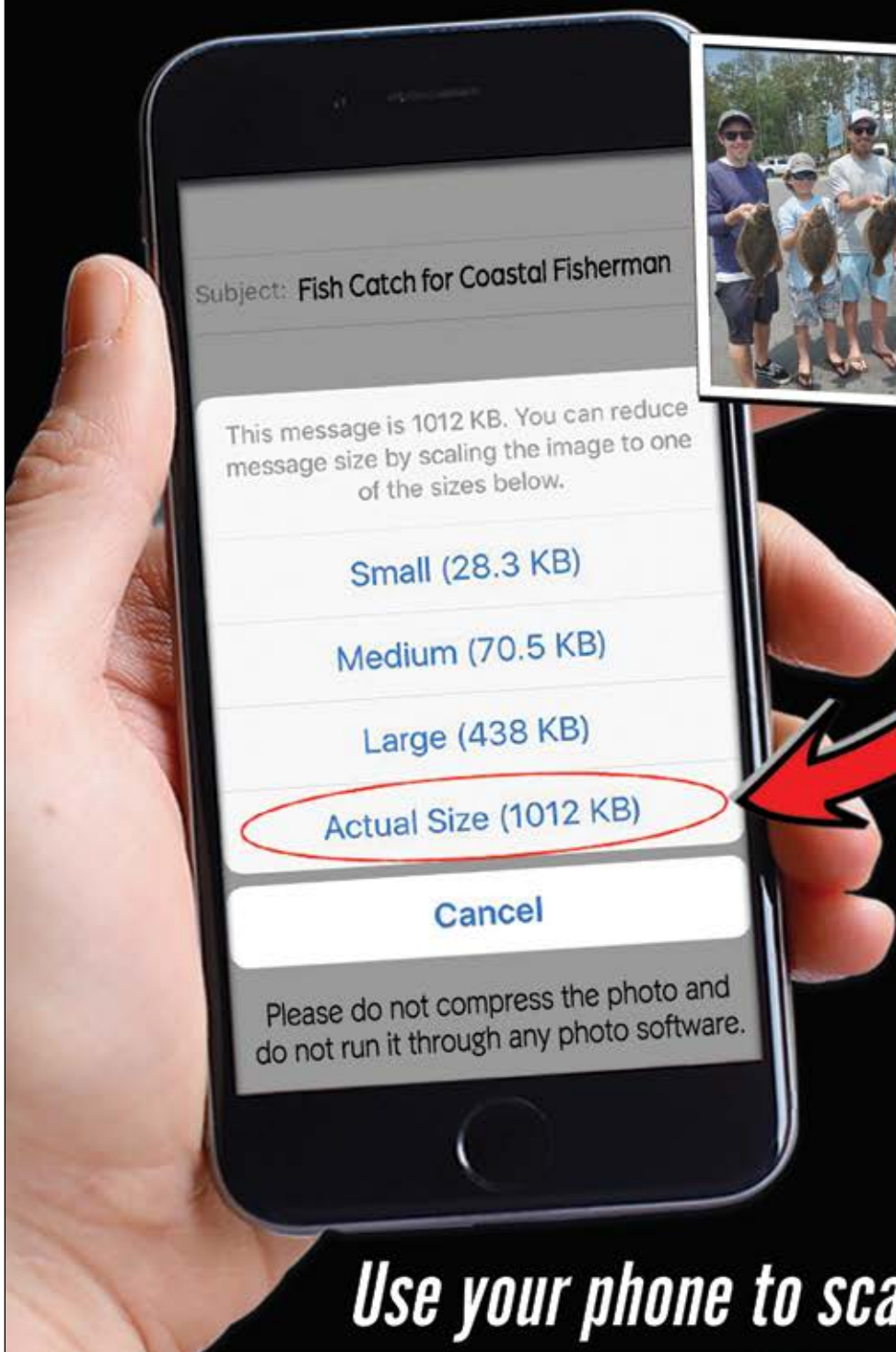
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 - subtract 45 minutes to low tide
 Wachapreague, VA - add 4 minutes for high tide - 21 minutes for low tide
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Cobia 			Bluefin Tuna 		
Summer Flounder ★ 	May 6 David Borrell Thorofare 5.75 lbs.		Longfin Tuna 		
Sea Bass 			Yellowfin Tuna ★ 	May 6 Charlie Watson Poorman's Canyon 113.2 lbs.	
Sheepshead ★ 	May 5 Anthony Carrieri Ocean City Jetty 1.8 lbs.		Dolphin 		
Striped Bass 			Swordfish 		
Tautog 			Blue Marlin 		
Wahoo 			White Marlin 		

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



Bill Marshal from Millsboro, DE was one happy camper when he weighed this 13.5 lb. tog at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE! He snagged the 28" blackfish at Site 10 using green crab.



The incoming tide at Assateague Island did the trick for Newark, MD angler Kyle Phillips! He was fishing with his wife Sydney and son Myles using sand fleas to catch rockfish and this 29" black drum.

Let Us Help You ENJOY & AFFORD Your Fishing Experience!

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Steve Hedrick
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Dave Shockley
561-262-6726



Erik Anderson
850-974-5600



Charley Pereira
252-216-6291



John Caselli
954-290-8866



Colton Cunningham
561-718-4182

Featured Boat of the Week



Call
for Price

OUTNUMBERED - 1997 64' Mark Willis Call Jimmy Fields



\$985,000

HADLOCK - 2002 61' Viking Convertible
Call Ronnie Fields



\$1,475,000

BARRATUNA - 2008 53' Sculley
Call Steve Hedrick



SOLD!

CLICKBAIT - 2003 58' TITAN
Call Jeff James



\$690,000

1997 50' Alex Willis Custom Convertible
Call Joel McLeod



\$329,000

POUND FOR POUND - 2000 42' Custom Carolina
Call Jeff James



\$489,000

1985 47' Hines-Farley
Call Ronnie Fields



SOLD!

CALLIE MAY - 2011 40' Cabo
Call Chris Workman



\$180,000

1998 45' Ocean Yacht
Call Chris Workman



Rebuilt
in 2021

\$325,000

CONSTELLATION - 1984 37' Sunny Briggs
Call Ronnie Fields



\$295,000

DRIFTWOOD - 2017 28' Harrison Boatworks
Call Jeff James



SOLD!

DARK HORSE - 34' Glen Bradley
Call Jeff James



\$139,000

2017 27' Cobia
Call Colton Cunningham



\$140,000

1986 28' Ocean Master
Call Glenn Cameron



\$129,000

1982 31' Bertram
Call Ronnie Fields



\$129,900

2003 38' Fountain
Call Terry Layton



\$99,500

FOWL HOOKED - 1979 35' Custom Carolina Sportfish
Call Jeff James



\$87,900

2003 28' Albemarle Express
Call Terry Layton



\$45,900

2020 18' Key West
Call Jimmy Fields