

Anglers fishing in the Delaware Bay this past fall caught quite a few large striped bass and none were heavier than the 51 lb. 13 oz. linesider muscled in by Tyler Smith from Dover, DE. Tyler caught the fish while chunking with bunker north of the Anchorage on November 28th. Although this catch would have beaten the current Delaware state record of 51 lbs. 8 oz. set by Betty Roseu in 1978, some confusion concerning the weight of the fish resulted in a Delaware Department of Fish & Wildlife representative not being notified to verify the weigh-in, so the old record stands. Still, it was the catch of a lifetime and hats off to Tyler for landing this monster striped bass. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.

Double Lines

by Dale Timmons

Welcome to the annual winter issue of Coastal Fisherman. Hope you have had a decent fall/early winter season. Once again we have suffered through a lot of wind for the past few months, and it sure hasn't helped the fishing. Makes it kind of tough when the water looks like a Wawa cappuccino. As I write this article in early December, the wind is howling from the northwest and has been for almost a week, with high temps in the upper 30s. Not my idea of fishing weather, at least as I get older and I find that "I don't hate a fish as bad as I used to." In fact, if it wasn't for one good trip to the Virginia barrier islands in early October, when I got lucky and caught five nice red drum, along with a couple of decent stripers that I caught in the Black Friday

Tournament with my friends Capt. Jack Kaeufer and "Electric Dave" McKay (when Dave would let me get near a rod), my fall season was practically a bust. Of course the aforementioned windy weather and a nasty upper respiratory thing that knocked me out of commission for a couple of weeks didn't help matters. Anyway, I hope you get a chance to get somewhere warm this winter and maybe catch a fish or two. I know I'm going to try to myself...

For the past couple of winter editions, I have tried to pass on "what worked for me" in the previous season. I'm happy to report that a couple of items that I mentioned in last summer's columns panned out pretty well. I caught all five of those reds I mentioned

before on the same hook, for instance, one that I said last summer looked good for reds and large stripers. It was the Mustad 39951BLN Demon Circle in a 10/0 size. This is a non-offset circle hook with a relatively thin "1X Fine Wire." It has a nice wide gap, making it ideal for big baits, and a "chemically sharpened" point that held up well to the tough jaws of red drum. Another outfit that served me well, though it's not really new, is the Daiwa Saltiga Surf 30 reel mounted on a Daiwa Ballistic Surf Rod. The Surf 30 is a really sweet high end reel, while the Ballistic Surf rod is a threepiece, 13'3" rod that comes in three different weights (powers) and can be used with either spinning or conventional reels. I have caught several large red drum on this outfit and love the way it handles. Another rod that I just started using (publisher Larry Jock turned me on to this one) is the Shimano Trevala S jigging rod. I have the TVSS-63M, which is a spinning model that is only

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6'3" long and is rated for 40-60 lb. braid and a 135-gram (4.76 ozs.) jig. It works great with bucktails or metal jigs up to about three or four ounces. I paired the rod with a Shimano Saragosa 4000F reel and really like the combo for stripers. It should also be nice for sea bass. It's a little bit expensive, but since I already have it, this outfit may also become one of my new favorite flounder killers next summer. It should work well in the ocean, the Cape Charles, VA area or any other deeper water spot where you need more weight on an ultra sensitive rod. I also like the dark green mottled color of the blank and the fact that the rod weighs next to nothing. Finally, in a classic case of "match the hatch," while fishing in that Black Friday tournament, we were trolling all the usual large lures such as Stretch plugs and big sassy shads on heavy heads and didn't have a bite all day. I had a spinning rod rigged with a two ounce chartreuse bugeye

Continued on page 6



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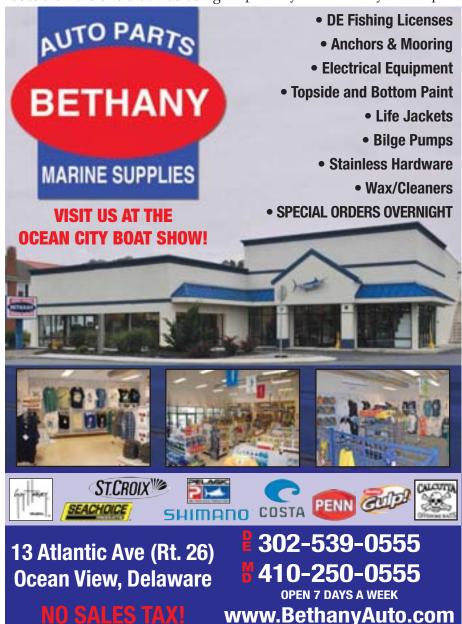
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An Interview with Tom O'Connell **Director of Maryland DNR Fisheries Service**

Editor's note: I first met Tom O'Connell in the spring of 2010 when he surprisingly came down to Ocean City to discuss potential flounder regulations with a group of us. I say "surprisingly"



because nobody could EVER remember the Director of Maryland Fisheries coming to Ocean City to hold discussions with anglers about anything. We left the meeting impressed with Tom's interest in what we had to say and his flexibility and willingness to take a different route than the one that was being



proposed.

Recently, Tom took some time out to answer some of our questions regarding various aspects of fishing along our coast. Due to space restrictions, the entire interview is not included in this issue. You can find the entire interview on our website.

CF - You've been Director of Maryland Fisheries Service for 3 years now. Has the job been what you expected?

TOC - It is hard to believe that three years have passed since I became Director of Maryland's Fisheries Service. At the time I accepted this position, I remember having a high level of excitement and anxiety about the road ahead. My expectation was that becoming successful in this position would be the biggest challenge of my professional career. This has proven to be accurate, but this in itself was a primary reason why I accepted

this opportunity.

CF - What has been your biggest dissapointment?

TOC My biggest _ disappointment has been learning about the high Maryland's percentage of commercial watermen who have been repeatedly and purposely violating our natural resource laws. Fortunately, the Department has taken several steps to address this problem, including providing additional resources to the Natural Resources Police to support more focused fisheries enforcement patrols and investigations, and use of new technologies such as the Maryland Law Enforcement Information Network which consists of a series of radars and cameras that can provide 24/7 surveillance of on-the-water activity, adopting new regulations that establish significant penalties, including suspension and revocation of license, and working with the judiciary system to educate them on the seriousness of natural resource violations.

CF - What has been your biggest success?

TOC - I believe my biggest success pertains to the organizational effectiveness of Maryland's Fisheries Service team, clearly articulating our mission, developing transparent fisheries management principles, and improving the public participation process to support decision-making.

The organizational effectiveness of our Fisheries Service team has improved through better communication

by Larry Jock

pathways that I developed both top-down and bottom-up. There is also regular communication now between Fisheries Service and the Natural Resources Police, and other Units throughout the This was not Department. always the case, and has proven very beneficial.

CF - Let's talk about enforcement. We routinely saw anglers keeping small tautog from the South Jetty, off the Rt. 50 Bridge and near the rocks south of Gudelsky Park. The South Jetty was closed and rumors have it that your Fisheries Service officers are cracking down on anglers at locations known for poaching. Can you update us on what has been done to limit poaching and what future plans the Fisheries Service will initiate to stop the poaching?

TOC - Natural Resources Police officers (NRP) check shore and boat fishermen daily for compliance, and will continue to do so. Unfortunately, NRP officers cannot decipher between the law abiding fishermen and the violators unless they check, so many fishermen will be checked on a regular basis if they fish in the area.

Lastly, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will be taking public comment on a proposed Addendum VI to the fisheries management plan, which addresses illegal live harvest of tautog. There will be a public hearing to receive public comment on the addendum in Ocean City. Details are not available yet, but the meeting will likely be in February or early



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www.coastalfisherman.net March.

CF - If an angler witnesses poaching, what should they do?

TOC - Anyone who witnesses or has knowledge of poaching should call the Catch a Poacher Hotline number 1-800-635-6124. This phone number is printed on the bottom of every oddnumbered page of the 2011 Maryland Fishing Guide. An angler should be specific in the description of individuals, location, days and times. When possible, give name, addresses and vehicle or vessel descriptions. The anonymity of the caller is guaranteed. Callers may be eligible for a monetary reward if the information leads to the arrest and conviction of a violator.

CF - The Maryland Fisheries Service has implemented a program to enhance the fines for commercial fishermen who violate state regulations, up to and including revoking their fishing license. Will this plan be expanded to include recreational fishermen?

TOC - The Department proposed a recreational fishing license penalty system in November 2010. This proposal, which will be published in the Maryland Register on January 3, 2011, creates a suspension system for recreational license holders who are convicted of various egregious recreational fishing violations stemming from a variety of rules such as too many fish over a creel limit and fishing during a closed season. The proposed system would create tiers of violations based on egregiousness.

CF - Does Maryland still cooperate with the Coast Guard in the "Striper Swiper" program that targets anglers fishing for striped bass in the EEZ, outside of 3 miles? What have been the results of this program and will it be continuing?

Yes, TOC Maryland NRP continues cooperative enforcement with the United States Coast Guard in Ocean City enforcing illegal striped bass activity in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). They have conducted two patrols recently and found no violations. They have future patrols scheduled, some involving the U.S. Coast Guard, some just with NRP officers who have been deputized to enforce federal



CF - Let's shift gears and look at reef building. After some material became available to build reefsites in the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland formed the Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative to coordinate statewide reef building. One of the first coastal projects that MARI was involved in was the subway car drop near the Jackspot. Are the subway cars holding up like expected?

TOC - Unfortunately, the steel subway cars from NYC Transit Authority that were deployed during the 2007-2008 period have not held up as well as the older generation of "Red Bird" subway cars that were deployed off the Delaware coast about 10 years ago. However, the remaining material is providing good low-profile hard habitat on the artificial reef sites. A recent dive to the Jack Spot, Bass Grounds and Isle of Wight sites on November 3rd documented large schools of black sea bass on the reef structure with bluefish schooling in the water column above the reef.

CF - What plans does MARI have for coastal reef building in

Winter 2011 Coastal Fisherman Page 5 2011?

TOC - The largest reef project for 2011 will be the sinking of retired Navy destroyer USS Arthur W. Radford. This vessel is 563 feet in length and will have a vertical profile of 70 feet when resting upright on the bottom. The vessel will be sunk in a tristate project in 130 feet of water at the Del-Jersey-Land Reef site, approximately 30 miles northeast of OC Inlet.

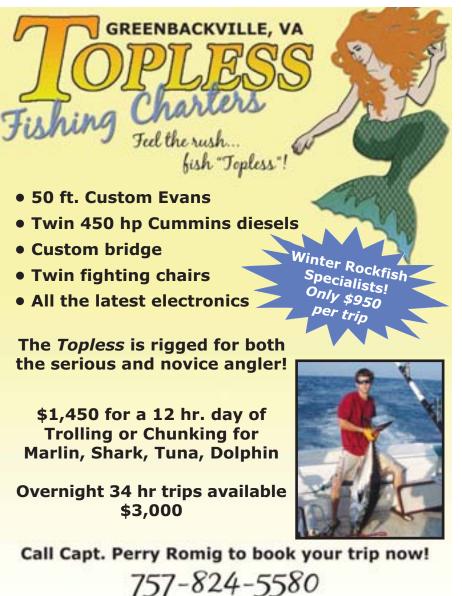
The Ocean City Reef Foundation continues with grass-roots reef building projects using concrete structures and cleaned steel vessels.

CF - The hot topic for 2011 will be the new Maryland Saltwater Fishing License that goes into effect on January 1st. Since, for the first time, Maryland's coastal anglers will have to pay to fish, what benefit will they see from the new program?

TOC - Though a license was not required on the coast, management of fish resources was still needed. These management costs were paid through license sales on the Chesapeake Bay and a federal

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Page 6 Coastal Fisherman Winter 2011 **Double Lines continued:**

bucktail for jigging or casting, and almost in disgust I just threw the jig out and stuck the rod in the holder. You guessed it—we had three striper bites and caught two nice fish, all on the much smaller bucktail, which, to be fair, was also tipped with a little straight white pearl plastic tail, one of "3X" those stretchy things...sometimes you just have to get back to basics...

6-90A Recreational fishermen are under fire. In the past few years, we have gone from almost being an afterthought, a largely ignored semi-invisible harmless "user group", to the target of radical environment organizations and government bureaucrats trying to cover their butts in the wake of bad laws passed by a congress that didn't have a clue. If it weren't so scary, it would be ridiculous. Regulations have become draconian, absurd or whatever extreme adjective you care to use. We are facing closures of large areas of traditional

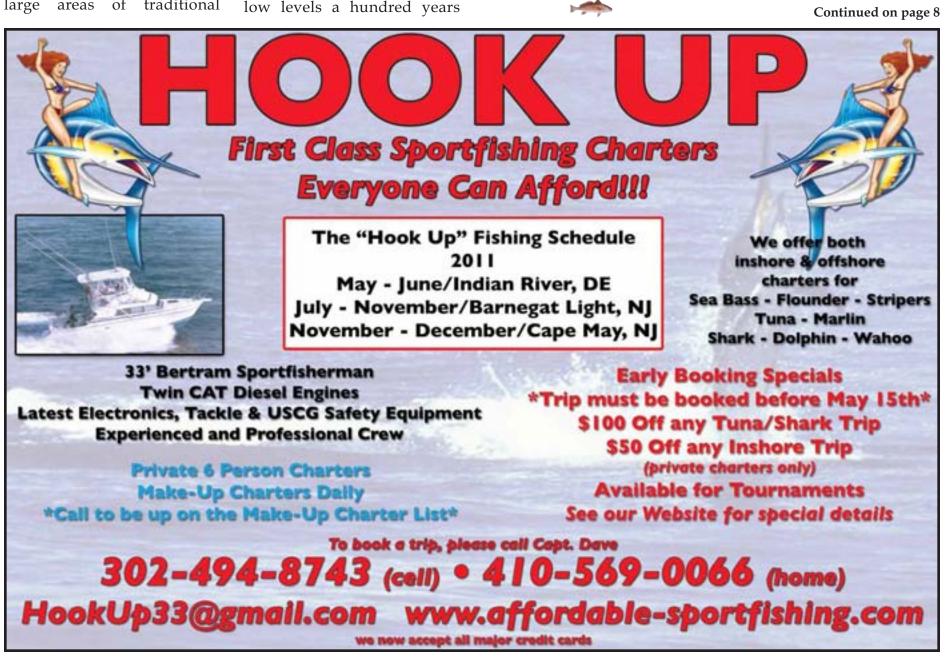
fishing grounds, radically shortened seasons, size and creel limits bordering on the absurd, beach access closures, "catch shares," and whatever else the crazies and their lawyers can dream up to justify their fund raising and their jobs. I never thought I would see the day when an individual couldn't go out and catch a fish to eat. I am not against commercial fishing. My family roots include the Cropper Bros. Fish Camp, which before the 1933 storm stood where the Ocean City Inlet now runs. But like I have said before, our natural resources don't really "belong" to any of us, or they belong to all of us, and if a hard choice has to be made to insure the survival of those resources, how can we justify allowing one individual or company to catch and sell tons of that resource for profit while telling another man he can't catch and keep a fish to eat? Wild ducks used to be a commercial commodity, but when their numbers reached dangerously low levels a hundred years

ago, wildlife managers and congress had sense enough to prohibit the commercial sale of waterfowl. I don't think it needs to come to that with fisheries, and I hope it doesn't, but anyone who thinks recreational anglers are to blame for the demise of certain species has his head up his butt. The problem is that certain radical groups simply don't want anybody to be able to fish, and they have decided that we are an easier target than the "commercial guy who is trying to make a living". Never mind the thousands of jobs and businesses that depend on "sport" fishermen. A better solution would involve sport and commercial fishermen getting together to fight for all our livelihoods. The "antis" are cracking the whip, and congress and "managers" fisheries are bowing to their every whim. If we don't get together and put our money where our mouth is and make a lot of noise very soon, it just may be too late...

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I have been writing "fishing columns" for a long time. I think the first one was in the Beachcomber in the late 1960s when it was still owned by its original publisher, a gentleman named Ralph Grapperhaus. I was fresh out of high school in those days, and I think the column was called "Fish Bait". Later I wrote "Baited Lines" for the now defunct Maryland Coast Press, and there were a couple of others before Suzanne and I started Coastal Fisherman in 1976. This column was first called "Tight Lines," then "Short Casts," but when everyone else started using that name I changed it. When Suzanne and I sold the Coastal Fisherman to Larry and Mary Jock in 2005, Larry was kind enough to keep my ugly mug in the beginning of his publication and allow me to continue my "blog." I thank him for that privilege. When I started there were literally no regulations on flounder, sea bass, tuna, marlin and many other species. Recreational and

Continued on page 8



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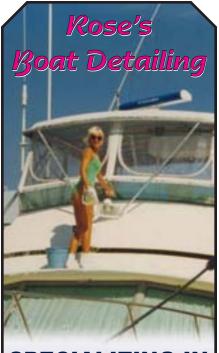
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Double Lines continued:

commercial fishermen got along just fine in those days before the antis and the government pitted one against the other. But there were a lot less people competing for the resource in those days, too, and most folks didn't have the free time or the money for boats, four-wheel-drive vehicles and other toys that allowed them to spend time fishing. Technology was also limited, and to catch fish you had to either be lucky or be much more attuned to the sea and the creatures that lived there. If I had known how little I knew when I first started this publication, I probably would have never started at all, but I learned a lot, and with a little luck and a lot of hard work it all came out in the wash. I met a lot of nice folks, and some not so nice, and I probably pissed off more than a few, but I also made a lot of friends, and for that I am grateful. A lot of those folks are gone now, and I would name names so you might remember them, but I'm afraid the list is too long and I

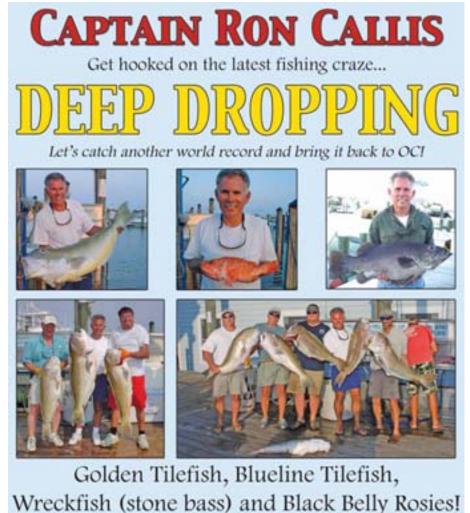
would forget someone. Anyway, the fire in me is not as hot as it used to be, so maybe it's time to turn the space over to a younger voice. It's difficult to know when to quit, and it's hard to imagine not doing something that I have done for so long, but maybe I'll fish a little more while I still can. Most of all, I want to thank you for reading my ramblings for all these years. I know not everyone agreed with every word, and that's the way it should be, but I hope I have at least passed on some useful information and entertained you just a little. Maybe I'll see you on the rip, or the beach, or wherever and whenever we are still allowed to fish. Until then, tight lines, and thanks again for your support and your loyalty...

Contact Dale Timmons at coastfish@verizon.net or call 410-629-1191.





Paul Pergeorelis from New Castle, DE captured this 19 lb. 8 oz. tautog from the rubble of a Delaware Bay artificial reef while fishing on the "Katy Did" with Capt. Brent Weist. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Captain Ron Callis is the former world record holder for golden tilefish at 59.2 lbs. (2007 - 2009)





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John Pianka and Cody Pianka took an overnight trip aboard the "Get the Net" on October 9th and caught this swordfish in the Wilmington Canyon. The swordfish weighed 78 lbs. and was caught in 16 fathoms on a sardine.



At the beginning of November, Tyler Smith from Leipsic, DE hooked this 35 lb. 5 oz. striper in Blake's Channel, located in the central portion of the Delaware Bay. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



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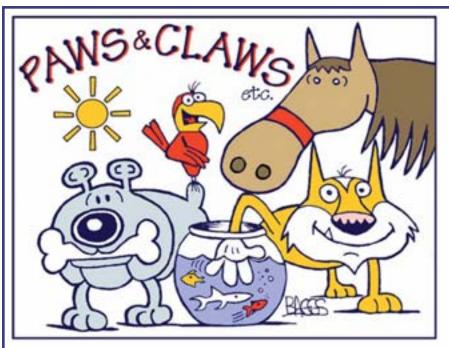


At the beginning of November, Capt. Chris Mizurak (right) showed his customers how it's done, landing a 5 lb. 8 oz. sea bass during a trip to the Jackspot aboard the "Angler" with Mate Dean Lo. Kevin Nelson of Atlantic City, NJ caught himself a 3 pounder during the trip. Both fish were caught on clams. Pictured at Capt. Bill Bunting's Angler Dock in Ocean City.



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In late October, Wes Olson from Middletown, DE caught this 43.25-inch, 24.95 lb. striper while fishing in the Delaware Bay. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop in Lewes, DE.



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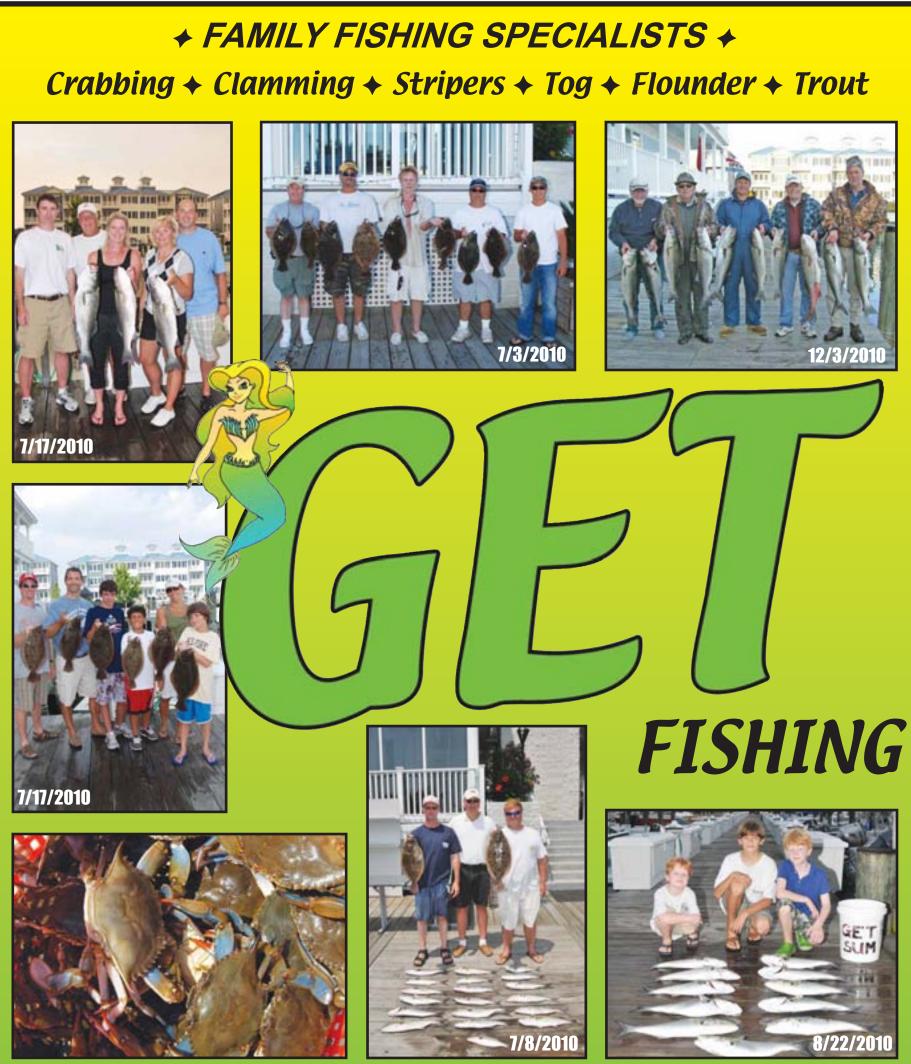
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Page 14 Coastal Fisherman Winter 2011 Tom O'Connell continued:

grant. Coastal anglers will be paying for the fisheries management provided on the coast.

There have been a lot of concerns about the fishing estimates done by NOAA. Under the new MRIP program, one of the changes will be to change from calling random households to determine the amount of fishing to calling anglers from the The National Saltwater Registry. Buying a license or registering with the State automatically puts you on the list of anglers, which will increase correct representation of coastal anglers in the survey.

CF - Does the Fisheries Service plan to ease their way into the program?

TOC - The Natural Resources Police realize that the need for a fishing license in coastal waters is a substantial change, of which many citizens and visitors will not immediately be aware. It is our intention to take an educational approach to enforcement during the first year of implementation, placing emphasis on awareness of the new requirement for first time offenders. This does not, however, prevent an officer from taking a progressive enforcement approach in the case of repeat offenders or in aggravated or unusual circumstances.

CF - Anglers fishing at "Free Fishing Zones" will not be required to have a Saltwater Fishing License. How do we get free fishing zones in Ocean City?

TOC - The Department is currently reviewing the goals and criteria of free fishing areas. Though these areas are free, anglers are required to have a free registration. This registration is provided online. So there is a compliance issue with anglers that may not be familiar with the rules

CF - Right now, Maryland and Virginia have agreements where each state will recognize the others saltwater fishing license. Are there plans in the works to have the same agreement with Delaware?

TOC - Earlier this year, I provided a briefing paper to my counterparts in Delaware regarding possible sport fishing reciprocity scenarios for Maryland and Delaware anglers, including area specific reciprocity such as the Nanticoke River and the coastal bays along with statewide reciprocity. Delaware responded that at this point in time they want to hold off on any further discussions about reciprocity, and that if we did anything along these lines it would likely be limited to the shared waters of the Nanticoke River because in this single case there would be benefits for both state's anglers.

If anglers believe some form of reciprocity with Delaware would be beneficial to both states' anglers, I would encourage them to ask their counterpart anglers in Delaware to inform their natural resource agency representatives of their interest to further pursue reciprocity with Maryland.

CF - Shifting to striped bass fishing, many coastal anglers would love to fish outside the current 3-mile limit. Do you ever see the EEZ off the Maryland coast being opened to striper fishing?

TOC - Maryland does not have the authority to unilaterally decide to open the EEZ because Federal waters are managed under the authority of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Therefore, in order for the EEZ to be opened, a request for action must be submitted to NMFS. To add to the complication, this request must come through the Atlantic Marine Fisheries States Commission (ASMFC) which is the cooperative entity charged with managing striped bass from Maine to North Carolina. The ASMFC did request that the EEZ be re-opened when it adopted Amendment 6 to the Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan in 2003. Amendment 6 contained a request to the Secretary of Commerce to re-open federal waters to commercial and recreational fisheries.

In September 2006, after a long process involving extensive public input, NMFS concluded that the EEZ should not be reopened. They based this conclusion on 1) concern that fishing in this area may cause fisheries to exceed the overfishing threshold, 2) NMFS and the ASMFC would not have the ability to respond in a timely manner if fishing in the EEZ created an over-fishing situation, and 3) 'overwhelming' public comment expressing concern over additional fishing on the large migratory fish that are perceived to congregate in the EEZ. This situation highlights the complexity of managing a migratory species within State and Federal Jurisdictions.

CF - What is preventing government authorities from opening the EEZ to striper fishing?

TŎC The Federal Government is concerned that an EEZ fishery could cause fishing levels to rise over the safe threshold. It is impossible to quantify potential harvest in this especially on the area, recreational side where a quota is extremely hard to monitor and enforce. The most recent stock assessment (2009) conducted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) did conclude that striped bass are currently being fished is at a safe level, and there remain a healthy number of spawning-age striped bass. However, this document also pointed out that there has been a 25% decline in the number of striped bass since the peak in 2004.

Further, striped bass reproduction, as measured by juvenile indices recorded in the Chesapeake Bay has been below average in the last few years. Given these 'warning signs', both the States and the Federal Government will be cautious in managing striped bass and are not likely to propose any management actions that would increase overall harvest. This cautious approach was evident when, in November 2010, the ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board failed to support any increase in the striped bass coastal commercial quota.

CF - The Chesapeake Bay Spring Trophy Season for striped bass coincides with the time the fish are spawning in the Chesapeake Bay. I know it is a touchy situation, but how does Maryland Fisheries justify allowing anglers to fish for and keep large striped bass at this time? Does it make sense, at that time, to target and keep large female breeders in one of the world's premiere striped bass nurseries?

TOC - Maryland's spring trophy striped bass season was set up in 1991 in order to allow Maryland fishermen the opportunity to pursue large, www.coastalfisherman.net

trophy sized striped bass that are not otherwise available to Maryland fishermen. The fishery functioned through 2008 under a strictly monitored 30,000 fish cap. In 2008, this cap was removed. In the last three years, Maryland has continued to closely monitor the harvest during this time period.

Given that the numbers of spawning striped bass are declining and reproduction has been low in the past few years, DNR will be working with stakeholders and management partners such as Virginia and ASMFC to evaluate all Chesapeake Bay spring fisheries that target pre-spawn striped bass.

CF - Outside of flounder, sea bass and tautog regulations seem to be getting the most attention from those setting size and creel limits. What is the current situation for both of these species and what do you see down the road for these fish, regarding size, creel and seasons?

TOC - We don't know at this time what the regulations for 2011 are going to look like; a lot will depend on the next two Council meetings. Maryland Fisheries Service is working with our anglers, headboat captains, state biologists, and Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (MAFMC) staff and members to address data and management concerns for 2011 and into the future. Changes to the management approach, like "regionalizing" the quota, require changes to the fisheries management plan (FMP) and therefore take time. Additionally, black sea bass are a data-poor species, so while the stock is rebuilt, future improvements in quota and more liberal regulations are likely to occur slowly over a longer period.

Tautog management will likely undergo changes sometime in the next two years. There are some indications that tautog are experiencing increased pressure and the last stock assessment in 2006 indicates that less fishing pressure is necessary. There is new stock assessment scheduled for completion in 2012.

CF - Right now, captains who want to run charters in state waters are required to have a Maryland Guides License. For many years, Charterboat Captains on the coast have asked Continued on page 18



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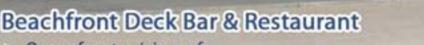
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Page 16 Coastal Fisherman Winter 2011



The Falgowski brothers put a whipping on the stripers this past fall as shown by the big linesiders caught this day in late October. Ryan, Evan, Kyle and Cory landed fish weighing 15.6, 17.9, 22.9 and 28.6 lbs., all while trolling Stretch 25's at Overall Shoals at the mouth of the Delaware Bay. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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In mid-October, Todd Tansimore and Jon Pulsifer from Alleghany Township, PA and Larry Jock, editor of the Coastal Fisherman, took an overnight trip to the Baltimore Canyon aboard the "That's Right" with Capt. John Oughton and Mates Jason Genthner and Jason Mumford. The anglers returned with 4 yellowfin tuna (largest was 59 lbs.) and some dolphin, all caught while chunking. Pictured at Fisherman's Marina.

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In mid-October, "Morning Star" Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mate D.J. Churchill took a trip out to 100 fathoms near the Washington Canyon and caught these golden tilefish on squid and false albacore combinations. D.J.'s golden tilefish tipped the scales at 36 lbs.



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Page 18 Coastal Fisherman Winter 2011 Tom O'Connell continued:

for a Coastal Guide License. Historically, the Chesapeake Bay Charterboat Captains Association has fought successfully to keep this from not happening, fearing lost business for their members. Is Maryland Fisheries considering plans to create a Coastal Guide License?

TOC - No, there are no plans to make a Coastal Guide license. All commercial licenses are capped at a target number per license. When a license becomes available under the target, it is provided to the next applicant on a waiting list. In the case of a fishing guide license there is no waiting list. In other words, there is no need for a special guide license for the coast when there are enough guide licenses currently available.

CF - We have read quite a bit in the local papers about proposed wind farms off the Delaware and Maryland coasts. Where do you see this initiative going and what impact will the wind farms have on coastal fishing?

TOC - In order to meet our renewable energy goals, the State is promoting the sustainable development of wind energy facilities off the coast of Maryland. DNR is working with a number of state and federal agencies to provide meaningful and timely input in the implementation of the federal renewable energy regulatory process. A nice summary of our efforts to date and next steps is located on our website.

With regard to the impact of wind farms on coastal fishing, literature reviews and European research have documented that the foundations of wind towers provide structured habitat and refuge for fish in ways similar to artificial reefs.

CF - For years, both anglers **Fisheries** Service and representatives were frustrated with the estimated number of fish caught based upon the MRFSS telephone surveys. As we transition to the new Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) survey, can you tell us how these surveys are going to be conducted and what MRIP better than makes **MRFSS**?

TOC - The current Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistic Survey (MRFSS) consists of two surveys – a telephone survey to determine the number of fishing trips and an on-site intercept survey to determine catch rates. Under the new Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), there will be three areas of change that will affect the estimates of fishing in the Coastal Bays. The current telephone survey calls random households of a State's entire population, contacts very few anglers, and must make huge adjustments to that information to estimate the total number of fishing trips. MRIP will call only anglers (from the National Registry), so the survey information will reflect only angler information, a big improvement.

The second change will be that the interviewers for the angler intercept survey will be required to stay at assigned sites even if there is no fishing, so they cannot "chase" areas of heavy fishing.

Third, the mathematical method used to develop the estimates from the data is being changed to better account for times of low fishing activity. All of these changes should result in improved harvest estimates.

CF - When is MRFSS estimated to go away and catch numbers be based solely upon the new MRIP system?

TOC - MRIP will be phased in over the next 2 years. The first change is that the new estimation procedures are expected to be operational in early 2011. We expect the telephone survey to start using the Saltwater Registry some time late in 2011. Finally, we do not expect the Angler Intercept Survey to change until 2012.

CF - Let's talk about flounder. Last year, you personally came to Ocean City to meet with anglers to discuss the 2010 proposed flounder regulations. I know this meant a lot to local anglers since nobody could ever remember the Director of Fisheries coming to Ocean City to meet with anglers. Is this something you plan to do every year?

TOC - I would be happy to come down and meet with local Ocean City anglers annually. Our meeting last spring was very successful. The Department was able to provide anglers with several management options that were designed to keep Maryland at or below our sustainable harvest target for summer flounder and anglers were able to provide their feedback on the pros and cons of each management option. The Department was concerned that the anglers' preferred management option was too risky, and could put Maryland's 2010 summer flounder harvest above the harvest target. After exchanging each other's perspectives, we were able to agree to proceed with the angler's preferred management option with the understanding that we would closely monitor the harvest, and if needed, close the fishery early.

While we are still waiting for the final harvest estimates for 2010, it appears likely that Maryland will be below our 2010 harvest target. If so, and with the stock continuing to expand, it is likely that Maryland will be able to liberalize the harvest restrictions for 2011, and we look forward to having this discussion with Maryland anglers.

CF - This year, we saw a 19inch, 3 fish limit which many anglers felt was excessive. How are we doing this year compared to our allocation?

TOC - Our target for this year was 75,000 fish. Last year our estimated harvest was 89,000 fish, so we had to make reductions in our fishery to prevent us from going over this year. We do not have all the estimates in for 2010 but through August, our estimated harvest is 26,085 fish. We are still missing the estimate for September through the end of our season in November, which is often when the biggest harvest occurs. We are also missing the portion of the estimate that comes from headboat captains fishing in federal waters, vessel trip reports (VTRs); those numbers won't be included until April, and increase our final estimate by about 5%. We do expect to come in below our target this year based on previous year's harvests.

CF - What do you see on the radar for flounder regulations in 2011 and do you anticipate a 12month season?

TOC - : The National Marine Fisheries Service did increase the coastal quota by about 30% for 2011, and our recreational target should reflect a similar increase. If we are under target in 2010 and with the quota increase, we should be able to enact less www.coastalfisherman.net

restrictive regulations for 2011. We will be able to start discussing what those options may be in January when all the available data are in.

CF - On a side note, how do your biologists estimate the strength of species in the coastal bays?

TOC - The Coastal Fisheries Program conducts an annual Coastal Bays Finfish We collect 20 Investigation. samples monthly with trawls April through October, and we collect 20 samples using seines in June and September. This survey has been conducted since 1972 and the survey was standardized in 1979. A video of our sampling is available on Youtube. Many of the samples we collect are juveniles. We compare the samples we catch in a year to previous samples to see trends in abundance. Changes may be the result of habitat in the Coastal Bays, coastal recruitment trends, and even currents off the coast. Our data are used in coastal stock assessments and help inform coastal management decisions.

CF - There was some controversy when dredging was stopped in our coastal bays. What changes have your biologists seen?

TOC - Since the abolition of mechanical harvesting in the coastal bays, hard clam populations have experienced a mixed bag of changes. North of the Ocean City Inlet, some areas have had substantial increases in the number of hard clams. However, hard clam densities in Chincoteague Bay (the largest of the coastal bays) remain at record low levels.

Bay scallops, which were reintroduced to Chincoteague Bay by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in the late and subsequently 1990's expanded their range throughout the coastal bays, have declined precipitously. Only one scallop was caught during the annual shellfish survey this past October. Seagrasses, the preferred habitat of bay scallops, also appear to have declined from last year.

The Coastal Fisheries Program has not seen any changes in our finfish populations as a result of these changes, however sampling and analysis has not been designed to monitor for any possible changes because of dredging. www.coastalfisherman.net

Winter 2011 Coastal Fisherman Page 19

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On December 3rd, Bill Gimpel, Gus Day, Dan Day, Jack Gaudett and Doug Andrews returned to the Ocean City Fishing Center with 7 stripers and some bluefish after trolling mojos and Stretch 25's along the Ocean City coast. The anglers spent the day fishing on the "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente and Mate Ben Pollmeier.



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Joseph Parsons caught this 33-inch, 13 lb. 8 oz. bluefish while surf fishing at 3R's Road in Delaware before Thanksgiving.

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2010

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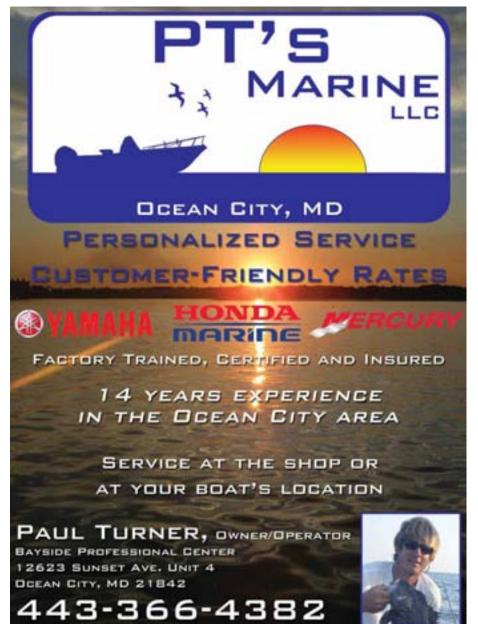
Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
Sea Bass	May 31, 2010 Nate Leader Artificial Reef 6 lbs.	August 14, 2010 Thomas Palm "Capt. Bob II" 4 lbs. 10 oz.	Mako Shark	June 17, 2010 Paul Seaberger "All In" 471 lbs.	June 7, 2010 Bob Wiles Hot Dog 229 lbs.
Tautog	February 2, 2010 Frank Graziano "Morning Star" 19 lbs. 10 oz.	November 15, 2010 Paul Pergeorelis "Katy Did" 19 lbs. 8 oz.	Thresher Shark	June 4, 2010 Kevin Taylor Hot Dog 627.6 lbs.	June 11, 2010 Jay Richwine "Saltwater Cowboy" 560 lbs.
Striped Bass	April 23, 2010 Tom Walker Assateague Surf 45 lbs. 4 oz.	November 28, 2010 Tyler Smith The Anchorage 51 lbs. 13 oz.	Bluefin Tuna	July 7, 2010 George Poveromo "That's Right" 126 lbs.	July 3, 2010 Thomas Miles Southeast Grounds 109 lbs.
Weakfish	No Weights Reported	June 6, 2010 Domenic Caputo Roosevelt Inlet 7 lbs. 2 oz.	Yellowfin Tuna	August 20, 2010 Brian Thompson "Reel Chaos" 105 lbs.	August 25, 2010 John Kucyk "American Ambition" 80 lbs.
Speckled Trout	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Longfin Tuna	August 20, 2010 Harvey Fisher "Jade II" 40 lbs.	July 16, 2010 Jimmy Saunders Spencer Canyon 47.3 lbs.
Flounder	August 31, 2010 Jerry Gray East Channel 10 lbs. 6 oz.	July 27, 2010 Lisa Koshinskie Indian River Inlet 12 lbs. 11 oz.	Bigeye Tuna	June 13, 2010 Ron Los, Jr. "Marli" 211 lbs.	August 25, 2010 Pat Hanley "Pandemonium" 188 lbs.
Bluefish	October 9, 2010 Pondo Swartz Rt. 50 Bridge 14 lbs. 15 oz.	November 25, 2010 Joseph Parsons 3R's Road 13 lbs. 8 oz.	Dolphin	August 17, 2010 Vincent Baiocco "American Lady" 56 lbs.	July 8, 2010 Jere Bryant "Wave Dancer" 37.8 lbs.
Sheepshead	September 5, 2010 Mark Fleetwood South Jetty 11 lbs. 9 oz.		Wahoo	September 23, 2010 Mike McCall "Fin Chaser" 103 lbs.	August 14, 2010 Johnny Horning Baltimore Canyon 62 lbs
Cobia	June 24, 2010 Juan Franzetti African Queen 61 lbs.	July 27, 2010 Porter Krisher "A" Buoy 51.9 lbs.	White Marlin	Most Release August 30, 2010 "Billfisher" 57 releases	es in One Day August 31, 2010 "Fish Whistle" 15 releases

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

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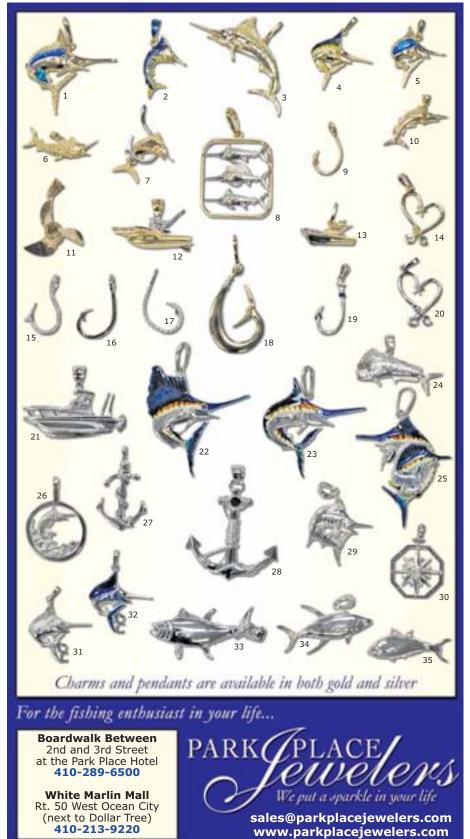


Jeff Chushner of Wilmington, DE landed this 11 lb. 8 oz. sheepshead after hooking it on a green crab at the Haystacks in the Delaware Bay. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop in Lewes, DE.





Kevin Weber, Mark Radcliffe, Warren Willey and Jim Willey had a great day fishing for striped bass on the "Patty Wagon Part Deux" in late November. The anglers caught the stripers near the Sliver on mojos and umbrella rigs with the 3 largest linesiders measuring 40.5, 42 and 43-inches. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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At the end of November, Rich Sosnowski of West Ocean City, MD had a smile on his face after boating a couple of nice stripers, measuring 37 and 39-inches, while trolling the lumps off Sea Colony.

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Some big sheepshead were landed this past fall by anglers in Delaware and Ocean City. Here, Bill Wiest of Lewes, DE is shown with this 11 lb. 7 oz. sheepshead caught while fishing with crabs at the Outer Wall in the Delaware Bay. Bill was fishing on the "Katy Did" with his son, Capt. Brent Wiest. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



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The Autistic Children's Support Group of Worcester County would like to thank the Ocean City Jishing Center, Sunset Marina, the Black Jriday 550 Rockfish Tournament and the Ocean City Tuna Tournament for donating \$3,378 to our group from the proceeds of the tournaments. This generous donation will help many families in Worcester County deal with the challenges of autism.

Thank you

from the bottom of our hearts!





Alex Levantovsky of Philadelphia, PA is all smiles after landing this 16 lb. 9 oz. tautog while fishing on the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mate Mike Kinder. The big blackfish was caught on a white crab on an ocean wreck on November 28th. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

2011 Boat & Outdoor Shows

TIMONIUM FISHING EXPO & BOAT SHOW Maryland State Fairgrounds January 13-16

> BALTIMORE BOAT SHOW Baltimore Convention Center January 27-30

COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S & AQUACULTURE TRADE EXPO Ocean City Convention Center January 28-30

NRA GREAT AMERICAN HUNTING & OUTDOOR SHOW Carroll County Agriculture Center - Westminster, MD January 28-30

> ATLANTIC CITY BOAT SHOW Atlantic City Convention Center February 2-6

EASTERN SPORTS & OUTDOOR SHOW Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex - Harrisburg, PA February 5-13

> SEASIDE BOAT SHOW Ocean City Convention Center February 18-20

STRICTLY JERSEY BOAT SHOW South Jersey Marina - Cape May, NJ April 29 - May 1



On the final day of the 4th Annual Black Friday Rockfish Tournament, Jason Burke (left) landed a 23.9 lb. linesider to win first place in the tournament. Jason caught the 41.5-inch rockfish while trolling a white bullet head near the Sliver aboard the "Something Fishy II" with John Morton, John Morton, Jr., Zachary Morton and Andy Petrusis. The "Something Fishy II" team took home \$3,042 for their first place finish. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



On the second day of the Black Friday Rockfish Tournament hosted by the Ocean City Fishing Center, Coastal Fisherman artist Daina Kazmaier landed a 39-inch, 22.8 lb. rockfish and held on to win 3rd place in the tournament. Daina was fishing on the "Paperboy" with Coastal Fisherman editor Larry Jock when she hooked the big rockfish on a trolled mojo near the Sliver. The duo also landed rockfish measuring 37, 38 and 39-inches during their trip. The "Paperboy" team earned \$978 for their 3rd place finish.



ockfish Tournamer

The final boat to hit the scales at the 4th Annual Black Friday Rockfish Tournament was the "Get Sum" with a 22.95 lb. rockfish caught by Chuck Wenzel of West Ocean City. Chuck hooked the 38-incher while trolling a mojo rig offshore of the Assateague Bridge and took 2nd place honors for his catch. Chuck, along with Ben Clemente (not pictured), Capt. Nick Clemente and Mate Ben Pollmeier, earned a check for \$1,164 for their 2nd place finish.



Nine-year-old Zachary Morton of Dagsboro, DE landed this 21.55 lb. rockfish to win Top Junior Angler honors in the 4th Annual Black Friday Rockfish Tournament held at the Ocean City Fishing Center. Zachary caught the 38-incher on a trolled umbrella rig near the Sliver while fishing on the "Something Fishy II" with his dad, John Morton, his brother John Morton, Jr., Jason Burke and Andy Petrusis. Zachary is pictured getting assistance from Weighmaster Ed "Greenie" Greene.

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At the end of November, Madison Wells from Delmar, DE caught this 40-inch, 25 lb. striper while trolling on the "Bay Hog" out of Chesapeake Beach, MD with her dad, David Wells.



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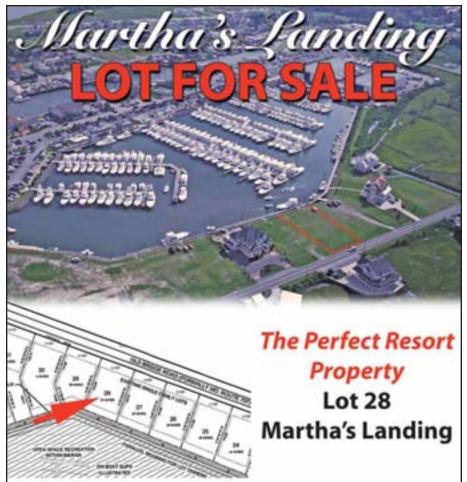
CAPT. MARK R. HOOS, SR. • CAPT. MARK R. HOOS, JR.





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After the last Coastal Fisherman hit the streets, Bob Spetzler of Ocean Pines, MD caught this 25.5-inch, 9 lb. flounder while fishing from the bulkhead at 3rd Street in Ocean City. Bob caught the big flattie on a live spot during the outgoing tide and weighed his catch at Harbor Tackle in West Ocean City.



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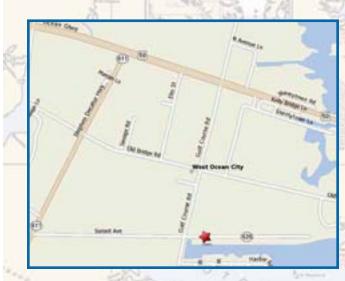
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On Thanksgiving morning, Anita Chandler was fishing off the beach in Fenwick Island State Park when she hooked this 52-inch, 44 lb. 4 oz. striper on a chunk of cobb mullet. Weighed at Fenwick Tackle.



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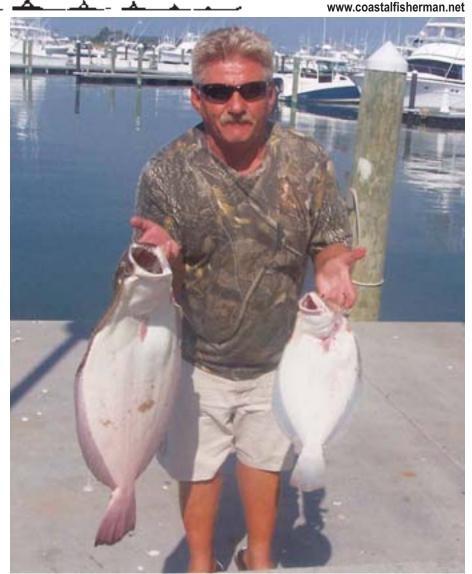
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In early October, Jimmy Dove of Lincoln, DE caught a couple of flounder, the largest weighing 10 lbs. 11 oz., while fishing in the Indian River Inlet. Jimmy was using a 6-inch "electric chicken" grub and weighed his catch at Hook'em & Cook'em.

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2011 Maryland

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WHO NEEDS A LICENSE?

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

WHAT KIND OF LICENSE DO I NEED?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHERE CAN I REGISTER FOR FREE?

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

WHERE CAN I BUY A LICENSE?

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

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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





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Tom and John Berry caught a couple of nice bluefish while trolling Stretch 30's aboard the "Booked Up" at Great Gull Shoal.



Mike and Mason Newsham from Lewes, DE took advantage of a fantastic striper bite in the Delaware Bay, landing these 2 linesiders that tipped the scales at 27.9 and 32.9 lbs. The fish were caught on trolled Stretch 25's and weighed at Lewes Habour Marina.



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Winter 2011 Coastal Fisherman Page 33

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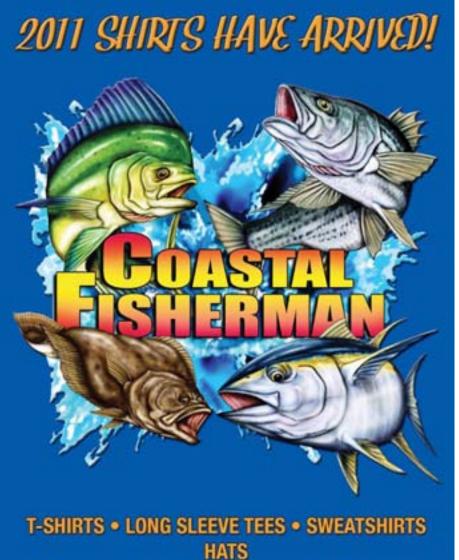
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BILL'S SPORTSHOP Journament



Tyler Smith from Dover, DE (right) boated this 51 lb. 13 oz. striped bass to easily win 1st place in Bill's Sport Shop Striper Tournament. The striper was hooked on November 28th while chunking bunker north of the Anchorage in the Delaware Bay. Tyler won \$4,950 for his 1st place finish.



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Kelvin Smith won 2nd place honors in Bill's Sport Shop Striper Tournament with this 42.5 lb. linesider caught while chunking bunker in the Delaware Bay. Kelvin won \$2,000 for his catch.



Jeff Gardiner was trolling plugs in the Delaware Bay when he captured this 39.9 lb. striper to win 3rd place in Bill's Sport Shop Striper Tournament. Jeff took home a check for \$1,000 for his 3rd place finish.





Les Clemmer landed this 8.75 lb. tautog in early November and hung on to win 1st place in Bill's Sport Shop Tog Tournament. Les hooked the tog on a crab in the Delaware Bay and won \$1,350 for his 1st place finish. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop.



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Scott Bucka landed a couple of tautog this day with one tipping the scales at 7.39 lbs., good enough for 3rd place in Bill's Sport Shop Tog Tournament. Scott also landed an 8.7 lb. tautog to win 2nd place in the tournament (no picture taken). For his 2nd and 3rd place finishes, Scott won \$750 in award money.



Winter 2011 Coastal Fisherman Page 37



In the summer, you can find David Walker mating on various offshore charter boats and flounder fishing in the Delaware Bay. In the fall/winter, David spends his time chasing striped bass in Delaware waters and on this day he landed 2 beautiful linesiders that tipped the scales at 23.1 and 25.3 lbs. The fish were hooked on trolled Stretch 25's in the Indian River Inlet. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

On November 21st, Andrew Healey of Forest Hill, MD was fishing on the "Get Sum" with his grandfather, Brooke Duvall of Ocean City, MD, Capt. Nick Clemente and Mate Ben Pollmeier when they returned with 3 stripers and 16 tautog in the box. The stripers were caught on live spot in the Ocean City Inlet while the tog were hooked on green crabs at the South Jetty. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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Page 38 Coastal Fisherman Winter 2011	rvlar	nd State	e Reco	ords
Species	Weight	Angler	Date	Location
Bluefish	23 lbs. 8 oz.	Lillian Morris	1974	Assateague Island
Cobia	72 lbs.	Chris Toner	2009	Great Gull Shoal
Croaker	No classification	T (1) T	100 -	
Dolphin	67 lbs. 8 oz.	Kim Lawson	1985	53 miles off Ocean City
Drum, Black	79 lbs.	Stanley IIyes	1985	Bass Grounds
Drum, Red	70 lbs.	Robert Light	1977	Assateague Island
Flounder, Summer	17 lbs.	Anthony Vacari	1974	Assateague Island
Flounder, Winter	4 lbs. 7 oz.	Jeremy Kuhn	2006	Ocean City
Kingfish, Roundhead	2 lbs. 8 oz.	Grace Walker	1975	Assateague Island
Mackerel, King	47 lbs.	Gerald Kauffman	1985	Great Gull Shoal
Mackerel, Spanish	No classification			
Marlin, Blue	1,062 lbs.	Bob Farris	2009	Poor Man's Canyon
Marlin, White	135 lbs.	George Pierson	1980	Poor Man's Canyon
Porgy	6 lbs. 3 oz.	Pearl Hoppie	1966	Fenwick Shoal
Sea Bass	8 lbs.	Hayward Madison	1978	Jackspot
Sheepshead	17 lbs. 8 oz.	Raymond Daniel	2004	Ocean City Inlet
Spadefish	11 lbs. 6.5 oz.	Noel Lohr	2004	Triple Wrecks
Striped Bass	57.2 lbs.	Gary Smith	2006	Assateague Island
Swordfish	No classification			
Tarpon	No classification			
Tautog	20 lbs. 11 oz.	Sam Beauchamp	2007	Wreck off Ocean City
Tilefish, Blueline	No classification			
Tilefish, Golden	62 lbs.	Steve Doctor	2009	Baltimore Canyon
Triggerfish, Grey	No classification			
Trout, Gray (Weakfish)	16 lbs.	Donald Cannon	1976	Ocean City Inlet
Trout, Speckled	13 lbs.	Jack Miller	1973	Sinepuxent Bay
Tuna, Bigeye	375 lbs. 8 oz.	Cecil Browne	1977	Ocean City
Tuna, Blackfin	32 lbs.	Bob Zang	1998	30 fathom line
Tuna, Bluefin	625 lbs.	James Daniels, IV	1975	45 miles off Ocean City
Tuna, False Albacore	22 lbs. 8 oz.	Kevin Sheckells	1995	Third Lump
Tuna, Longfin Albacore	74 lbs.	Victor Gardner II	2005	Baltimore Canyon
Tuna, Yellowfin	236 lbs. 8 oz.	Mark Bennett	2002	Washington Canyon
Wahoo	111 lbs.	Christian Tiller	2003	Poor Man's Canyon
Sharks				
Black Tip	193 lbs.	Brian Zysk	1991	Ocean City
Blue	280 lbs.	Martin Waltman	1997	Ocean City
Hammerhead, Scalloped	254 lbs.	Jamie Gill	2009	Massey's Canyon
Hammerhead, Smooth	375 lbs.	George Ford V	2004	Parking Lot
Mako	876 lbs.	Jim Hughes	2009	Poor Man's Canyon
Thresher	642 lbs.	Brent Applegit	2009	Fingers
Tiger	1,210 lbs.	Grace Czerniak	1983	Ocean City
0	,			cords recognized as of December 10, 2010

Note: all Atlantic Coast records recognized as of December 10, 2010

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Towards the end of November, Jeff and Robert Hartman of Westminster, MD brought back 4 keeper striped bass, measuring between 34 and 41-inches, after trolling for 90 minutes near the Sliver.



In mid-November, Billy Donahue from Warrington, PA was fishing with his dad, Bill and Mike Livingston at the South Jetty when he hooked this 22-inch tautog. The anglers also returned with 3 other tautog from the trip.

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ARTINE Primetime Rockfish Tournament



Rick Impallaria from Joppa, MD won 1st place in the Ake Marine Primetime Rockfish Tournament on November 20th with a 26 pounder (42-inches) caught while trolling an umbrella rig off 95th Street. Rick was fishing on the "Got R Done" with Steve Sherwood, Rick Schaffer and Scott Reilly. Rick won \$800 for his 1st place finish and is pictured at the award presentation with Doug Ake, owner of Ake Marine in West Ocean City.



Good Fishing & Think Spring !!



Steve Sherwood from Whiteford, MD caught this 39.5-inch, 20 lb. rockfish to win 2nd place in the Ake Primetime Rockfish Tournament. Steve was fishing on the "Got R Done" with Rick Impallaria, Rick Schaffer and Scott Reilly when he hooked the linesider on an trolled umbrella rig off 95th Street. Steve took home a check for \$400 for his 2nd place finish. Pictured at Ake Marine.



Third place in the Ake Marine Primetime Rockfish Tournament was won by Jonathan Rey of Crownsville, MD with a 37-inch, 14 lb. *morone saxatilis* that was worth \$200 in award money. Jonathan caught the fish on a live eel between Little Gull Shoal and Assateague Island while fishing on the "Rockin Robin". Pictured with Jonathan at the award presentation is his dad, Harry Rey and Doug Ake, owner of Ake Marine in West Ocean City.

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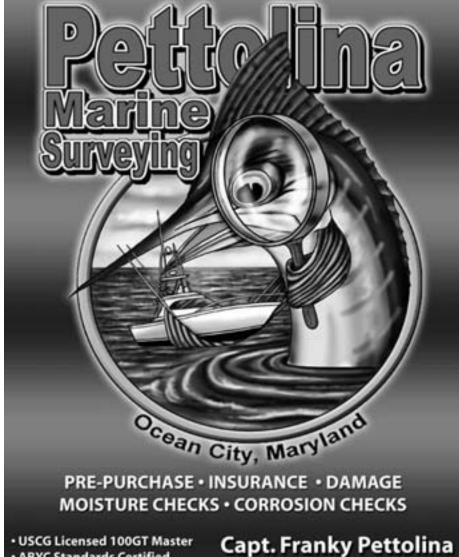


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Shaun Smith of Millsboro, DE caught this 39-inch, 24.85 lb. striped bass on cut bunker from the surf off Cape Henlopen. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop.



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Charles Shuman of Baltimore, MD ventured to an offshore, artificial reef aboard the "Morning Star" and returned with this 14 lb. 8 oz. tautog that he hooked on a green crab. Charles was fishing with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Rich Silvani and Mike Kinder. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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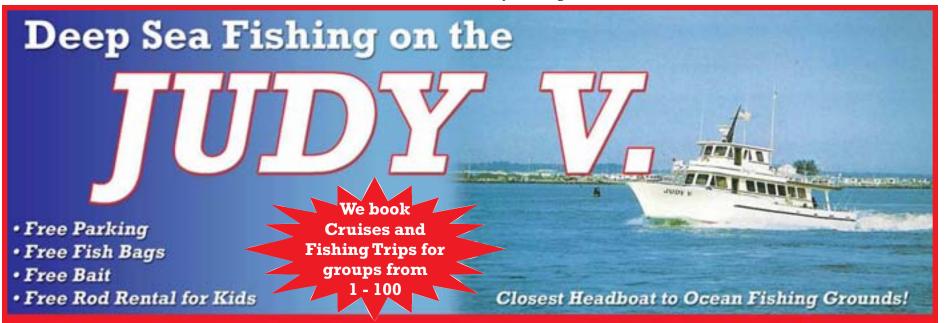




Danny Cox of West Ocean City, MD was tossing a Storm lure in the East Channel and hooked into these two keeper striped bass during the outgoing tide. The two linesiders weighed in at 11 lbs. 8 oz. and 19 lbs. 3 oz.

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Dennis Muhlenforth of Hockessin, DE captured this 8 lb. tautog during a trip aboard the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Rich Silvani and Mike Kinder. The blackfish was hooked on a green crab on an ocean wreck and weighed at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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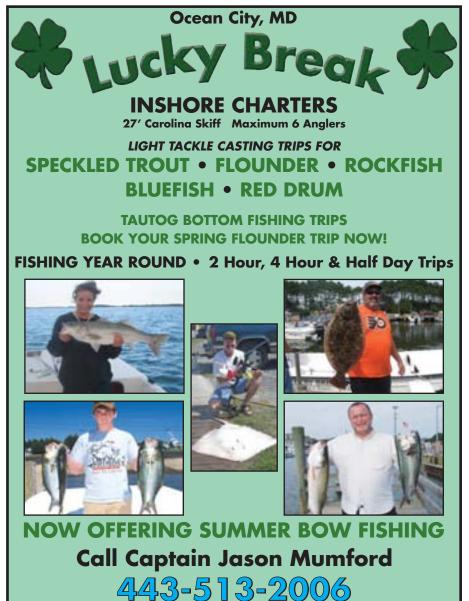


Jim Thompson from Wilmington, DE landed this big bluefish while casting from the beach at 3R's Road. Jim used bunker and mullet for bait to fool this 33-inch, 12 lb. 14 oz. chopper. Weighed at Fenwick Tackle.

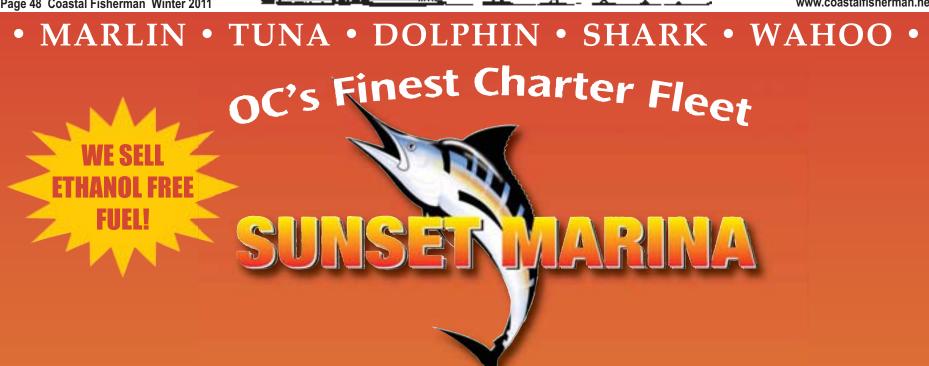




This 33.8 lb. striper ate a chunk of bunker that Steve Smith offered while fishing in the Delaware bay during Thanksgiving week. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



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John and Isabelle Dallam from Fallston, MD and Steve Selander from Ocean City, MD had a great trip aboard the "Samurai I" with Capt. Jeremy Blunt and Mate Mark Stephens. The anglers ended their day with 7 stripers in the box, caught while trolling Stretch 25's near the DE/MD line. The largest linesider measured 44-inches and tipped the scale at 32 lbs. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Towards the end of November, chopper bluefish were found roaming the surf off Cape Henlopen and Don Dunphey of Lewes, DE was there to land this 11.1 pounder while using cut bunker. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.





Pondo Swartz from Baltimore, MD muscled in this 37-inch, 14 lb. 15 oz. bluefish after hooking it on a Swim Shad near the Rt. 50 Bridge in early October. Weighed at Oyster Bay Tackle.



Andy Szypula from Berlin, MD caught a 34-inch and a 36-inch striper, both on live spot in the Ocean City Inlet in late November. As always, Andy was fishing on the most properly named boat in Ocean City, "El Cheapski".





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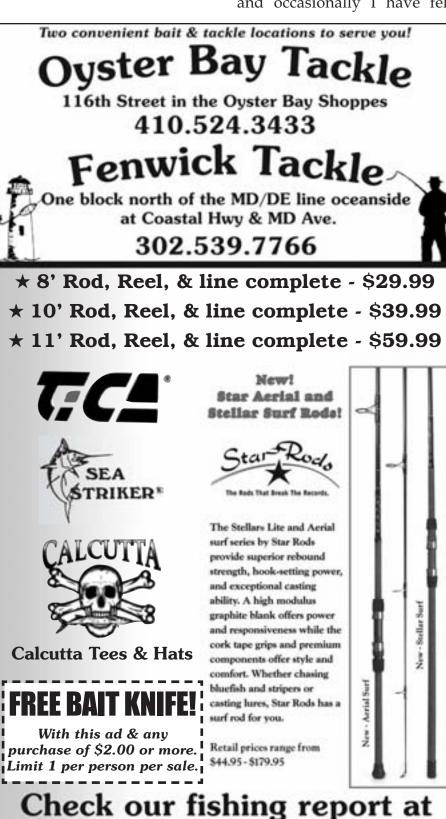
- by Sue Foster

Fishing for Tautog

Tautog... Tog... Blackfish... Tautoga onitis...

Whatever you want to call this hard fighting member of the wrasse family, it's a really good eating fish. It has pure white meat with no bloodline.

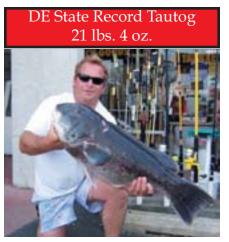
These fish are found from Nova Scotia to Georgia where they live along the bottom where there are rocks, mussel beds, pilings, cement slabs, wrecks and artificial reefs. Tautog are one of those fish anglers either love or hate to fish for. If you've never been, it can be an experience you'll always remember. Whether the experience is a good one or a bad one will depend on your luck or your frustration. Tautog can humble the best of fishermen. I have been humbled many times myself and occasionally I have felt



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triumphant. Regardless, we'll go over all the ins and outs of tautog fishing. Experience is your best teacher and sometimes, as always when fishing, luck will prevail!

"Why is tautog fishing different than fishing for other species?"



Tautog protect themselves by hiding in structure. They live under rocks, inside pieces of shipwrecks and under ledges of man-made material. They will grab your bait and take it straight into a hole or beneath a rock. If you have ever gone grouper fishing, the experience is similar. When you pull the fish out of the structure, you can chafe your line, get your sinker hung-up in the bottom or both. You can even get snagged just trying to throw your hook and sinker in a place where you think the tautog are hiding! This is the frustration. To overcome this frustration you need to learn a few tricks.

First of all, you need a medium to medium-heavy rod that is strong enough to pull the tautog out of the rocks. Next, you need a strong geared reel with some "heavier than flounder fishing" line. Many anglers use a Spectra Line such as Power Pro or FireLine in the 50-pound range and tie on some 40-pound test monofilament leader. Going down to the bulkhead with your flounder rod with 12pound test monofilament just isn't going to cut it.

Because there are so many snags when fishing for tautog, you need to fish with a very simple rig with the minimum amount of hardware. Using 40pound test monofilament leader make a simple rig by

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tying a dropper loop for the sinker. There is no need to use fluorocarbon leader for tog fishing. Go up three or four inches and make a 3-inch long dropper loop. Insert a #2/0 Octopus style black hook in the loop. Then give yourself a couple feet of 40-pound leader before tying on a barrel swivel. Some anglers will tie the 40pound test to their Spectra Line with a double uni-knot so they don't even need a barrel swivel. If you don't know how to make a fancy dropper loop, an overhand Surgeon's Knot works just fine.

Some anglers fishing from the shore like to use an egg sinker rig. Put the egg sinker on your line above a barrel swivel and attach a leadered tautog hook to the barrel swivel.



Another popular "quickie" rig is to buy a pack of leadered tautog hooks and some 3-way swivels with a duel lock snap attached and loop the leadered hook through one eye of the 3way swivel and attach the sinker to the snap. With the latter two rigs, you need to make sure you have some abrasion resistant line on your reel.

When tautog fishing, anglers use flat or inline type sinkers so they don't get hungup on the bottom as easy. When the tide is running slower, you can get away with a $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 ounce sinker. When the tide runs hard, you may need more. When anglers fish the Rt. 50 Bridge, where the tide runs very hard, sometimes anglers need to go to a 6-ounce sinker to stay right in front of the pilings. At the Indian River Inlet, anglers cast towards the pilings of the Bridge during slack tide. Nothing is more Continued on page 54

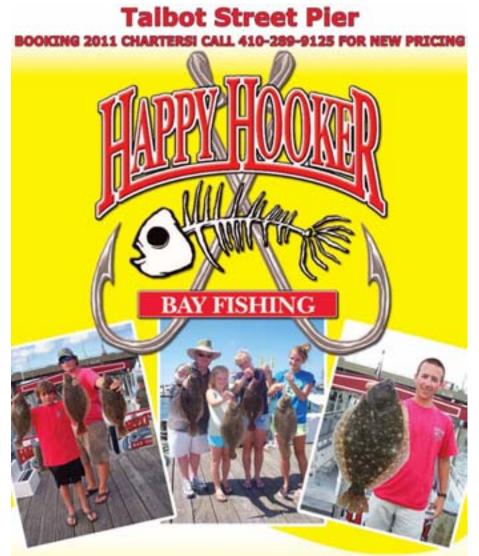
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Winter 2011 Coastal Fisherman Page 53



Trevor Smethurst was fishing 1 mile south of the Indian River Inlet at the end of November when he hooked this 45-inch, 27.7 lb. striper on a Stretch 25. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop.



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Hwa Park from Laurel, MD muscled this 13 lb. 11 oz. tautog from a Delaware Bay artificial reef while fishing on the "Top Gun" with Capt. Pete Haines. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Page 54 Coastal Fisherman Winter 2011 Driftin' Easy continued:

frustrating than to hook a big tautog and have your sinker get snagged between the rocks or other debris. I like to tie on my sinker with a rubber band while some anglers tie their sinker on with a lighter leader line. That way, if the fish is ON and the sinker is stuck, you can pull hard, lose the sinker but get the fish!

YOU GOT TO BE IN THE HOLE.... I have gone tautog fishing and fished 6 feet away from an angler that was pulling them in and I couldn't get a bite. He was in the "hole" and I was not. Cast out and feel your sinker come back in along the bottom. If it falls into

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a hole, stop and wait. Larger tautog will be found in the deeper holes. Remember the spots where anglers are producing and maybe there's no room in that hole today, but tomorrow.... get up early and fish there!

Watch the good anglers and see what they do and where they are casting. I've seen good tautog anglers lean their rods against the railing and wait for the bite before touching the rod. If you are losing baits and not hooking the fish, try that! The old adage that says, "hook them before they bite" is just not true when it comes to tautog fishing. You need to let the tautog get the bait in his mouth and crush it first, then set the hook.

Bait is very important when tautog fishing. They don't take cut bait like many other fish. They like crabs and sometimes clams. Inshore, they REALLY like some kind of crab. Sand crabs (mole crabs, sand fleas) are very popular. Green crab, cut and sectioned, is the most popular bait. Pull the back off of the crab and cut it in half (some people cut the legs off). Pierce the hook in the leg socket. Locals sometimes find marsh crabs under rocks. This is time consuming but fruitful. Anglers also like to use fiddler crabs, speckled crab, snails even shrimp. Any kind of crustacean will work and some days the tautog will bite one kind of crab over another.

"Where can I fish for tautog from the shore?"

•2nd through 4th Street Bulkhead •At the end of 5th and 6th Streets

•Sometimes you catch some at 9th Street Pier

• The Route 50 Bridge near the draw and pilings

•Casting near the rocks at Homer Gudelsky Park

•The end and left hand side of the Oceanic Pier, casting towards the rocks

•The Ocean City Inlet along the cement wall

•The Indian River Inlet and Massey's Landing (In Delaware)

"Where can I fish for tautog from a boat?"

•Anchor and cast around the South Jetty or around the rocks south of Gudelsky Park

• Venture to an offshore wreck.

Local charter and party boats will often target tautog, so I have asked a few to give me their sound advice:

Capt. Dan Stauffer of Fin Chaser Sport Fishing Charters said, "Don't be a lazy fisherman. Stand up while tog fishing. Compensate for the motion or rocking of the boat with your rod. Tog will not chase their prey around so it is very important to try and keep the bait as steady as possible.

Forget the Jimmy Houston 8 ft. hook sets. Wait for the second or third bite then slowly lift the rod. If you feel the fish, pop him. If he's not there, lower your bait back to the bottom. During nearly every trip with new tog fishermen, the ladies will outfish the men. Ladies aren't so fast to pull the trigger (set the hook) and when they do it's normally just a little pop of the rod which is perfect for tog. I also warn people that setting the hook this way goes out the window with tog over 10 lbs. Many of these fish just inhale the bait and it's game on.

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Tog fishing is very similar to grouper fishing in Florida. It's all about the first ten feet. You must get him away from the rubble/wreck before he takes you back into the junk. That's another reason I suggest people "lift the rod" for the hook set. After the "lift", keep the rod high and fight the fish for the first ten feet from that position. You have already moved him 6 to 8 ft. by just lifting the rod and keeping it there.

If you're on good structure but are not getting bites, change your crab. I have seen plenty of days when fish just don't want a specific crab."

Capt. Dan gives us his advice if you are going out on your own boat to anchor.

"Anchoring, well I have one word of advice. Whatever anchor size is recommended for you boat, go to the next size larger or even two sizes larger. If your boat calls for a #13 anchor, use a #18 or even larger instead. It's a good feeling to know your hook is going to hold and not slide back into the wreck."



Capt. Monty on the "Morning Star" adds, "Use enough gun! Anywhere there are tog, you can find fish over 15 pounds, so you have to be ready. Heck, a spearfishing world-record was set around a Cape May, NJ jetty. We've caught many jumbo tautog within eyesight of Ocean City. Keep your mainline and leader in good condition and never less than 40 pound test. When Continued on page 56





Andy Savill took the trip down from West Chester, PA to go surf fishing off 29th Street in Ocean City and was rewarded with this 33inch chopper bluefish that he hooked on a finger mullet.



Dave Lewis of Berlin, MD landed a 32-inch striper and Russ Barrett, also from Berlin, MD caught a 34-incher, both while fishing on the "Game On" with Bill Zimmerman and Woody Klein of West Ocean City, MD and Capt. Willie Zimmerman. The fish were hooked on trolled parachutes near the DE/MD line in late November.

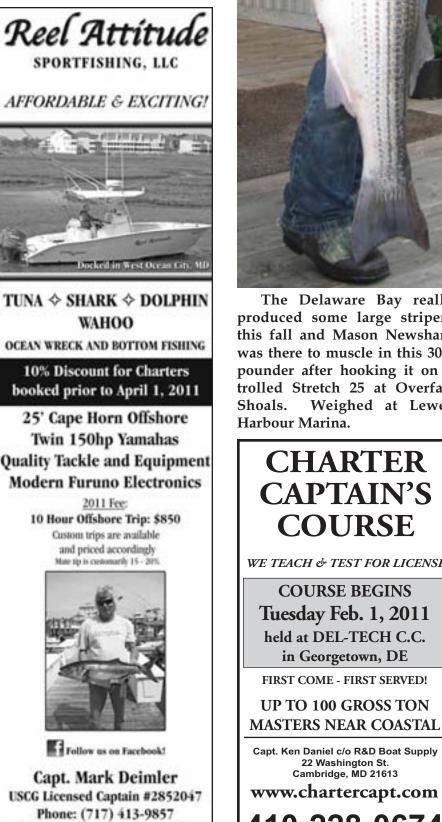


Page 56 Coastal Fisherman Winter 2011 **Driftin' Easy continued:**

you start to really enjoy the challenge of toggin', support your local reef building. Virtually all our tautog live on manmade structure. I have even designed reef units especially for tautog so watch for "Tog Towns" being built in the near future."

Yes, tautog fishing is fun and great sport. Take lots of tackle and plenty of sinkers, and enjoy...

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



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Lee Abel from Lewes, DE trolled up this 29.2 lb. striper on a plug in the Delaware Bay and weighed his catch at Lewes Harbour Marina.



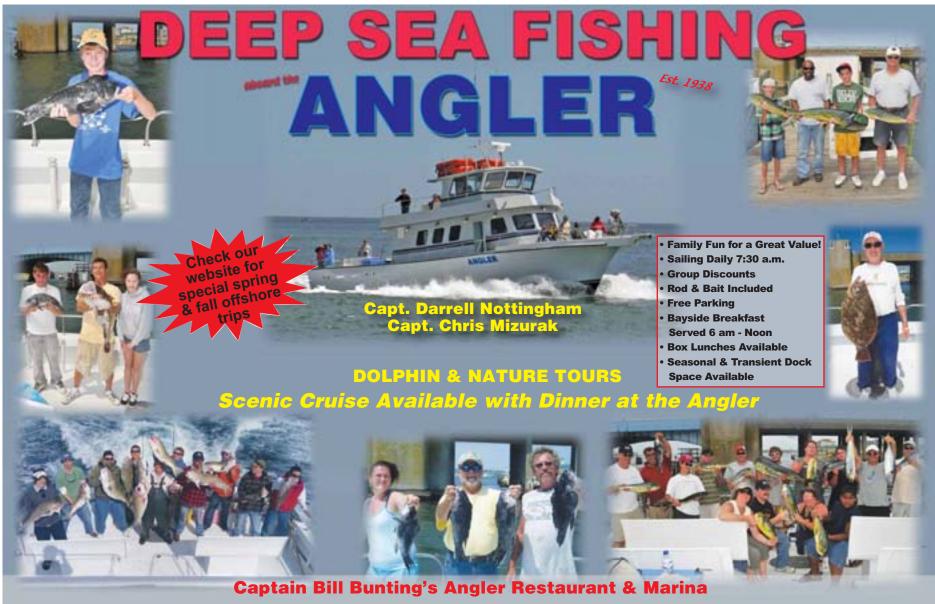
Jordan Flaherty of Milton, DE was togging at Reef Site #8 near Brown Shoal when he decked this 7 lb. 10 oz. tautog. Jordan weighed the tog at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Gunnar Reynolds from Girdletree, MD showed his brothers how it is done, muscling in this 9 lb. bluefish while fishing with Gage and Grady Reynolds, Capt. Shane Heimer and Mate/Dad Don Reynolds. The chopper was caught on a Stretch 25 at the Isle of Wight Shoal. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

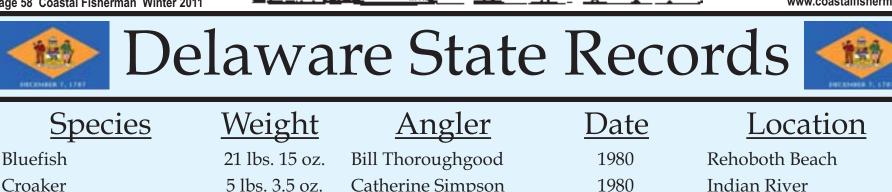


Ricardo Burgos from Long Neck, DE was fishing with live eels at Overfall Shoals when he caught this 27 lb. 5 oz. striper. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop.



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Diuensn	21 105. 15 02.	Din morougneoou	1700	Kenobour Deach	
Croaker	5 lbs. 3.5 oz.	Catherine Simpson	1980	Indian River	
Dolphin	52 lbs.	Charles Ciociola	2003	Hot Dog	
Drum, Black	115 lbs.	Kenneth Smith	1978	Delaware Bay	
Drum, Red	No classification				
Flounder, Summer	17 lbs. 15 oz.	William Kendall	1974	Indian River Inlet	
Kingfish, Roundhead	4 lbs.	Billy Hastings	1973	Bethany Beach	
Mackerel, King	48 lbs. 9 oz.	Gordon Harris	1992	"B" Buoy	
Mackerel, Spanish	6 lbs. 4 oz.	Eric Ludwig	2000	Light Ship	
Marlin, Blue	820 lbs.	Bruce King	1986	Poor Man's Canyon	
Marlin, White	120 lbs.	William Garner, Jr.	1972	Baltimore Canyon	
Porgy	5 lbs. 5 oz.	Herman Schmidt	1979	Not recorded	
Sea Bass	7 lbs. 6 oz	Steve Samluk	1988	Fenwick Shoal	
Shark, Mako	975 lbs.	Thomas Barnes	2000	Poor Man's Canyon	
Sheepshead	13 lbs. 15 oz.	Theresa Hilley	2007	Haystack	
Striped Bass	51 lbs. 8 oz.	Betty Roseu	1978	Indian River Inlet	
Swordfish	276 lbs. 12 oz.	Albert Scott	1978	Delaware Bay	
Tautog	21 lbs. 4 oz.	Glen Cave	2005	Delaware Bay	
Tilefish	No classification				
Triggerfish, Grey	5 lbs. 14.6 oz.	Clint Willman	2007	Ocean Wreck	
Trout, Gray (Weakfish)	19 lbs. 2 oz.	William Thomas	1989	Delaware Bay	
Tuna, Bluefin	873 lbs.	Dan Dillon	2005	Atlantic Ocean	
Tuna, False Albacore	17 lbs. 9 oz.	Scott Werner	1980	30 Fathom Line	
Tuna, Longfin Albacore	80 lbs.	David Francella	1987	Atlantic Ocean	
Tuna, Yellowfin	No classification				
Wahoo	106 lbs.	Will Stahlgren	2007	Atlantic Ocean	
			Note: all Atlantic Coast records recognized as of December 10, 2010		





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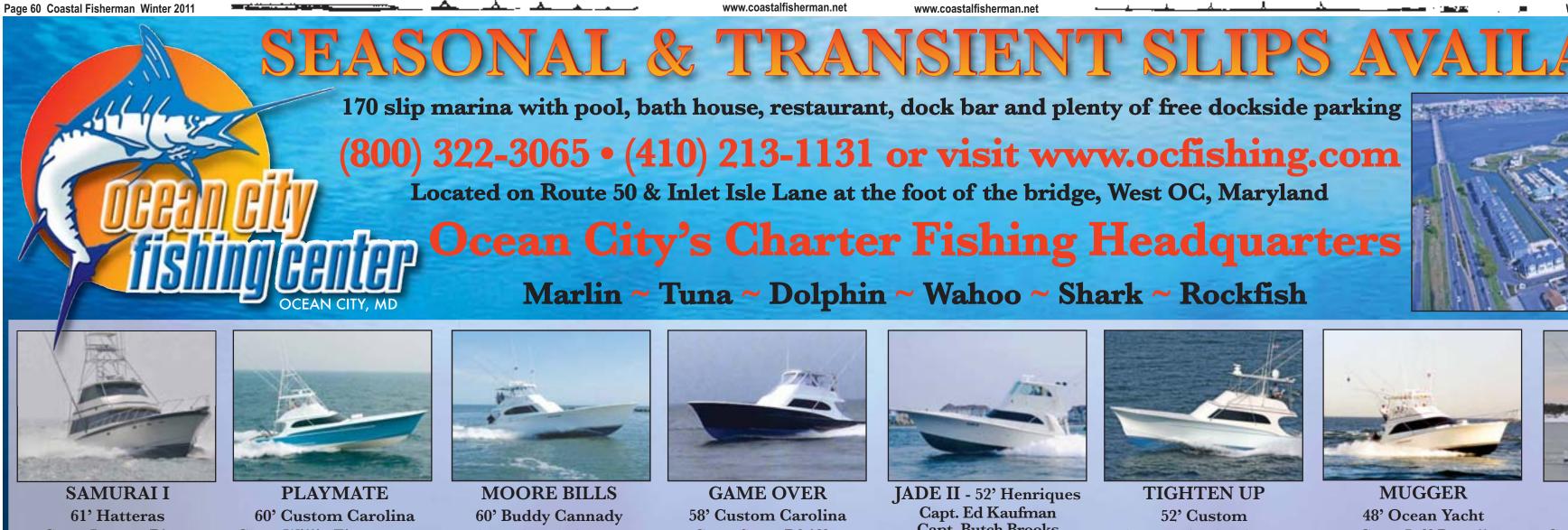


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TAIL TO TALE 35' Bertram Capts. John & Joel Wadkins



HOT PURSUIT 25' Carolina Classic Capt. Mark Sewell

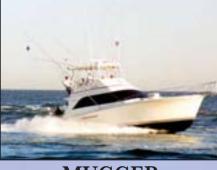


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MUGGER 48' Ocean Yacht Capt. Jeff Powell



GAME ON 47' Buddy Davis Capt. Willie Zimmerman

BILL\$ 4 BILLS 40' Ocean Super Sport Capt. Mike Conner

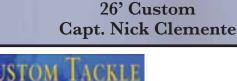


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BLACK BART



Chum Lines

- by Mark Sampson

We were heading offshore on a charter when one of my clients pointed up at the ceiling of the cabin and asked, "what do you use those fly rods for"? He thought I was kidding when I told him that at one time or another we've used them to catch just almost all of the local species of inshore and offshore game fish.

"You mean like bluefish and rockfish?", he said.

"No" I replied, "I mean like bluefish, rockfish, seatrout, triggerfish, spadefish, cobia, bonito, tuna, false albacore, dolphin, king mackerel, sharks, jacks, shad, sea robins, sea bass, and flounder – just to name a few."

"Sea bass and flounder on fly tackle?", he said in disbelief. "Come on, you're kidding, right?"

I wasn't kidding, and I wasn't surprised at his skepticism either. A decade ago, the rapid growth in the popularity of saltwater flyfishing had me figuring that at least by now most saltwater anglers would know full-well about the effectiveness of modern fly tackle on saltwater game fish. But it isn't so. These days, just as much as ever before, it seems that the vast majority of saltwater anglers are completely unaware of what can be done with a fly rod.

Mention fly-fishing and many folks will immediately think of a guy in hip-boots casting to trout in a mountain stream. Bring up saltwater flyfishing and the image might shift to that of the shallow water tarpon and bone fishing seen on the outdoor TV channels. But local fly-addicts know that flyfishing opportunities around Delmarva are not limited only to the well-known species like rockfish and bluefish. From inshore midgets like spot or hickory shad, to offshore giants like tuna and sharks, flyfishermen are bounded only by their imagination and their commitment to accept and



overcome the inherent challenges of the sport.

When image and reality meet the result is an awareness that saltwater fly-fishing is not destined to be enjoyed by only an "elite" group of anglers. Folks are learning that the sport is not difficult to learn, need not be expensive to get started in, and can be used to effectively catch tackle around here is from atop the Rt. 50 Bridge. One advantage of saltwater fly casting over fresh water is that for the most popular species such as stripers and bluefish, a delicate and perfect presentation is not usually a prerequisite to getting a hook-up. When conditions are right, it can often be just a matter of "getting it out there" 20 to 30feet and you'll get a bite.

Actually, the strength and direction of the wind is typically the biggest hurdle for most beginner fly casters to get over. But armed with knowledge of a few techniques, a little practice, and proper boat positioning,



almost any fish that swims, from croaker to tuna! And, perhaps most importantly, fly-fishing allows anglers the opportunity to milk an extra level challenge and excitement from fishing opportunities that might otherwise be considered rather routine. Experienced anglers know that a two-pound bluefish hooked on a chunk of bait is "just another bluefish", but when they take that same fish on fly tackle they'll typically come away with a much greater feeling of accomplishment, like the difference between bow and gun hunting; taking game with a bow may not always be more difficult - but it's always more satisfying.

Certainly learning to pitch a fly is more involved, and takes more practice than learning to cast spinning tackle. But it's not as tough as some may think. Under the right conditions, fly tackle can be effectively used to take fish inshore, offshore, from boats, docks, jetties and even in the surf. I expect that the only place someone can't use fly even a breezy day can be fun and productive. Through time and practice, beginner fly casters will get the "feel" for the way it all should work, and eventually be able to catch fish even in difficult conditions.

Many beginner fly casters opt first to fish with and learn from an experienced guide. A few hours on the water with someone who knows what they're doing can fast-track an upcoming fly fisherman to proficiency in the sport. A good fishing guide will have the right equipment, patience and ability to teach the basics of fly casting and possibly hook their clients up to fish on their first day. Unfortunately, while there's a lot of captains and guides here on Delmarva who can put fishermen onto fish, there's very few who know much about flyfishing themselves, let alone have the equipment and knowledge needed to properly train someone how to use it. But fly-guides are out there and with just a little Internet searching and asking around, they can be

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found. Of course, paying a guide isn't the only way to get started in fly-fishing. Most of the folks I know who are passionate about the sport are ever so willing to share their knowledge and assistance with upcoming fly anglers. One way to meet other fly anglers is to get hooked up with a fly-fishing organization. Here on Delmarva we have the Saltwater Fly Anglers of (www.sfaod.com) Delaware which is made up of a really great group of anglers dedicated to helping other get involved in fly-fishing.

Becoming proficient at flyfishing requires knowledge of casting, retrieving, hooking and landing techniques as well as an understanding of the tackle itself. While space won't allow me to go into detail about techniques, I can at least give a quick synopsis of the tackle.

Fly rods are typically distinguished by "weights" (5-weight, 6-weight, 7-weight, etc.) starting at 1-weight and going up to about 16-weight, the lower the number the lighter the rod. Anglers will usually use 1-6 weight rods for freshwater fishing, 7-9 weight rods for heavy freshwater or light saltwater fishing and 10-16 weight rods for heavier saltwater fishing. Most rods used in the saltwater will be about 9-feet in length while lighter weight rods designed for freshwater use will often be shorter by a foot or two. Around here, anglers fishing for inshore species such as bluefish, stripers, flounder, seatrout, etc. will usually go with 8 or 9-weight rods. That size tackle will also handle modest size offshore species such as small sharks, bonito, medium size dolphin, king and Spanish mackerel. Rods in the 10 to 12-weight class are better suited for larger fish like cobia, false albacore, big dolphin and wahoo. Heavier rods in the 14 and 16-weight range are usually reserved for billfish, big sharks and tuna.

Fly reels usually come in sizes that are rated to rods in two or three weight classes 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, etc., and in an array of prices that reflect features, construction, and quality. The least expensive reels are usually

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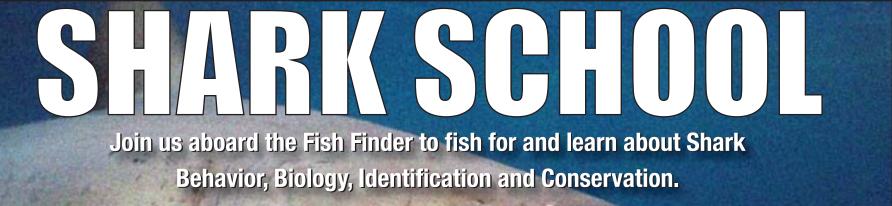


In mid-November, Capt. Les Clemmer of "Martha Marie Charters" caught this 36 lb. striper while trolling near Overfall Shoals in the Delaware Bay. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop.



It's "Two Thumbs Up" for Will Ellis, who landed the first keeper fish of his life while fishing near the Outer Wall in the Delaware Bay with Jesse Stricker. The largest tog measured 21.5-inches and weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. on the scale at Rick's Bait & Tackle.

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On November 2nd, Vinnie Odell of Severna Park, MD, pictured with his son, Wesley, landed this 5 lb. 4 oz. sea bass while fishing with clams at an ocean wreck aboard the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Mike Kinder and Rich Silvani. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Logan Romberger and Jacob Moore caught a couple of tautog while fishing with green crabs along the rocks south of Gudelsky Park.





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Page 66 Coastal Fisherman Winter 2011 Chum Lines continued:

designed for small fish in freshwater because they don't need a drag system or corrosion proof construction. In this case hooked fish are usually "stripped" in by hand and if the fish makes a run, any needed drag is provided by lightly squeezing the line as it runs through the fingers.

Obviously, saltwater fly reels need corrosion protection and because they might also be involved in battles with decent size fish they require a smooth drag system that can apply a consistent pressure when a fish makes a long run. Since saltwater fly reels will often be loaded with 300-600 yards of 20-30 pound braided-type line as backing and then topped with a length of fly line, a good drag is important when you are fighting a fish "on the reel" by cranking the handle to retrieve line rather than the stripping technique so often used in freshwater.

When it comes to choosing a fly line, there are a lot of options, and choices are made as a result of the type of fishing anglers expect to be doing. Fly lines aren't cheap (\$25 - \$80) but they can last for many fishing seasons. Fly lines are typically 90 to 110 feet long and are rated by weight in the same way as fly rods. While most anglers will use lines that match the weight of the rod, some will opt to use a line weight higher or lower than that of the rod for specific applications.

There are three basic categories of fly lines; floating, intermediate, and sinking. As its name implies, "floating" fly line floats, and therefore is typically used when anglers want their flies to stay at or very close to the surface. "Intermediate" lines sink very slowly and allow flies to be fished a few feet below the surface. True "sinking" lines are often rated by "grains" that indicate how heavy they are, which translates into how fast they sink. A 250-grain line might have a sink-rate of 5-inches per second while a 600-grain line might sink at 7.5-inches per second. Depending upon the current and the design of the fly, the sink-rate and the maximum depth a fly can be fished can vary quite a bit, but given the right conditions it's possible to

effectively fish flies to depths of 60-feet or more – thus dispelling the myth that successful flyfishing requires that the fish be feeding near the surface.

Unlike conventional tackle where sinkers or the weight or action of a lure or bait is used to gain depth, flies usually have very little weight of their own and must, therefore, be pulled down by the fly line itself. Delmarva fly anglers will certainly have times when a floating line is the best choice, but generally an intermediate line or a sinking line from 250 to 450-grains will do the best job of pulling flies down to the strike leaders can be purchased and knotted tapered leaders can be easily made by joining three sections of leader material of decreasing test together such as #50/#30/#15.

Fly fishermen use the term "tippet" or "class tippet" to describe the last bit of leader before the fly. The tippet is basically the weakest link in the entire line/leader system. For instance, if a 50/30/15 leader is used, the tippet would be the 15pound test section. Tippets are usually less then two feet in length. IGFA requires that tippets be at least 15-inches to qualify for fly rod world records.



zone of most of our inshore or offshore fish.

It's not uncommon for anglers to have more than one fly line with them to accommodate whatever opportunities might come along. This can be done by having a second spool for their reel that's filled with a different line, bringing along two or more fly rods or simply having another line or two in their tackle box that they can spool-on if needed.

One end of the fly line is attached directly to the backing and the other end is tied to the leader. Leaders might be as short as 3-feet when used with sinking lines or as long as 12-feet when floating lines or spooky fish are involved. Around here, for inshore and offshore fly-fishing, I usually use leaders of about 8feet in length. Saltwater leaders are usually tapered with the thick end closest to the fly line and thin end closest to the fly. This taper helps the line to "turn over" (straighten out) at the end of the cast, just before it lands in the water. Knotless tapered

If the target species has a rough or toothy mouth, anglers will often tie a short "shock" or "bite" tippet of heavy mono or wire leader between the fly and the class tippet. IGFA rules allow no more than 12-inches of shock tippet.

Flies come in literally thousands of "patterns", some of which are tied to closely resemble very specific fish, crabs, shrimp, squid or other forms of natural bait in the hopes that a bite will result even after close inspection from the most discriminating predator. Other patterns more loosely imitate the color, shape, size or action of various types of bait in the area and rely mostly on fish hitting them as a result of a reaction strike.

Beginning fly anglers may find the selection of flies rather daunting and not know where to start. Fortunately, there are a few very basic patterns that will catch a large variety of fish under somewhat normal conditions. These patterns include: the "Clouser Minnow"

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which has a look and action similar to a bucktail jig, the "Lefty's Deceiver" which suspends well in the water and can be fish very fast or slow and the "Surf Candy" which is a good representation of a silverside, sand eel or small minnow. These patterns come in many different sizes and color combinations (chartreuse and white is the most popular) and anglers will want to have a nice variety to choose from when they're out on the water, since flies get torn-up easily by striking fish.

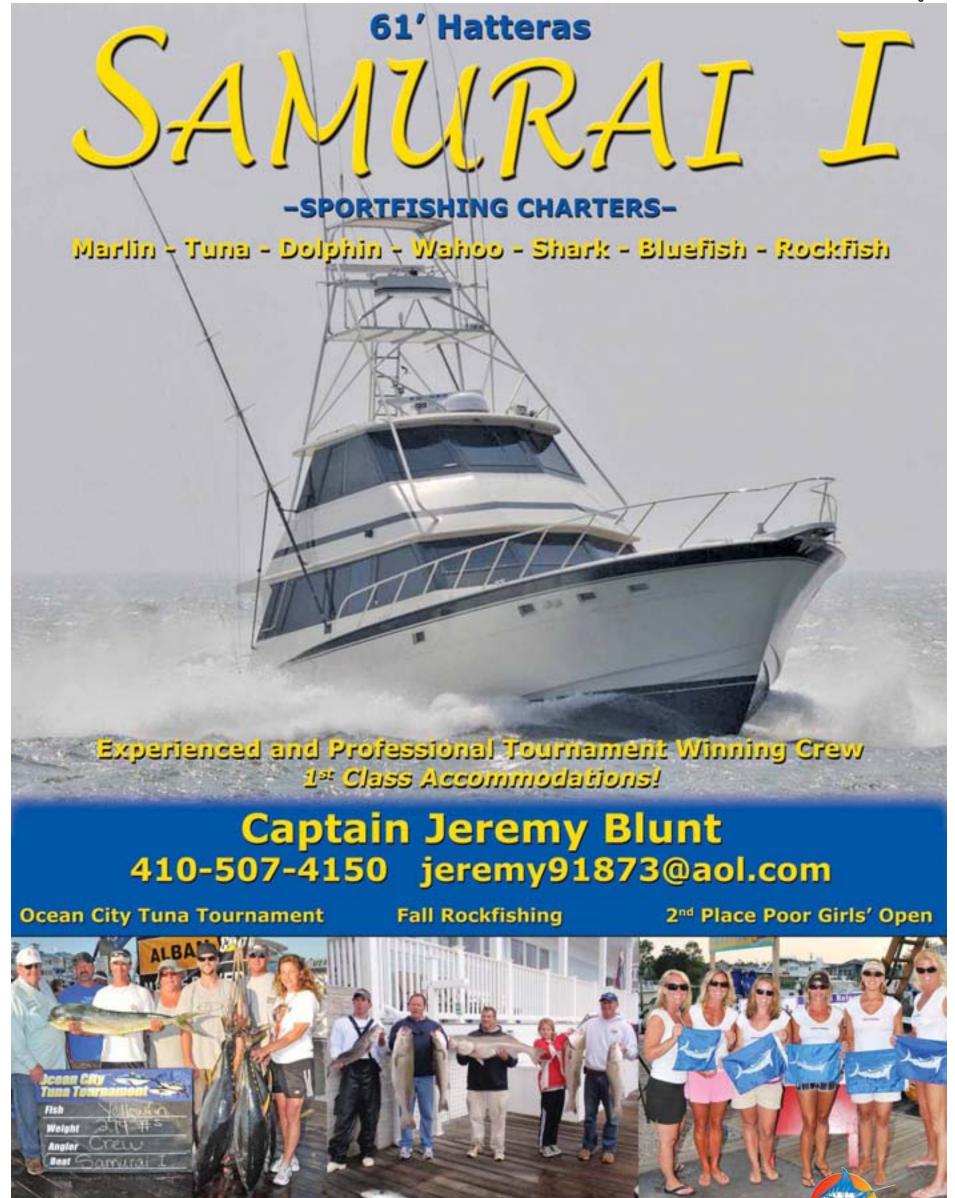
A big turn-off to a lot of potential fly-fishers is the cost of the equipment. Step in to any well appointed fly shop and it's easy to see why with rods starting at \$350 and reels going for \$300 and up. Well worth the price if (or when) one gets bitten hard by the fly-fishing bug. While most will agree that it's best to learn with top-line equipment, if spending that kind of money is preventing someone from getting into the sport - I say "go cheap"!

For less than \$200, even saltwater anglers can get set up with a starter outfit that typically includes rod, reel, line, leader, and probably even a simple instruction booklet. Inexpensive fly tackle may not provide the optimal performance and lifetime service of the pricey stuff, but it's good enough to take most small to medium size inshore fish and permits new anglers to get aquatinted with the sport before making a major financial commitment.

Contrary to what many might think of fly-fishing, the sport does not necessarily translate to "light-tackle" fishing. Fly-fishermen these days have at their disposal sturdy hi-tech rods and reels with silky smooth drags and spools that hold many hundreds of yards of backing. Hook a tuna on a hefty 12-14 weight fly rod and you'll probably be landing that fish in about the same amount of time that someone else might if they were using standard conventional 50-pound tackle.

It's no handicap to be hooked-up to a big fish on modern fly tackle, most of the challenge (and fun) of fly-fishing

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Page 68 Coastal Fisherman Winter 2011 Chum Lines continued:

comes to anglers as they try to overcome the obstacles that prevent them from presenting their fly to the fish in a realistic and tantalizing fashion. Strong wind or currents, depth of the water, obstacles such as floating grass or debris, rocks, piers, or other structures both in front of and behind the angler, not to mention the limited distance that the fly can be cast (90-100 feet maximum) requires proper equipment and a lot of attention to casting techniques.

Choosing to use fly tackle over conventional tackle is akin to hunters who use bows rather than guns. It's not that the equipment or techniques are necessarily "better", it's just that the challenges are different and sportsmen who meet those challenges and are able to best their quarry can take pride in accomplishing goals that others may not even know are possible to achieve.

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



Noel Dykes, Larry Manague, Kevin Weber, Glenn Huffer, John Barnes, Jim Lecates, Warren Willey and Jim Willey took a trip out of Crisfield, MD to fish in the Pocomoke Sound on the "Karen Ray II" with Capt. Curtis Johns and Mate Curt Johns and were rewarded with a fantastic catch of striped bass. All of the fish were caught on tandem rigs and umbrella rigs. The two largest fish tipped the scale at 46 lbs.

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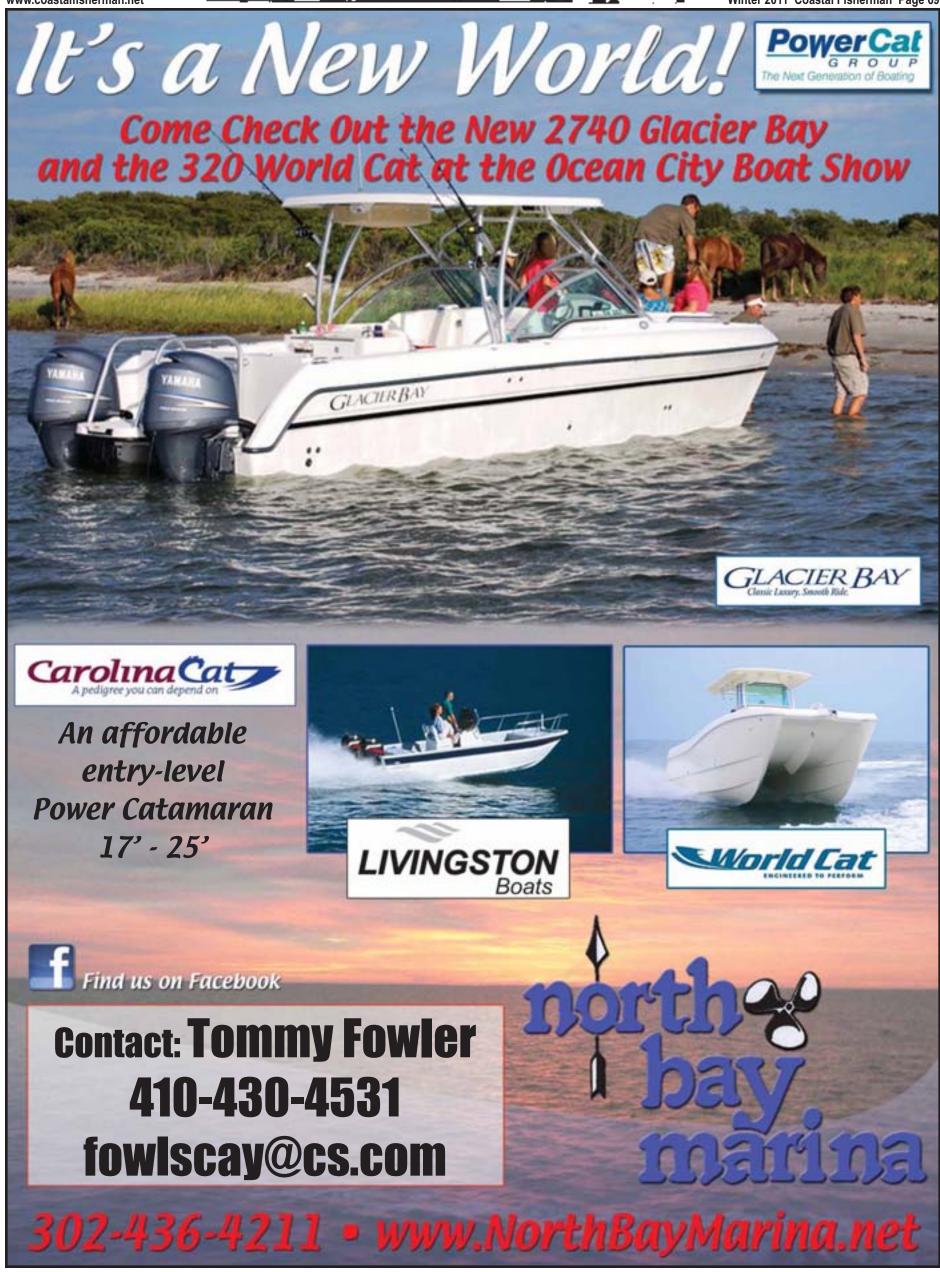
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Bill Lewis from Lewes, DE boated this 36.2 lb. striper while fishing on the "Martha Marie" with Capt. Les Clemmer. The striper ate an eel at Overfalls Shoal and was weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



In late October, Brian Eisenhart, joined Blake, Austin and Dan Wilhide for some fishing around the South Jetty and ended the day with these 7 tautog caught on sand fleas and shrimp. The anglers were fishing on the "Soonerorlater".



Phylicia Schwartz from Wilmington, DE took advantage of a good striper bite in the "8" Buoys Triangle, landing this 25.9 pounder on a live eel. Phylicia was fishing on the "Sally Star" with Bruce Chandler and weighed her fish at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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In early October, C.J. Floyd from Mt. Airy, MD caught and released this 49-inch, 55 lb. red drum while fishing with a whole spot off Assateague Island.



In early November, Jim Daniel caught this 44-inch, 25 lb. striper on a live eel in the bay behind Assateague Island.



Ryan Spidle ventured down from Camp Hill, PA and caught this 29.3 lb. striper with a live spot at Overfalls Shoal. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



After the last Coastal Fisherman of the season, Bradley Martin, Jr. caught and released his first two white marlin while fishing in the Washington Canyon.



Mark Perdue of Aberdeen, MD caught this 5 lb. 8 oz. sheepshead on a sand flea while fishing with Gil Simon on the "Feelin' Frisky" at the South Jetty.





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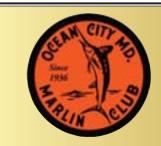




After a spectacular year, the "Billfisher" crew was the big winner at the 2010 Ocean City Marlin Club Awards Ceremony. The team took top honors in the "Most Billfish Released by a Charter Boat", "Most Billfish Released by a Charter Boat in 1 Day", "Most Billfish Released by Any Boat" and "Most Blue Marlin Released by Any Boat". Angler Jeremy Duffie also took 3rd place in the "Top Gentleman Angler" category and Mate John Prather won the Jimmy Jackson Memorial Award for "Top Mate on Any Boat". Pictured are Capt. Jon Duffie, Mate John Prather, anglers Jon and Judy Duffie, Kourtney Duffie, Barbara Glinka from Sunset Marina and Franky Pettolina, President of the Ocean City Marlin Club.



The team on the "Reel Joy" won several categories at the 2010 Ocean City Marlin Club Awards Ceremony. The team won top honors in the "Most Billfish Released by a Private Boat" and "Most Billfish Released by a Charter Boat in 1 Day". Susan McCart was named "Top Lady Angler" and Spencer Cropper won the award for "Top Junior Angler". Pictured are John Gudelsky, Spencer Cropper, Susan McCart, Taylor McCart, Mates Andy Helms and Daniel Reid and Capt. Dale Gurgo.



Most Tuna Caught in 2010-Charter Boat "Marli" (180)

Most Tuna Caught in 2010 -Private Boat "Miss Emily" (29)

> Heaviest Tuna "Marli" (211 lbs.)

Heaviest Dolphin "American Lady" 56 lbs.

Heaviest Wahoo "Bill\$ 4 Bills" (75 lbs.)

> Heaviest Shark "All In" 471 lbs.

Jimmy Jackson Memorial Award Top Mate John Prather - "Billfisher"

Constal Fisherman Congratulates all of the 2010 Marlin Club Award Winners

Top Junior Angler

Spencer Cropper (20 releases) Jimmie Roberts III (18 releases) Adam Moore (10 releases)

Top Lady Angler Susan McCart (52 releases) Carole Speicher (45 releases) Victoria Roberts (22 releases)

Top Gentleman Angler Ed Dunn (74 releases) Jeff Lessin (47 releases) Jeremy Duffie (39 releases)

Most Billfish Released Private Boat - 34' and Under "Fish Whistle" (57) Most Billfish Released Private Boat - 35' to 46' "Stress Reel-ief" (54)

Most Billfish Released - Private "Reel Joy" (176)

Most Billfish Released - Charter "Billfisher" (266)

Most Billfish Released Private Boat in 1 Day "Reel Joy" (30 on 8/30/10)

Most Billfish Released Charter Boat in 1 Day "Billfisher" (57 on 8/30/10)



Most Blue Marlin Released "Billfisher" (3)

Most Billfish Released "Billfisher" (266)

First White Marlin Eric Van Orden "Bimini" 6/8/10

First Blue Marlin

Scott Brooks "Stress Reel-ief" 6/8/10

Edna Hodgens Award John Sippel

Bahia Marina Special Recognition Award Jake Emche Can City Harlin Clu 2011 Tournament Series 410-213-1613



www.OCMarlinClub.com

2nd Annual Memorial Day Bluefish Tournament

Chairman: Franky Pettolina Registration: May 27, 6:30 p.m. Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 28 & May 29 Awards Banquet: May 30, 1-3 p.m. You do not need to be a member of OCMC to participate in this tournament

29th Annual Canyon Kick Off Tournament

Chairman: Franky Pettolina Registration: June 30, 6:30 p.m. Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 1, July 2, & July 3 Awards Banquet: July 4, 1-3 p.m. You do not need to be a member of OCMC to participate in this tournament Free to all OCMC Boat members

3rd Annual OCMC Ladies' Tournament

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

You do not need to be a member of OCMC to participate in this tournament

32nd Annual Small Boat Tournament

Chairman: Bill Regan Registration: June 24, 6:30 p.m. Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 25 & June 26 Awards Banquet: June 26, 6:30-9 p.m. You do not need to be a member of OCMC to participate in this tournament

7th Annual Kids' Classic

Chairmen: Bill Regan, Annette Cropper, & Pat Svehla Registration: July 22, 6:30 p.m. Fishing Days: (I or 2 of 2) July 23 & July 24 Cook-Out: July 23, 6:30 p.m. for Wish-A-Fish Kids Carnival & Awards Banquet: July 24, 5-8 p.m. You do not need to be a member of OCMC to participate in this tournament

53rd Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament

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

You do not need to be a member of OCMC to participate in this tournament



One of the things that I love the most about living and fishing around Ocean City, Maryland is that we are truly blessed with abundant opportunities to target striped bass. Whether you are a bridge fisherman, a beach fisherman, a rock hopper or a boat fisherman, you won't have to look very hard to find your favorite type of striper fishing here in Ocean City. In this article, I'd like to break down our local striper fishing scene into four parts-the Inlet, the bridge, the beach, and boat fishing-and then spend some time discussing each venue in detail. Let's start with the Inlet.

The Ocean City Inlet is located at the far southern end of Ocean City. It was originally formed during a hurricane in 1933 when a huge tidal surge from the storm broke through the beach that once connected Ocean City to Assateague Island. Today the Inlet is comprised of three rock structures (the North Jetty/sea wall and the South Jetty) that keep the Inlet open allowing water to flow between the Atlantic Ocean and Sinepuxent Bay. While there are two sides to the Ocean City Inlet, it is best for us to keep our focus on the north side, as it provides the easiest access for shore-based anglers since the South Jetty was closed to anglers over a year ago. Likewise, the north side has long been known as one of the most productive striper spots in town.

If you've never been to the Inlet or fished the north side, one quick look at a map or Google Earth will show you the area I am talking about-which includes both the North Jetty (the rock structure that extends into the ocean) and the inlet seawall which extends from the base of the jetty inward to a point behind the Oceanic Motel. As the tide flows in and out through the inlet, some strong current seams and eddies form at different locations along the seawall and jetty. This entire area becomes a haven for all species of fish and aquatic life, as they find safety in the massive amount of rock

structure and excellent ambush sites to hunt for prey.

by Capt. Skip Maguire

Although our main subject in this article is fishing for striped bass, I should mention that practically all fish species which travel along our coastline can be caught at this location from time to time. For striper fishermen in particular, inlet fishing is a science that cannot be mastered by reading just a couple paragraphs in this article—it really has to be learned over time. Still, I will try to share with you some of what I have learned over the years.

All seasons are a little bit different when it comes to fishing the inlet, yet they all can be productive. Our best striper fishing (numbers-wise) generally occurs during spring and fall, but fish can be caught all year round. In fact, some of the season's largest fish are often taken during midnight tides in the middle of the summer.

As far as baits and lures go, you will often see inlet anglers making full use of their striper fishing arsenal. However, I have found there are a few simple lures that will produce most of the time if fish are present. First are jigs. Included in this group are traditional bucktail jigs, as well as the soft-plastic, shad style swimbaits. Fish these lures deep in the current seams, bounce them on the bottom, and retrieve them close to the rocks. The swimshads in particular have produced more inlet stripers for me in recent years than any other lure. Next would be swimming plugs, like Bombers and Redfins. Fish these plugs in the current rips that extend off of each end of the jetty and seawall during opposing tides. Many times bass will be sitting in these rips, waiting to ambush your swimming plug as it passes by. Last are eels. You can fish them live or rig them dead. Successful anglers use eels both ways; however, I would say the majority of anglers tend to fish live eels in the inlet. A bucket of eels and a slow-moving tide in the middle of the night is a

combination that has produced some of Ocean City's largest stripers over the years.

The last piece of advice I can give you about the inlet is to fish at night. There is something special about the cover of darkness that makes striped bass more vulnerable – especially to shore anglers. Early spring and late fall can sometimes be the exception to this rule, but for the most part our local striper bite is much better after dark than in the daylight hours.

Moving on from the Inlet, it is now time to talk about a place that is near and dear to my heart-the Route 50 Bridge. If you have spent much time fishing around Ocean City, you have most likely heard of, or even fished the Rt. 50 Bridge. It is a large and daunting object as it spans the entire width of the bay between West Ocean City and Ocean City itself; but this conglomeration of steel, concrete and asphalt is a fish magnet that provides a massive amount of structure and current breaks for fish and fisherman alike.

Like the north side of the Ocean City Inlet, the Rt. 50 Bridge is easy to get to for shorebound fishermen. Anglers generally access the bridge by parking on either end of it, and then fish from the walking paths that line each side of the bridge. When a big fish is hooked (and I did say "when" not "if"), a large, hoop-style drop net is often used to land and release the large fish.

Just like the inlet, almost all of the fish species that travel through our waters each year can be caught from the Rt. 50 Bridge. Still, those anglers looking for striped bass, bluefish, and/or flounder tend to fish the bridge most often.

Bridge fishing is also an art form that could take a good angler a lifetime to master. Conditions are constantly changing throughout the year. Some nights the fish are there, and some nights they are not. Other nights it seems like the fish have vanished, but in reality they have just moved from the spot

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you found them last. I often tell anglers visiting my shop that bridge fishing (and fishing in general) is just a challenge to figure out puzzles. I can tell you honestly that I know of no other place inshore that presents a puzzle with as many pieces as the Rt. 50 Bridge. Still, when you have spent a fair amount of time fishing the bridge-when you begin to identify the different variables and become successful at piecing the puzzle together bridge fishing can become extremely rewarding.

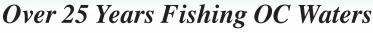
As far as seasons go, and times to fish... the cooler months of the year (spring and fall) are usually best for striped bass fishing from the bridge, however, there are some resident fish that seem to stick around for anglers all season long. In other words, if you have the time, go fishing. Also, bridge stripers tend to bite the best after dark – just like the inlet.

There are a variety of lures and baits that will work from the bridge, but most fishermen have their best luck fishing jigs. Bucktail jigs used to be real hot, but have faded recently to the plastic swimshads and other plastic baits (like Zoom flukes) rigged on a jig head. Live or rigged eels are another bait to consider from the bridge as well, especially in the heat of the summer.

If you are a shore-based angler who likes to get away from crowds and experience some solitude, the Inlet and Rt. 50 Bridge might not be your cup of tea. Instead, our local sand beaches provide some excellent access to quality-sized fish, as well as beautiful scenery and lots of solitude.

If you have a four-wheel drive truck or SUV you can go south from Ocean City and fish the ORV section on Assateague Island. Here (with the proper permits) there are almost thirteen miles of sand beach that are open for surf fishermen. Talk about room to spread out! Or, if you do not have a four-wheel drive vehicle, you can feel free to walk onto the beaches at Assateague or in Ocean City and fish anywhere you like. Be advised that fishing is not permitted during the lifeguarding hours on the beach in Ocean City, but this is only

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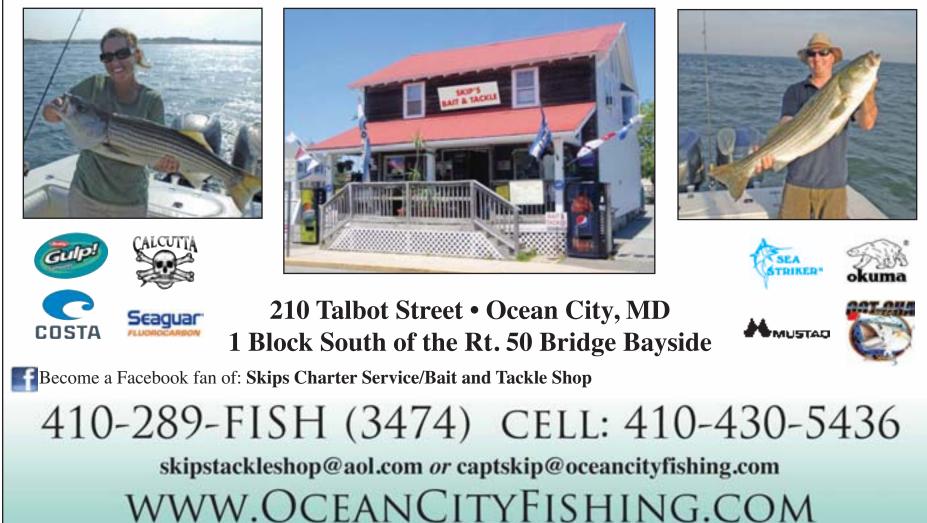
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Page 78 Coastal Fisherman Winter 2011 Striper Fishing continued:

during the summer months. Moreover, the most productive times for surf fishing in Ocean City are generally at night or during the evening and early morning hours which are always open regardless of the season. Fall and spring are the best seasons for striped bass surf fishing along our coast. Every year there are anglers who travel from hundreds of miles away for a shot at one of the trophy stripers that migrate along our beachfront. If you look back at the last couple of Maryland state record stripers, they were landed between the first of May and the middle of the month.

In order to find the best spots in the surf, fishermen will cruise along the beach and search out likely looking areas where stripers might hold in rip currents or travel through cuts in the outer sand bar. It takes a lot of time looking at the beach and studying waves to develop a keen eye for beach structure, but once you get good at it your catch rates will increase. If you are a surfer, there is a good chance you will also do well at reading the beach for surf fishing.

The best baits to use in the surf for striped bass are season specific and always a subject of debate. Still, most guys seem to do best with cut baitfish like bunker, mullet, herring or spot; but sometimes even sand fleas or peeler crab are worth a try. In my opinion, whatever bait you choose, it is best to make sure that it is fresh-not spoiled. As a rule, these fish will not eat spoiled bait, and I have heard some very good anglers suggest that it even spooks them.

One of the best things about fishing the beach is that it is a good place to get away from other anglers. At times there is a lot of structure along our beaches-like sandbars and ripcurrents-which provide great ambush spots for stripers, as well as plenty productive beach for people to spread out and fish. All types of fish can be caught from our coastline as well. Some huge stripers are taken every season, along with giant red drum, bluefish, flounder, sharks, rays and good numbers of smaller fish like croaker, kingfish, and spot. If you are a striper fisherman, definitely do not overlook fishing from our local sand beaches.

Last, but certainly not least, is fishing for striped bass from a boat in Ocean City.

Boat fishing really is the most efficient way to target stripers around Ocean City. I say this because fishing from a boat makes you more mobile as an angler. Likewise, a boat provides you with access to spots that shore fishermen simply cannot reach. That is not to say that using a boat to fish the same structures mentioned in the previous sections of this article (like the north jetty and Rt. 50 Bridge) is not productive-it certainly is. Rather, there are other areas like the near-shore shoals and the Inlet's South Jetty that are not reachable by shore anglers, and are wonderfully

productive spots for boat fishermen.

In the spring and fall, when migratory fish are passing by our shores, boat fishing can be your quickest ticket to a limit of keeper striped bass. In fact, right now as I am writing this article, there are quite a few boats catching fish by trolling diving plugs and casting jigs to the schools of feeding stripers and bluefish that are passing by just a mile or two off Ocean City. Also, just a few months ago, we had many days catching 30 to 40 plus fish while drifting live baits along the Inlet's South Jetty. I say this all just to encourage you to not overlook boat fishing for stripers in Ocean City. If your goal is to catch striped bass, and you have access to a boat or the means to charter a trip – go for it!

Several areas have been very productive to boat fishermen looking for linesiders in the fall. Remembering that you have to stay within 3 miles of the shoreline, Little Gull Shoal, the Sliver, the lumps off 28th Street and north along the Delaware line and inside Fenwick Shoal all seem to be spots that produce vear-in and year-out. Unfortunately, hot striper spots like Fenwick and Isle of Wight Shoals, the Bass Grounds and the Jackspot are all outside the 3 mile limit so anglers are not permitted to take advantage of awesome striper bites that occur every fall/winter at these locations.

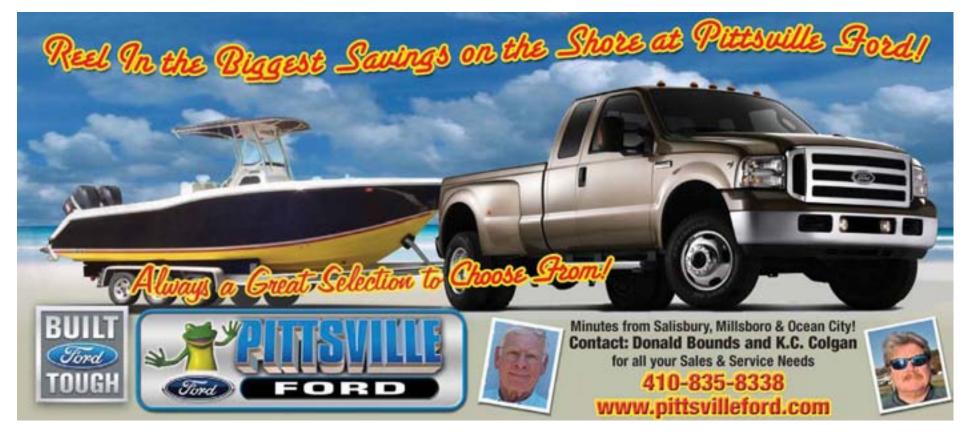
When it comes to live bait, most anglers fishing from a boat will drift live eels and/or spot. Early in the fall season, spot www.coastalfisherman.net

seem to produce more consistent catches when either livelining or fishing with a sinker. Once anglers go through their supply of spot, they will switch to live eels. Most will tell you that more stripers are caught on spot but larger fish are caught on eels.

Trolling for linesiders has definitely increased in popularity over the last 5 years. Most trollers will drag Stretch 25's and 30's, spoons and mojo rigs (parachutes). Trolling between 2.5 and 3 knots can be tedious, but beneficial when the fish are scattered and you are trying to get a bead on their location. Remember, the best thing to do is to look for birds. When you find birds you generally find bait, and where there is bait there are usually fish!

In closing, this article was intended to provide you with some insight into the main striper fishing venues in Ocean City. So the next time you are in town and have the urge to catch a striped bass, get out there and spend some time fishing the bridge or the Inlet. Hit the beach and enjoy some peace and solitude while fishing the surf, or better yet, hop on a boat and have the best access to striped bass around town. Whichever option you choose, I wish you the best of luck chasing stripers around Ocean City next season!

Captain Skip Maguire is owner of Skip's Bait & Tackle in Ocean City and Skip's Charter & Guide Service docked at the Old Town Marina in Ocean City.



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Once again, the crew on the "Marli" was recognized in a couple of tuna categories at the 2010 Ocean City Marlin Club Awards Ceremony. The "Marli" team won the "Most Tuna Caught by a Charter Boat" category with 180 boated during the season and the "Heaviest Tuna" award for their 211 lb. bigeye tuna caught on June 13th by angler Ron Los, Jr. Pictured are Barbara Glinka from Sunset Marina, Capt. Brian Porter, Capt. Mark Hoos, Jr. and Franky Pettolina, President of the Ocean City Marlin Club.



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John Prather, mate on the "Billfisher" took home the inaugural "Jimmy Jackson Memorial Award" for recognition as the Top Mate during the 2010 season. John is pictured with Barbara Glinka from Sunset Marina, P.J. Aldridge, Tom and Jeannie Jackson, parents of Jimmy Jackson, and Franky Pettolina, President of the Ocean City Marlin Club.



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In spite of the pink Crocs, the "Rick's Bait & Tackle North" team won 1st place in the A.M.S.A. Surf Fishing Tournament with 43 points. Barry and Alan Brittingham, Jimmy Wolinski, Andy Twardus, Chris Vann and Bob Nine teamed up to land all bluefish in the October tournament to win a check for \$2,000.



The "Fish Hogs" caught nothing but bluefish during the AMSA Surf Fishing Tournament and accumlated 32 points, good enough for 2nd place and a check for \$1,000. Pictured are anglers Bill Mariner, Jamie Logan, Clark Crockett, Kevin Baylis, Marty Bull and Brian Hill.



Tying for 3rd place in the AMSA Surf Fishing Tournament held on October 21st, 22nd & 23rd were the "Assawoman Anglers" (left) and the "Sudui Fred" teams. Each accumulated 29 points with catches of bluefish. The "Assawoman Anglers" took home the \$500 check through a flip of a coin to break the tie. Fishing on the "Assawoman Anglers" were Karl Haugh, Dean Carroll, Bob Chesser, Glen Mathews, John Conquest and John Hickman. The "Sudui Fred" team had Loreta and Tim Schickner, Ed and Linas Saurusaitis and Wayne Holland on the beach. Pictured at the award presentation at AMSA headquarters.

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BILLFISHER

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CAPTAIN JON DUFFIE 240.372.8117 www.billfishersportfishing.com Docked at Sunset Marina, West Ocean City, MD

by Mama Jock



Spicy Black Sea Bass

2 lbs. blackfish fillets, skin off 2 TBSP. olive oil 2 TBSP. soy sauce 2 TBSP. Worcestershire sauce 11/4 tsp. paprika 1/2 tsp. chili powder 1/2 tsp. garlic powder

Dash red pepper sauce

Cut the fillets in single portions and place in a well greased baking pan.

Combine olive oil, soy sauce, Worcestshire sauce, paprika, chili and garlic powder and hot pepper sauce.

Broil 4 inches from the heat source for 5 minutes.

Turn the fillets, baste with the sauce and broil an additional 3 to 5 minutes, or until the fish flakes easily.

> Serve with lemon wedges. Serves 6.

Striped Bass with Peach Salsa

2 cups water 1 TBSP. sea salt 21/4 tsp. sugar 4 striped bass fillets Cooking spray 11/2 cups finely chopped peaches 2 TBSP. thinly sliced shallots 11/2 TBSP. fresh lemon juice 1 TBSP. extra-virgin olive oil 3/8 tsp. salt, divided 1/4 tsp. black pepper 1 1/2 TBSP. torn small mint leaves

Combine first 3 ingredients in a shallow dish, stirring until sea salt and sugar dissolve; add fish. Let stand 20 minutes. Drain; pat fish dry.

Preheat grill.

Pile the coals to one side of the grill.

Coat grill grate with cooking spray.

Combine peaches, shallots, juice and oil in a medium bowl; stir in 1/8 tsp. of salt.

Sprinkle remaining 1/4 tsp. salt and pepper over the fish.

Lightly coat fish with cooking spray.

Place skin side down, over DIRECT heat; grill 2 minutes.

Turn fish over and move the bass to the INDIRECT part of the grill and cook for 12 minutes or until desired doneness.

Stir mint into peach mixture; serve with fish. Serves 4.

Mussels and Angel Hair Pasta with Red Pepper Sauce

8 oz. uncooked angel hair pasta 3 tsp. olive oil 1/3 cup diced onion 1 clove garlic, minced 2 cups diced red bell pepper 1/2 tsp. salt Dash of black pepper 1 (14.5 ounce) can undrained tomatoes, chopped

1/2 cup white wine

36 mussels, scrubbed and

debearded

3 TBSP. chopped fresh parsley



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Cook pasta according to package directions, omitting the salt. Drain and keep warm. Heat oil in a large saucepan

over medium-high heat. Add the onion and garlic;

saute 5 minutes. Add the bell pepper, salt and

pepper; saute 2 minutes. Add tomatoes and wine;

bring to a boil.

Reduce heat to low and simmer 10 minutes.

Add mussels and increase heat to medium. Cover and simmer for 7 minutes or until shells open.

Discard any unopened shells.

Serve mussel mixture over pasta; sprinkle with parsley. Serves 4.

Hearty Fish Chowder

5 slices bacon

1 large carrot, chopped

1 medium celery root (13 oz.), peeled and chopped 1 large potato, peeled and

chopped

1 medium onion, diced

2 TBSP. flour

1 cup bottled clam juice

1/2 cup water

1 lb. skinless fillets, cut into 1-inch chunks $1/2 \operatorname{cup} \operatorname{milk}$

Salt and pepper

Parsley for garnish

In large saucepot, cook bacon until crisp.

Drain on paper towels and set aside.

Reserve 1 TBSP. of fat.

In a large microwave-safe bowl, combine carrot, celery root, potato and 2 TBSP. water.

Cover with vented plastic wrap; microwave on high 5 minutes or until vegetables are tender.

Keep saucepot with bacon fat on medium.

Add onion; cook 7 minutes or until tender, stirring occasionally.

Add carrot mixture; cook 2 minutes, stirring.

Add flour; cook 2 minutes, stirring.

Add clam juice and water and wisk until smooth.

Heat to boiling, stirring occasionally.

Add fish chunks, cover and cook 4 minutes or until fish turns

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opaque throughout. Stir in milk, 1/4 tsp. salt and

1/8 tsp. pepper.

Cook until hot but not boiling.

Crumble bacon; spoon chowder into shallow bowls and garnish with parsley and bacon. Serves 4.

Striped Bass with Vermouth

4 to 5 lbs. bass cut into

steaks or fillets

8 TBSP. butter

1 medium onion

4 oz. can mushrooms

1 cup onion and garlic

croutons

1 TBSP. vinegar

4 oz. of dry Vermouth

2 1/2 TBSP. parsley, minced

Melt butter in a large glass dish.

Place fish in dish.

In a blender, place croutons; pulse into crumbs.

Sprinkle over fish and top with chopped onion and mushrooms.

Add vinegar and Vermouth. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes; baste frequently. Garnish with parsley.

Serves 4.

Buttery Baked Tautog

1 lb. tautog fillet

1/4 cup butter

2 TBSP. lemon juice

21/2 TBSP. parsley,

chopped

2 TBSP. fresh chives, chopped or 1 TBSP. dried

3 TBSP. fresh dill, chopped or $1 \frac{1}{2}$ tsp. dried Dash cayenne pepper Salt and pepper to taste Paprika

In a small saucepan, melt the butter and stir in lemon juice, parsley, chives. dill, cayenne, salt and pepper.

Place fillets in a lightly greased baking dish.

Sprinkle with paprika.

Bake uncovered in a 400 degree oven for 8 to 10 minutes or until fish begins to flake.

Transfer fish to a warm serving platter. Boil pan juices until reduced

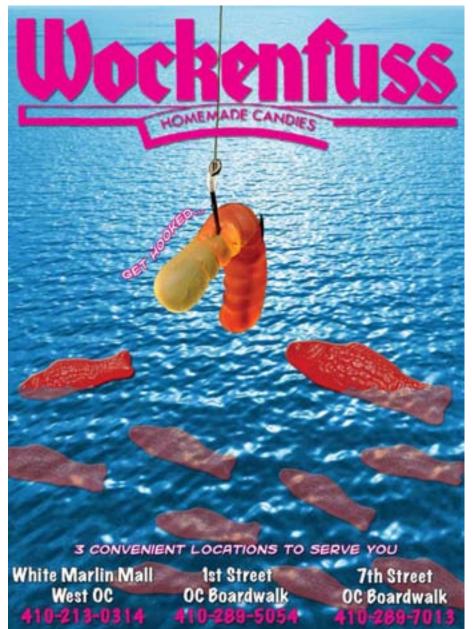
to about 1/4 cup and pour over

fish.

Serves 4.



At the end of November, Steve Adkins caught a 21.25 lb. striper and Chris Shanahan landed a 19.65 pounder, both while trolling umbrella rigs along the Ocean City coast. The anglers were joined by Joe Schneider and Randy Jenkins aboard the "El Vaquero". Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.





On October 13th, the "Morning Star" took a trip out to an artificial reef and came back with some tautog, triggerfish, sheepshead and black drum. Capt. Monty Hawkins led the way with 2 sheepshead weighing 10 lbs. 11 oz. and 12 lbs. 4 oz caught on hermit crabs. Joining Capt. Monty were George Henning, Carol Cain, Steve Doctor, Charlie Wallace and Karen Capossela. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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On October 21st, Rich Silvani (left), mate on the "Morning Star", took time out from assisting anglers to land himself an 8 lb. 14 oz. sheepshead while fishing at an ocean wreck. During the same trip, Barry Brunton of Leesburg, VA caught a 10 pounder on a green crab. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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Kevin "Woody Harrelson" Weber of Ocean City, MD captured this 43-inch striper while drifting eels at night in the Thorofare in early November.



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Frabill Hyber-Net XL

Early in 2010, Frabill introduced the Hiber-Net, a retractable fishing net designed to "stow like a broomstick and deploy as easily as an umbrella". During the summer we tested the product and loved it, but worried that the net wasn't strong enough to handle larger inshore species and opening the net would be hard for young anglers.



Well, Frabill must have heard this concern from others because they just introduced the Hiber-Net XL, a beefier cousin of the original Hiber-Net that seems easier to open.

Like the original, the Hiber-Net XL is opened by sliding the rubber grip forward until the net emerges from the handle and locks into position. Pull the handle back and the net retracts back inside the handle. Ingenious! The triangular knotless poly mesh netting on the new Hiber-Net XL is 31 by 27-inches and 32-inches deep. The handle was also extended to 72-inches from 52.5-inches on the original model.

The handle and hoop frames are made from heavy, extruded aluminum and the Slide Grip uses fiberglass springs. The company claims that there is no tension when the net is retracted.

This is the rare case where a company took a very good product and made it better. Hats off to Frabill for their new Hiber-Net XL.

Coleman GolfCat Catalytic <u>Propane Heater</u>

Being a striper fishing fanatic has it's pluses and minuses. Having to fish in very cold weather is definitely a minus, but I recently found a product that makes it much more bearable. The Coleman GolfCat Catalytic Propane Heater is just that product.



The Coleman company has been around since 1905 and is known for innovative products that are very well made.

The GolfCat heater, as the name implies, was designed to fit in the cup holder of a golf cart, to keep golfers warm in the early spring and late fall months. The heater has 3,000 BTU output and will operate for up to 7 hours on a single 16.4 oz. propane cylinder (\$3.00 at Walmart). The GolfCat comes with a battery powered InstaStart ignition for easy lighting, a metal stand for use on flat surfaces and a carrying case that will also tote a couple of propane cylindars.

I purchased the heater for use in the enclosed helm of my 27-foot World Cat. I tested it out the other day and it took my helm from 33-degrees to 49-degrees in 30 minutes. which would definitely make the trip out to the fishing grounds more comfortable.

The heater retails for \$86 and can be ordered through your favorite tackle shop or online at coleman.com.

Shimano Tekota 600LC



When it comes to fishing for stripers, I love to liveline eels but I will troll if it is absolutely necessary. One challenge that comes with trolling is setting your lines so they won't get tangled, especially when making turns.

To dramatically reduce the chance of this happening, I four Shimano purchased Tekota 600LC reels. The Shimano Tekota comes in 2 "LC" models with the obviously being their line model. counter This completely takes the guess work out of setting your lines. Sure, you can count the number of times your level wind moves across the spool, but it is a lot easier to read the line counter.

The Tekota has a diecast aluminum frame, aluminum spool and rod clamp, anti-rust bearings, dartainium drag, counter balanced handles, a non-disengaging levelwind system, a Super Stopper system that eliminates backplay and is rated for use with mono, fluorocarbon and and braided lines.

I found that the Tekota 600LC is a great rod for trolling,

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with a line capacity of 240 yards of 25 lb. mono or 510 yards of 50 lb. braided line. It has a maximum drag of 18 lbs. and a gear ratio of 4.2 to 1.

A few of my friends have also purchased the Tekota 600LC and share the same feelings I have towards the reel. It is well made and makes the trolling experience more enjoyable. The Tekota 600LC retails for around \$190 and can be found in the majority of local tackle shops.

G. Loomis <u>NRX Saltwater Fly Rods</u>

Every summer, the top fishing tackle manufacturers gather in Las Vegas at the ICAST convention to display their products and vie for the coveted "Best In Show" award for the top fishing related product at the show.

In 2010, G. Loomis won the honor with their new NRX fishing rods. The rods come in two models, one targeted towards fresh water fishing and the other for fly-fishermen.

The 4-piece NRX Saltwater Fly Rods come in 6 models, all 9-feet in length and in line weights ranging from 7-weight to 12 weight.



According to the company, the rods are made by "utilizing a stiffer, lighter and higher density carbon married with Nano Silica resin systems... making the rods lighter, yet more durable, extremely sensitive and yet stiffer." The new material makes the NRX rods 15% lighter than G. Loomis' GLX rods. All of the

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Robert Weller from Glen Burnie, MD was fishing at Reef Site #7 on the "Katy Did" with Capt. Brent Wiest when he bested this 12.3 lb. tautog. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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n City, MD; March 25th - March 26th www.martekmd.com

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Page 90 Coastal Fisherman Winter 2011 Tackle Shop continued:

NRX rods feature black Ion coated REC Recoil guides, custom reel seats with no exposed threads and grips that feature the G. Loomis "HD cork" design where the cork transitions to provide more sensitivity and durability where needed.

The rods are far from cheap, with a suggested MSRP ranging from \$750 to \$855.

Suffix 832 **Advanced Superline**

After 6-years in Suffix, development, in partnership with GORE, the makers of GORE-TEX®, created the Suffix 832 Advanced Superline and won "Best Fishing Line" honors at the 2010 ICAST show.



According to the company, Suffix 832 is made up of three technology features. The first is Dyneema® fibers which contribute to the lines small diameter, high sensitivity and strength of the fishing line. The GORE Performance Fibers add improved abrasion resistance, noise and vibration reduction along with improved casting length and accuracy. The R8 Precision Braiding and fiber technology adds strength, roundness and line consistency. Using GORE's rope testing technology, the Advanced Superline retained 95 percent of

it's rated strength.

The line comes in two colors, Lo-Vis Green and Neon Lime and is available in 150, 300 and 600 yard spools. Line weights vary from 6 lb. test up to 80 lb. test with equivalent monofilament diameters from 2 lb. test to 20 lb. test. The 150 yard spool retail for \$19.99 while the 300 and 600 yard spools have an MSRP of \$34.99 and \$59.99 respectively.

Shimano Trinidad A

The winner in the "Best Saltwater Reel" category was won by Shimano with their redesigned Trinidad А conventional reel.



The silver, outside shell of the Trinidad A is made of ultralightweight cold forged aluminum and the spool is constructed from Magnumlite. It also features a new Dartainium II woven carbon fiber drag for high pressure and durability, E.I. Surface Treatment for extreme corrosion protection, manual clutch metal lever with corrosion protection pad, adjustable handle shank and a white lightweight ergonomic handle knob (who puts a white knob on a fishing reel??).

The reel comes in 7 different star-drag models with maximum drags ranging from 17 to 25 lbs., and gear ratios of

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January 2	Kent Island, MD	OUPV (6 PAK)	Weekdays
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January 14	Rock Hall, MD	OUPV (6 PAK)	3 Weekends
January 15	Kent Island, MD	Renewal	One Day
January 20	Kent Island, MD	Assistance Towin	
January 21	Kent Island, MD	Masters Upgrade	5
February 4	Chincoteague, VA	OUPV (6 PAK)	3 Weekends
February 6	Annapolis, MD	OUPV (6 PAK)	Weekdays
February 11	Lancaster, PA	OUPV (6 PAK)	3 Weekends
March 6	Kent Island, MD	OUPV (6 PAK)	Weekdays
March 11	California, MD	OUPV (6 PAK)	3 Weekends
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6.2:1 or 6.3:1. resulting in line retrieve per crank of 38 to 46 inches.

The Shimano Trinidad A reel has an MSRP from \$450 to \$500. Check with your favorite tackle shop for availability.

Frabill FXE Stormsuit

The winner in the "Best Apparel" category was the FXE Stormsuit. Frabill Although it is pricey, with an MSRP of \$209 for the jacket and \$219 for the bibs, both sport some really nice features.

The jacket features:

•Rugged, waterproof, windproof, breathable oxford nylon shell, 100% seam sealed, treated with DuPont[™] Teflon® fabric protector.

•Articulated sleeves for ease of movement.

 Dolphin Skin wrist enclosures with internal and external hook-and-loop cinch stops water from running down arms.

•4-way adjustable, vented hood and oversized chin flaps lock hood in place at high speeds.



YKK • Water-resistant Aquaguard zippers plus internal Dolphin Skin barrier keep water out.

•Parka length plus drop back design, internal cord lock adjusters.

•2 large internal Lycra

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pockets stretch to store gear. • Internal sunglasses pocket

and attached sunglasses towel. The bib features:

• Wear areas reinforced with rugged 500 denier nylon.

• Leak-proof seat design.

•Bunker gear style bib straps, fully elastic with cam buckles.

• Fully adjustable waist cinch design with internal elastic.

• Extended length leg zippers with Dolphin Skin backing to keep water out.



zippers provide •Side access to pockets and serve as regulate body vents to temperature.

•Articulated knees with 3mm internal neoprene padding.

• Waterproof "Spillway" crotch design so you don't have to take the bib off when you need a "pit stop".

• Fully adjustable pant cuffs.

Both the jacket and the bib are available in regular and big & tall sizes. They also come in two colors, terra (shown) and russett.

As always, check with your local tackle shop for any of these products.



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Tommy and Noah Fowler of West Ocean City, MD were trolling mojo rigs across the lumps off 87th Street when they hooked into these two stripers measuring 36 and 38-inches.



Jim Maines of Bordentown, NJ and Al Mazzagatti from Philadelphia, PA had a great trip aboard the "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente and Mate Bill Kelly, returning with 2 stripers and 9 bluefish in the box. The largest striper measured 38-inches and the biggest chopper bluefish tipped the scale at 13 lbs. All of the fish were caught while trolling over the 28th Street Lumps and down at the Sliver. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Local angler Bob Purcell took a trip to Montauk in October and snapped this incredible picture of acres of striped bass feeding on rain bait. Bob had a great trip, busting out his fly rod to take advantage of the fish feeding on top of the water.

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Euisuk Jung of Lorton, VA was fishing with speckled crabs in the Indian River Inlet when he hooked into this 13.02 lb. sheepshead. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop.



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Jack Beck from Clarks Summit, PA tangled with this 32.6 lb. striper after hooking it on a live bait in the Valley at the mouth of the Delaware Bay. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

Cratty Wins MSSA Fall Rockfish Tournament



Mitch Cratty of Severn, MD landed this 47.9 lb. rockfish on the second day of the MSSA Fall Rockfish Tournament and held on to win 1st place and a check for \$17,000. Mitch was fishing with his dad, Bud Cratty when he hooked the fish just east of the channel near Bloody Point. Rene Ward took second place in the tournament with a 38.95 pounder and Chris Long's 38.6 lb. rockfish was good enough for third place honors.



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Jason Burris of Lewes, DE drifted a live spot in the rip outside the Outer Wall and hooked this 34.9 lb. striped bass. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Debra Fleagle from Halifax, PA caught this 9.46 lb. tautog on a green crab at Reef Site #7 in the Delaware Bay. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



At the end of November, George Ellis of Lewes, DE captured this 21.85 lb. striper on a live spot at Overfalls Shoal. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop.



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On November 21, Ron Fisher of Ocean Pines, MD muscled in this 31-inch, 10.5 lb. striper after hooking it on a live spot in the Ocean City Inlet. Photo courtesy of Oyster Bay Tackle.



Bill Stephenson of Bayville, DE caught this 33-inch, 12 lb. striper while fishing from the surf off 140th Street in Ocean City. Bill used bunker for bait and weighed his catch at Oyster Bay Tackle.





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On November 21st, anglers on the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Rich Silvani and Mike Kinder returned with fantastic catches of big tautog, sea bass and even cod. Tog slayer Alex Levantovsky led the way with a 15 lb. 4 oz. tautog caught on a white crab. Angelo Ruvio from North Haledon, NJ used a green crab to fool a 12 lb. tog while Joe Cristanti of Berlin, MD and Henry Williams each landed nice size blackfish. Dave Burgess from Cambridge, MD caught a sea bass and a cod on a chunk of clam. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

Bill Yost from West Chester, PA reeled in this 29.5 lb. striped bass during a trip aboard the "Indian" with Capt. Ted Moulinier. The bass ate an eel at Overfalls Shoal and was weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Most anglers will try to catch the FIRST flounder of the season, but not Tommy Fowler of Ocean City, MD. Tommy went after the LAST flounder of the season and landed this 22-incher on a bucktail as the sun was setting on November 22nd.



Nick Pelikan of Columbia, MD boated this 13 lb. 3 oz. tautog during a trip aboard the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Mike Kinder and Rich Silvani. The tog ate a green crab at an ocean wreck and was weighed at the Ocean City Fishing Center.









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	66 66	26 28.25	55.80 65.80
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78	38	140.80
78	40	156.00
79	36	127.98
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	38	142.60
79	40	158.00
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82	40	164.00
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82	44	198.44
82	46	216.89
84	40	168.00
84	48	241.90
84	50	262.50
84	60	378.00
86	40	172.00
86	46	227.47
86	48	247.68
86	50	268.75
88	48	253.44
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88	52	297.44
88	54	320.76
90	48	259.20
90	54	328.10
90	60	405.00
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96	48	276.50
96	54	349.90
96	60	432.00
96	66	
		522.70
98	48	282.24
98	50	306.25
98	52	331.24
98	54	357.21
98	58	412.09
102	48	293.80
102	54	371.80
102	60	459.00
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		555.40
102	70	624.75
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108	54	393.70
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108	66	588.10
108	70	661.50
114	50	356.30
114	54	415.50
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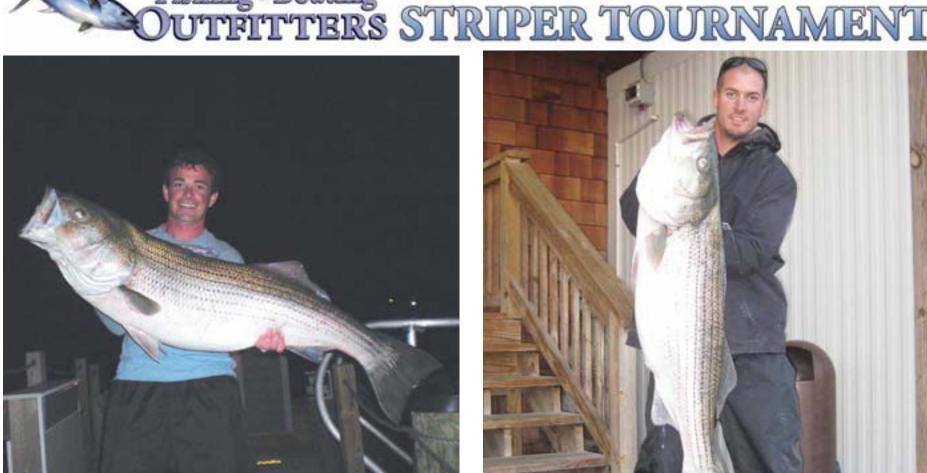
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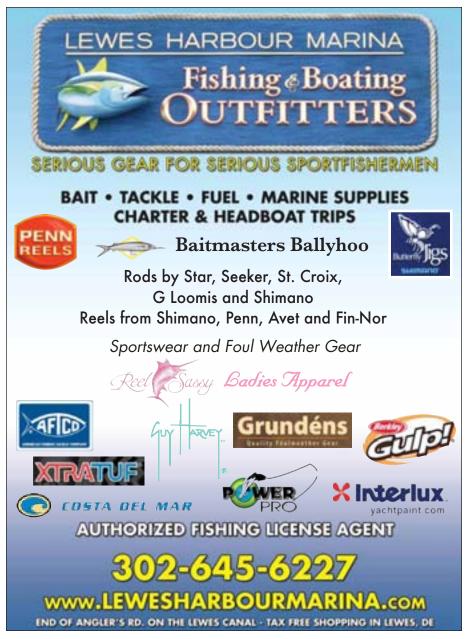
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EWES HARBOUR MARINA

Fishing Boating

At the beginning of November, Cory Falgowski of Lewes, DE won 1st place honors in the Lewes Harbour Marina Striper Tournament with this 43.6 pounder caught while trolling Stretch 25's at Overfall Shoals at the mouth of the Delaware Bay. The tournament ran from October 23rd to November 23rd. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.



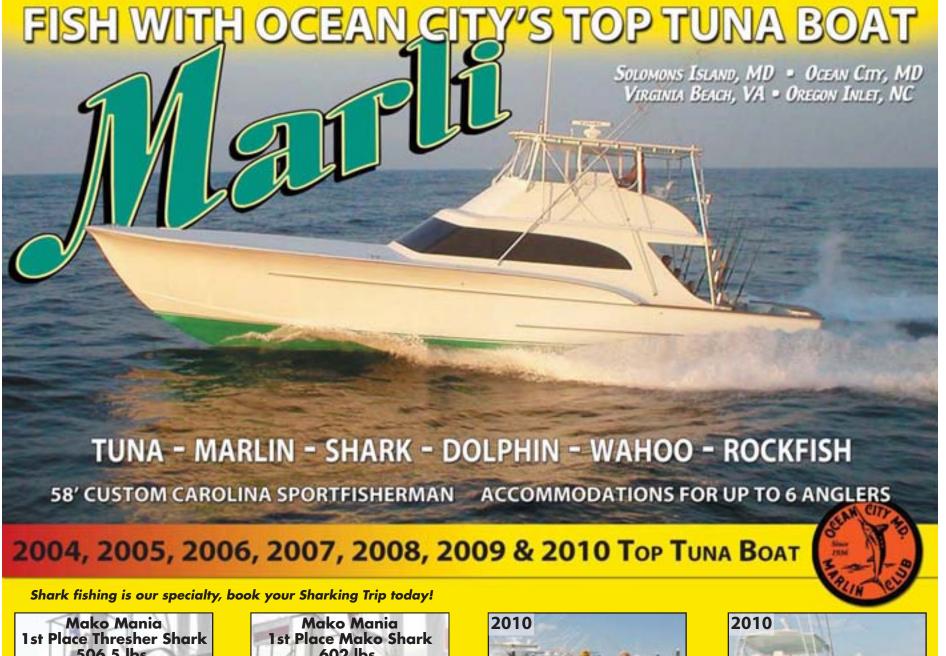


Jeff Gardiner of Wilmington, DE landed this 39.6 lb. striped bass to win 2nd place in the Lewes Harbour Marina Striper Tournament. Jeff also caught his fish while trolling Stretch 25's at Overfall Shoals at the mouth of the Delaware Bay. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Not to be outdone by his sons, Corky Falgowski boated this 36.9 lb. striped bass in early November to win 3rd place in the Lewes Harbour Marina Striper Tournament. The fish hit a Stretch 25 at Overfall Shoals and was weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

Winter 2011 Coastal Fisherman Page 101



















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In mid-November, Marc "Spitz" Slavin, Gary Sappington and Doug Curtiss caught 6 stripers (3 shown) while trolling mojo rigs in 55-degree water near the DE/MD line aboard the "Wave Dancer". Their largest striper of the day measured 40-inches. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.





Paul Daisey of Millville, DE was trolling a Stretch 25 just inside the 3-mile line, north of the Ocean City Inlet when he hooked into this 45-inch, 37 lb. striper.



In mid-November, "King of All Dockhands", George Henning of the Ocean City Fishing Center took time out to go fishing on the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and landed this 13 lb. 8 oz. tautog on a green crab in 20 fathoms.



At the end of September, Vince Benedict of Ocean City, MD stared down this 28-inch, 8 lb. 13 oz. flounder while drifting a live spot near the Rt. 50 Bridge.



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On November 13th, Chuck Wenzel of West Ocean City, MD captured this 33.5-inch striped bass on a live spot in the Thorofare while fishing on the "Martini Time" with John Fioramonti of Towson, MD. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



On October 23rd, George Bell from Millersville, MD landed an 11 lb. 13 oz. sheepshead and a tog while Julie Maugans of Ocean City, MD caught herself a triggerfish, both during a trip aboard the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Mike Kinder and Rich Silvani. Both anglers caught their fish on green crabs at an ocean wreck. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center, West Ocean City, MD



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West Ocean City Ramp to Close for 4 Months

According to John Tuston, Director of Public Works for Worcester County, the Public Boat Ramp in West Ocean City is projected to be closed for renovations from February 2011 through May 2011.

With a \$600,000 grant from the federal government and \$200,000 from Maryland's Department Natural of Resources, bids are being solicited to remove and replace the concrete ramps, replace the finger piers with floating piers and replace the bulkhead surrounding the ramp. The floating piers will eliminate the problem of submerged piers during extreme high tides.

According to Tuston, monies became available in November 2010. The department considered delaying the project until the fall of 2011, but was concerned with the affect the ramp closure would have on striper fishermen.

DE and MD Anglers Exempt from Registry Fees

Delaware and Maryland anglers are exempt from a new federal saltwater fishing registration fee that will take effect on Jan. 1, 2011, since the states established their own free saltwater angler registries.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration recently announced that the fee for anglers registering with the National Saltwater Angler Registry will be \$15 for nonexempt anglers, spear fishers and for-hire fishing vessels, as authorized by a 2006 federal law enacted to aid NOAA in assessing the health of fish and the economic contributions of anglers.

Delaware and Maryland are part of a group of 22 states out of 24 coastal states that opted to create its own registry to satisfy the federal requirements and earn exempt status.

2010 Striped Bass Survey Shows Below Average Reproduction

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced that the 2010 Young of the Year Striped Bass Survey is 5.6, below the long-term average of 11.6. While this is the third consecutive year of below average striped bass production in Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay, the population remains above the management action trigger set by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries (ASMFC). Commission Likewise, the number of adults in the Atlantic coast population and levels of fishing are well within healthy limits as set by the ASMFC management framework.

DNR biologists point out that variation in annual spawning success is normal because striped bass reproduction is influenced by many factors including water temperature, winter snowfall, spring flow rates, and prevailing weather conditions.

'We are carefully monitoring striped bass the juvenile Thomas situation," said O'Connell, Director of DNR's Fisheries Service. "As stewards of the primary nursery area for Atlantic striped bass, it is our responsibility to protect this essential habitat and work with our state and federal partners along the Atlantic coast to ensure that spawning striped bass are adequately protected, and ASMFC management



benchmarks continue to be achieved."

DNR biologists have used the same techniques to monitor the reproductive success of striped bass and other species in Maryland's portion of Chesapeake Bay annually since 1954. Twenty-two survey sites are located in the four major spawning systems: Choptank, Potomac, and Nanticoke rivers, and the Upper Bay. Biologists visit each site monthly from July through September, collecting fish samples with two sweeps of a 100-foot beach seine.

During this year's survey, biologists identified more than 37,000 fish of 50 different species, including 737 young-of-year striped bass. Other findings of note were an increase in the number of juvenile spot. This important forage species and popular target for recreational anglers is at the highest level since 2005.

NOAA Announces Action Agenda for Recreational Saltwater Fisheries

NOAA has released the **Recreational Saltwater Fisheries** Action Agenda, a national plan to address the complex issues facing marine recreational fisheries. The plan will improve science and stewardship and build a stronger partnership with the recreational community. It is a direct outcome of input received from recreational fishermen during the April 2010 Recreational Saltwater Fishing Summit organized by NOAA.

The Action Agenda includes a set of broad national goals, while focusing immediate attention on five priority issues:

•ensuring balanced recreational representation in the management process.

•more fully integrating recreational fishing values into the NOAA mission and culture.

 improving data on recreational fishing and fisheries.
 addressing recreational

interests in NOAA's catch share policy.

• supporting cooperative research and monitoring.

"The Action Agenda is the roadmap for us to fulfill our commitments made during NOAA's Recreational Fishing Summit," said Eric Schwaab, NOAA assistant administrator for the National Marine Fisheries

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Service. "We know it is the strength of our actions that matter in the end, and we are committed to moving forward aggressively."

Schwaab also announced that NOAA will provide a \$276,000 grant to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to help give recreational fishermen conservation information. A portion of the national grant will collaborative support а workshop in spring 2011 to examine how best to reduce barotrauma - the injury to deepwater fish when pulled to the surface rapidly - in recreational fisheries, in order to improve survival of fish caught and then released.

ASMFC Rejects Commercial Striped Bass Quota Increase

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASFMC) rejected a proposed increase in commercial striped bass quota. According to FishingUnited.com, the final vote of 10-4-1 in favor of status quo was supported by Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Sources indicated that states supporting measures to increase the commercial harvest of striped bass included North Carolina, Delaware, Rhode Island and New York.

"We're pleased that there's no commercial increase, but as we've said all along there was no need for any increase in either the commercial or recreational sector, not when there are so many questions with regard to the illegal and unreported harvest we know to be taking place in federal waters," said Iim Donofrio Executive Director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA). Donofrio cited evidence federal enforcement from authorities over the past two seasons of a number of striped bass harvest violations in federal waters off North Carolina in January and February when big breeding size fish are staging several miles off Carolina's Outer Banks. Donofrio notes that it's illegal for any striped bass to be harvested outside of 3 miles from shore, whether commercial or recreational.



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Fishing Boating OUTFITTERS TOG TOURNAMENT



Tom Emig won 1st place in the Lewes Harbour Marina Tog Tournament with this 9.22 pounder that was caught on crab at the Ice Breakers. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Second place in the Lewes Harbour Marina Tog Tournament was won by Herbie Shorthose with an 8.94 lb. tautog caught on a crab at the Outer Wall in the Delaware Bay. Third place in the tournament was won by Scott Bucka with an 8.67 lb. tog (picture not taken). Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



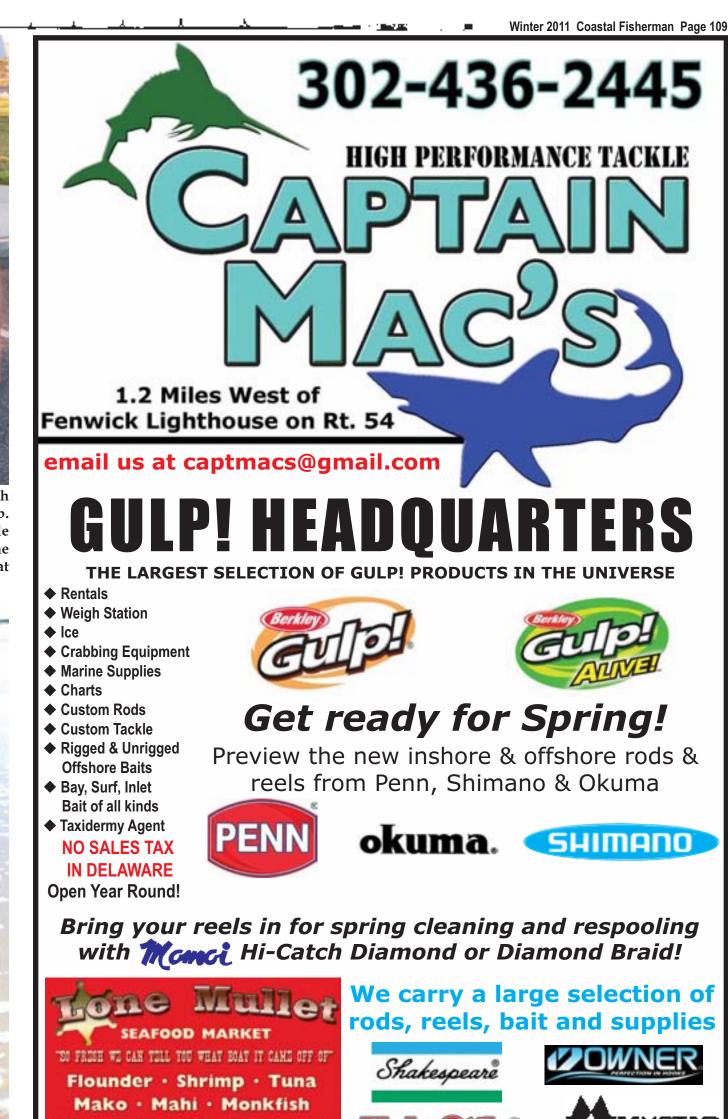


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Charles Heite of Rehoboth Beach, DE caught this 6 lb. weakfish on a bucktail while fishing on the south side of the Indian River Inlet. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.



Dave McKay of West Ocean City released this 54-inch red drum during a trip to Hog Island in the fall. Dave hooked the redfish on a chunk of cut mullet.





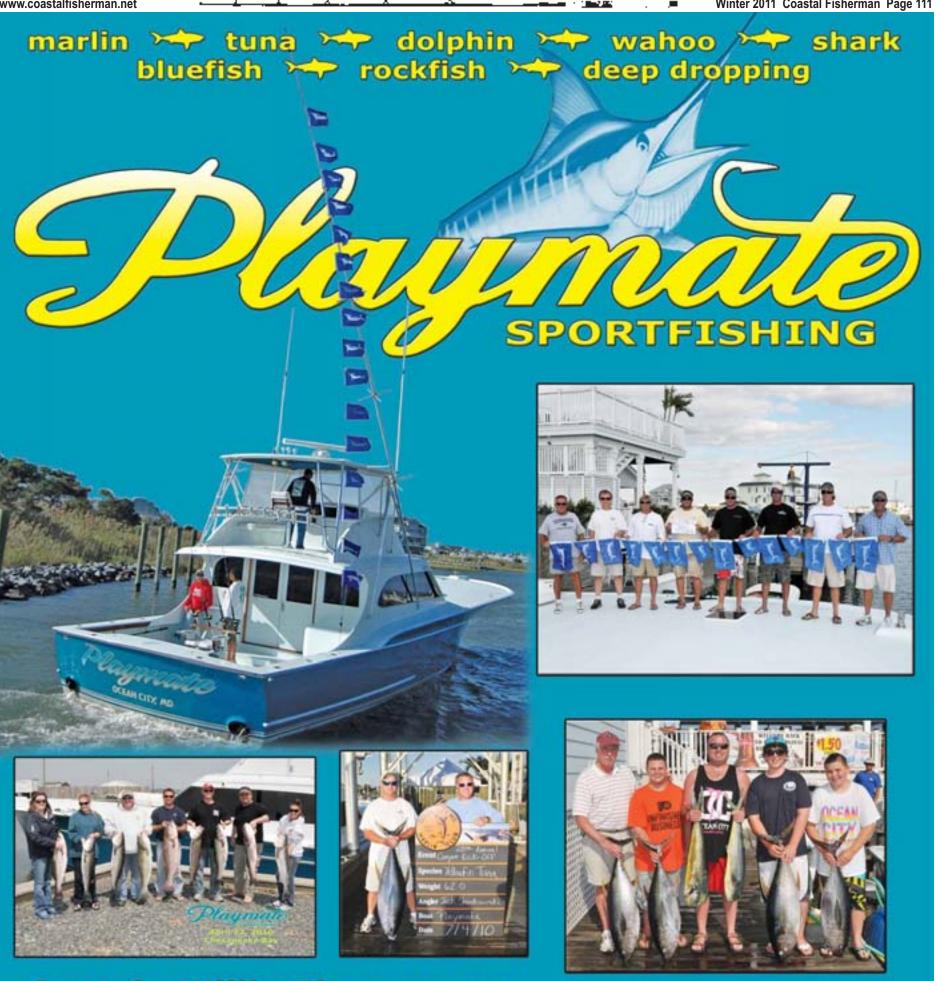
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Virginia State Records



<u>Species</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Angler</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Bluefish	25 lbs. 4 oz	Gayle Cozzens	1986	Bluefish Rock
Cobia	109 lbs.	Joseph Berberich, II	2006	York Split
Croaker	8 lbs. 11 oz.	Norman Jenkins	2007	New Point Light
Dolphin	71 lbs. 8 oz.	Don Dorey	1991	Off Virginia Beach
Drum, Black	111 lbs.	Betty Hall	1973	Off Cape Charles
Drum, Red	85 lbs. 4 oz.	Herman Moore	1981	Wreck Island
Flounder, Summer	17 lbs. 8 oz.	Charles Cross	1971	Baltimore Channel
Kingfish, Roundhead	2 lbs. 13 oz.	Chip Watters	2002	Off Sandbridge
Mackerel, King	63 lbs. 1 oz.	Susan Smith	2007	Off Sandbridge
Mackerel, Spanish	9 lbs. 13 oz.	Everett Cameron	1993	Off Virginia Beach
Marlin, Blue	1,093 lbs. 12 oz.	Edward Givens	1978	Norfolk Canyon
Marlin, White	131 lbs. 10 oz.	Rudolph D.van't Riet	1978	Off Virginia Beach
Porgy	5 lbs. 5 oz.	Charles Haines	1978	Off Chincoteague
Sailfish	68 lbs. 8 oz.	P.J. Murden	1977	Off Virginia Beach
Sea Bass	10 lbs. 4 oz.	Allan Paschall	2000	Off Virginia Beach
Sheepshead	20 lbs. 12 oz.	Arun Nhek	2005	CBBT, Seagull Pier
Spadefish	14 lbs. 14 oz.	Roland Murphy	2009	The Cell (Ches. Bay)
Striped Bass	73 lbs.	Frederick Barnes	2008	4-A Buoy
Swordfish	381 lbs. 8 oz.	James Alexander	1978	Norfolk Canyon
Tarpon	130 lbs.	Barry Truitt	1975	Off Oyster
Tautog	24 lbs.	Gregory Bell	1987	Off Wachapreague
Tilefish, Blueline	23 lbs. 5 oz.	Michael Adkins	2009	Norfolk Canyon
Tilefish, Golden	56 lbs. 8 oz.	Aaron Sledd	2008	Norfolk Canyon
Trout, Gray (Weakfish)	19 lbs.	Philip Halstead	1983	CBBT
Trout, Speckled	16 lbs.	Bill Katko	1977	Masons Beach
Tuna, Bigeye	285 lbs. 12 oz.	Melvin Bray	2003	Norfolk Canyon
Tuna, Blackfin	33 lbs. 15 oz.	William Charlton III	2004	Norfolk Canyon
Tuna, Bluefin	573 lbs.	Frederick Haycox	2007	Off Virginia Beach
Tuna, False Albacore	25 lbs. 4 oz.	Jack Sparrow	1964	Off Virginia Capes
Tuna, Longfin Albacore	68 lbs.	Irvin Fenton, Jr.	1992	Norfolk Canyon
Tuna, Yellowfin	203 lbs. 12 oz.	Bruce Gottwald, Jr.	1981	Norfolk Canyon
Wahoo	109 lbs.	Delmo Dawson	1994	Off Virginia Beach
Sharks				
Black Tip	76 lbs. 10 oz.	John Thurston	1988	Off Virginia Beach
Blue	266 lbs.	Wayne DeFord	1987	The Cigar
Hammerhead, Great	430 lbs.	Ronald Ault	1984	S.E. Lumps
Hammerhead, Scalloped	245 lbs.	Don Lips	1977	S.E. Lumps
Hammerhead, Smooth	272 lbs.	Carolyn Matthews	1988	Off Virginia Beach
Mako	728 lbs.	Geoffrey Newbill	1983	Chesapeake Light Tower
Thresher	525 lbs.	Andrew Schuyler	2004	Triangle Wrecks
Tiger	1,099 lbs. 12 oz.	John Thurston, Jr	1981	S.E. Lumps
		Note: all	records recognized as of I	December 10, 2010



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Local angler and captain, Skip Maisel, hooked this 107-inch bluefin tuna during a trip off Cape Cod, MA in October. The fish weighed 588 lbs. dressed and took 45 minutes to get to the boat.



In late November, Jenn Faunce, Erin Faunce, Tony Eitnier and Phil Moore teamed up to land 10 stripers and 7 bluefish while fishing on the "Samurai I" with Capt. Jeremy Blunt and Mate Mark Stephens. The fish were caught on Stretch 25's & 30's, north of the Ocean City Inlet. The largest striper measured 38-inches.

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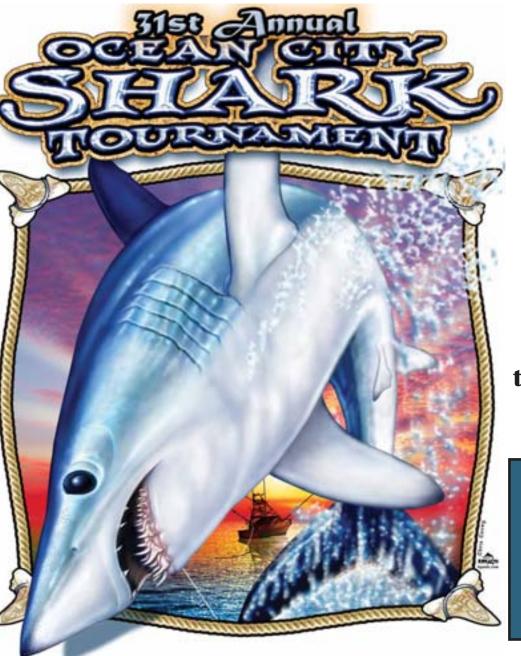
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28th Annual MSSA Spring Rockfish Tournament April 29 - May 1 • M.S.S.A • 410-255-5535

MAY

Bill's Sport Shop Flounder Tournament May 1 - June 10 • Lewes, DE • 302-645-7654

Lewes Canal Flounder Tournament May 20 • Lewes Harbour Marina • 302-645-6227

2nd Annual Memorial Day Bluefish Tournament May 28-29 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

JUNE

15th Annual Mid-Atlantic Mako Mania June 3-5 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7473

31st Annual South Jersey Shark Tournament June 9-12 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

53rd Annual Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament Ladies Event - June 11 • Tournament - June 13-18 Morehead City, NC • 252-247-3575

31st Annual Ocean City Shark Tournament June 16-18 • O.C. Fishing Center • 410-213-2442 or 410-213-1121

22nd Annual MSSA Tuna-Ment June 24-26 • Sunset Marina • 410-255-5535

32nd Annual Small Boat Tournament June 25-26 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

JULY

29th Annual Canyon Kick-Off July 1-3 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

22nd Annual Ocean/Viking Showdown July 6 - 10 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

10th Annual Mid-Atlantic Tuna Tournament July 14-16 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

24th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament July 15-17 • O.C. Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

7th Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic July 23-24 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

Branch Kreppel Memorial Blue Marlin Tournament July 29-31 • Sunset Marina • 410-213-9600

3rd Annual Marlin Club Ladies Tournament August 5-6 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

4th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce **Flounder Tournament** August 6 • Ocean Pines Yacht Club • 410-641-5306

38th Annual White Marlin Open August 8-12 • Harbour Island Marina • 410-289-9229

18th Annual Capt. Steve Harman Poor Girl's Open August 18-20 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7473

20th Annual Mid-Atlantic \$500,000 August 22-26 • Cape May, NJ & Ocean City, MD 609-884-2400

SEPTEMBER

53rd Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament September 2-4 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

7th Annual Flounder Pounder September 11 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7473

33rd Annual Challenge Cup September 16-17 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

10th Annual A.M.S.A Red Drum Tournament September 23-25 • 443-235-2609

OCTOBER

Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament October 1-31 • Lewes, DE • 302-645-6227

32nd Annual Mid-Atlantic Surf Fishing Tournament October 6-8 • Ocean City, MD • 410-213-0646

7th Annual A.M.S.A. Surf Fishing Tournament October 20-22 • 443-235-2609

12th Annual Rocktoberfest Tournament October 15-16 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7473

Lewes Harbour Marina Striper Tournament October 22 - November 22 • Lewes, DE • 302-645-6227

Bill's Sport Shop Striper Tournament October 28 - December 2 • Lewes, DE • 302-645-7654

NOVEMBER

19th Annual MSSA Chesapeake Bay Fall Tourn. November 19-20 • MSSA • 410-255-5535

6th Annual A.M.S.A. Striped Bass Tournament November 19-20 • 443-235-2609

5th Annual Black Friday 550 Rockfish Tournament November 25-27 • Ocean City Fishing Center 410-213-1121

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In early October, Scott Bruning of Cedartown, MD was fishing off Hog Island when he caught and released this 47-inch red drum. Scott hooked the fish on cut spot and also released a beautiful 51incher during the trip.



Dale Timmons of Berlin, MD joined Scott Bruning for a trip to Hog Island and was rewarded with this 48-inch red drum that was released after hooking it on a piece of cut spot. This fish was one of five that Dale released during the trip.



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36'	2005 Luhrs Convertible	\$275,000
29'	1986 Blackfin Convertible	\$79,999
28'	1976 Bertram Flybridge Cruiser	\$24,500
28'	1998 Maxum 2800 SCR	\$21,000
28'	2005 Albemarle 280 XF	\$116,500
15'	2010 NEW Scout Sportfish 151	\$14,000

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These are Ocean City, MD tides at the Ocean City Inlet. Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge. First time listed each day is a.m. high or a.m. low tide. Indian River Inlet, DE add 25 min. for high. Wachapreague Inlet, VA add 4 min. for high, 21 min. for low, Quinby Inlet, VA subtract 6 min for high.

\vdash	APRIL MAY JUNE													NOVEMBER DECEMBER												
	-	High			High		Low			Low				High	3	Low			Low			Low				High
01	01:05 01:22		01	01:18 01:15	07:25 07:45	01	02:11 02:00		01	02:29 02:20	08:32 09:01	01	03:29 03:38	09:45 10:10	01	04:32 05:10		01	04:57 05:52		01	06:29 07:33		01	06:02 06:51	
02	01:44 01:55	08:01 08:15	02	01:57 01:52	08:05 08:24	02	02:53 02:42	08:58 09:23	02	03:12 03:06	09:19 09:46	02	04:14 04:30	10:34 10:56	02	05:22 06:09	11:55 	02	05:52 06:54	 12:31	02	07:32 08:33		02	07:01 07:40	
03	02:22 02:28	08:38 08:53	03	02:36 02:29	08:45 09:04	03	03:35 03:25	09:42 10:06	03	03:56 03:54	10:07 10:31	03	05:00 05:25	11:24 11:44	03	06:15 07:11	12:15 12:51	03	06:52 07:58	12:52 01:32	03	08:36 09:29	02:38 03:10	03	08:01 08:27	02:01 02:18
04	02:59 03:02	09:15 09:31	04	03:15 03:07	09:25 09:45	04	04:18 04:11	10:27 10:51	04	04:41 04:45		04	05:49 06:24	 12:16	04 ((07:13 08:16	01:10 01:53	04 (01:55 02:38	04	09:39 10:20	03:46 04:11	04	09:00 09:12	
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08	05:42 05:38	11:50 	08	06:12 06:09	12:18	08	07:33 07:54	01:16 01:52	08	07:59 08:44	01:49 02:33	08	09:33 10:46	03:36 04:27	08	11:25 	05:35 06:11	08	12:02	06:04 06:26	08	12:04	05:53 06:07	08	 12:18	06:04 06:16
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76' Paul Spencer 2006 67' Scarborough 1995 66' Paul Spencer 2011 66' Paul Spencer 2008 66' Paul Spencer 2004 65' Paul Mann 2005 65' Paul Mann 2006 64' Paul Spencer 2003 64' Sunny Briggs 2005 64' Viking Convertible 2007 63' Weaver Boat Works 2010 62' Paul Spencer 2001 62' Titan Custom 2004 61' Paul Spencer 2006 60' Paul Spencer 2006 59' Paul Spencer 2005 58' Dean Johnson 2005 57' Ricky Scarborough 1995 57' BB Boats 2011 57' Island Boat Works 1996 57' Gillman Marine 2000 57' Dean Johnson 2005 55' Viking 1998 55' Viking 2001 55' Buddy Canady 1995

Capt. Jimmy Fields 561-801-5720

55' Ocean Super Sport 1986 54' Omie Tillet 1986 54' Paul Spencer 2004 54' Vicem Custom 2006 53' Sunny Briggs 1985 53' Ocean Sportfish 1994 52' Ricky Scarborough 1991 51' Crown Marine 2004 50' Viking Convertible 1995 48' Custom Marine Mgmt 1977 47' Rybovich 1959 47' Daytona Sportfish 1962 46' Bertram Sportfish 1995 45' Chris Craft Commander 1978 45' Ricky Scarborough 1992 42' Bertram Convertible 1982 40' Cabo Express 2004 40' Luhrs Tournament 1987 40' Luhrs Convertible 2004 38' East Bay Boat Works 1995 38' Ocean 1985 38' Luhrs 2005 38' Rampage Express 2000

38' Stolpher Express 1996 38' Topaz Sportfish 1989

Steve Trattner 410-251-1817

37' Intrepid 370 2007 36' Glasstech Walk Around 2001 36' Ricky Scarborough 1991 35' Bertram Convertible 1974 35' Cabo Express 2006 35' Carolina Classic 2001 35' Egg Harbor Predator 2003 33' Bertram Convertible 1979 33' Grady White Express 2003 33' Grady White 33 Express 2002 33' Wellcraft 3300 Coastal 1997 33' Mako 333 Attack 31' Mako OB w/tower 2002 30' Albemarle 305 Exp 1998 30' Grady White 300 Marlin 1999 29' Phoenix Convertible 1988 29' Blackfin Sportfish 1988 29' Stamas Express 2005 28' Ricky Scarborough 1978 27' Albemarle Express 1994 27' Shamrock 270 Open 2007 26' Albemarle 268 Express 2007 26' Grady White X-26 Tigercat 1999 26' Grady White Express 2002 25' Seacraft CC 2004 25' Seafox 257 CC 2000

Robby Lawson 561-346-9863

Jamie VanWinkle 772-285-8444 "

Capt. Dave "Coconut" Hedges 410-726-4743

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