

Priceless

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COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME 47 • • • ISSUE 5 • • • JUNE 1, 2022



The crew of the "HotLine" have done it again! Despite cold water in the canyons, Capt. Zach Brunner and anglers Adam Davidson, Ty Brami, Adam Desposito and Ryan Mikelonis with mate Lucas Knapp decided to make a long run of almost 100 miles to well east of the Poor Man's Canyon last Sunday given the flat calm conditions. They were rewarded with the first mahi catch of the season by Adam as well as this yellowfin tuna and one other. Overall they covered 250 miles and burned 250 gallons of fuel! They also set a new record for being on the cover of the Coastal Fisherman two weeks in a row!

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The first mahi of the season was caught last week by the crew of the "Hotline" who took an epic trip Sunday to find warm water. Capt. Zach Brunner took anglers almost 100 miles east where angler Adam Davidson hooked into this nice gaffer in 1400 fathoms.

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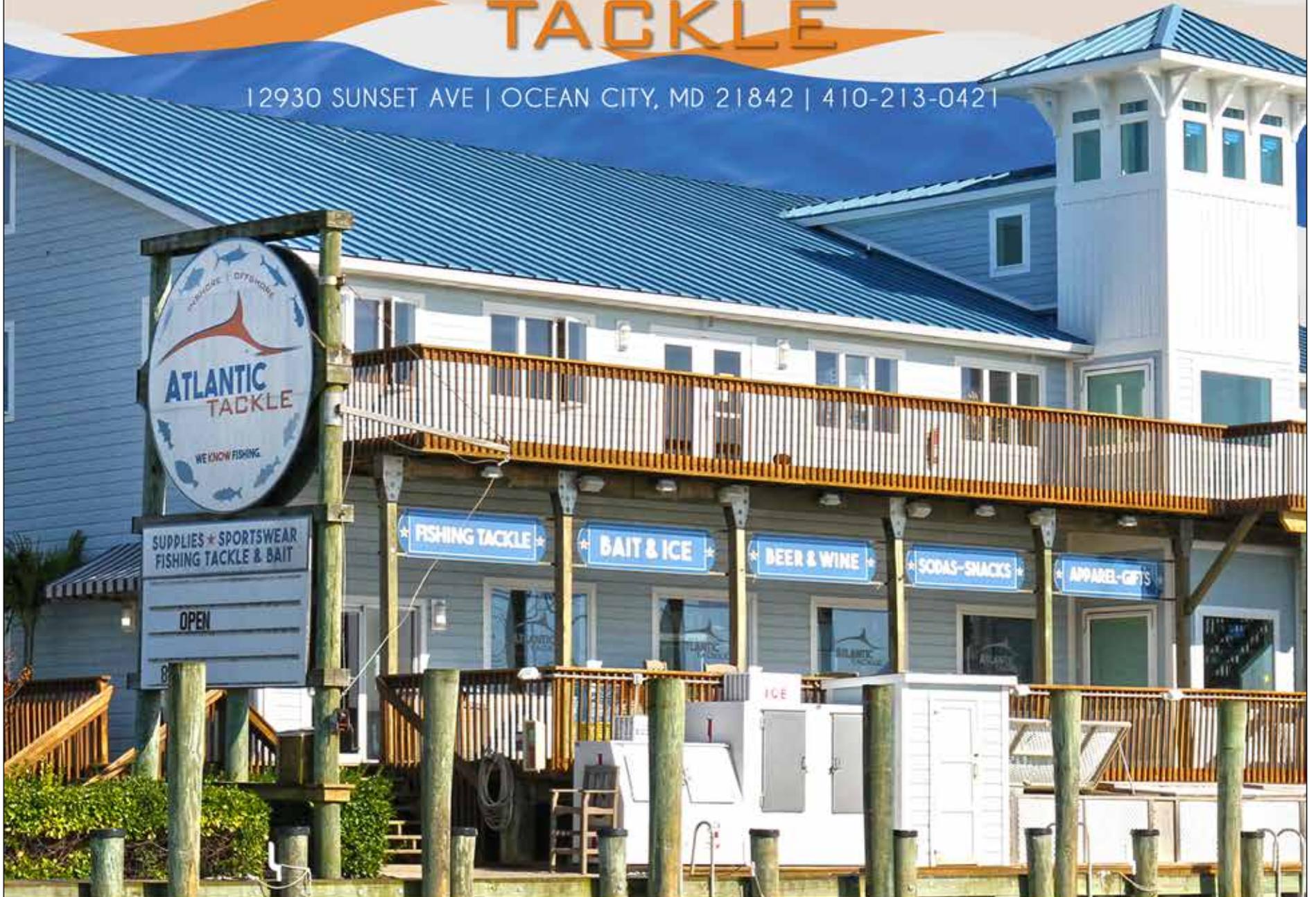
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Hanna Stolz represents! The Bear, DE resident headed to the Chesapeake Bay for the 1st day of the Bay's trophy rockfish season with Brandon and Stephanie on the "Chasin Tail". She boated this 41.5" and 38 lb. rock while trolling a white paddle tail bait south of the Bay Bridge. Extra points for the Pure Lure gear!



Lamont Hilbert challenged the cool and breezy weather at the end of last week to work the back bay waters by the OC Airport for flounder. He managed 2 keepers at 21 1/2" and 20" out of a bunch of throwbacks using minnows.



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Angler Mike Powers proves that bluefish will eat anything! He landed this whopper off of the Fenwick Island beach last week using sandfleas! Thanks to Fenwick Tackle for sharing the story.

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THE Offshore Report

by Larry Budd

This Week Last Year

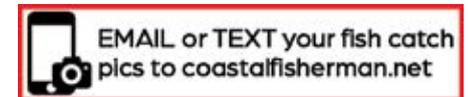
- Tuna fishing got started in earnest. The crew of the "Blood Money" headed to the deep and landed both the first bigeye and yellowfin tuna of the season in 800 fathoms and 66° water.
- Bluefin tuna were snappin' in the Poor Man's Canyon. The "Restless Lady II" caught their limit of 6 and released many more.
- The shark bite was good with the "HotLine" reporting the first keeper mako shark for the season. The 85" male was caught in 20 fathoms at the Fingers. The first thresher was also reported by the "Capt. Ike II" caught at the 20 fathom line.

What a beautiful Memorial Day weekend! The weather was much better than expected on Saturday, and Sunday offered a flat calm in the canyons. Our only problem remains the water temps. As I write this all the canyons are showing water temps in the low 60's, with the Norfolk Canyon only being warmer by a degree or 2 from the others. As you can see from the water temp chart, there is warmer water, but it is well west of us around 100 miles or more offshore. This cold water offshore combined with an uncertain offshore weather forecast last Wednesday did result in the Ocean City Marlin Club

regretfully canceling the Franky Pettolina Memorial Day Tournament.

One boat did decide to make the long run out last Sunday given the flat calm conditions. The "HotLine" went well east of the Poor Man's Canyon to 1,400 fathoms and landed the first mahi for the season, a nice gaffer. They also boated two keeper yellowfin tunas and released some undersized ones. Overall they covered 250 miles and burned 250 gallons of fuel! They also set a new record being on the cover of the Coastal Fisherman for two weeks in a row! Other captains I talked to this week are taking a wait and see approach and are evaluating conditions daily. Capt. Chris Ragni of the "Bill Slayer" has trips

booked this week and is advising his clients the day before on what are their options, sea bass or reaching for tuna. Same with Capt. Jojo Joachimowski on the "Whiskey Kilo". Captains Bobby Layton on the "Wrecker" as well as Willie Zimmerman on the "Ro Sham Bo" have been running



to the Poor Man's Canyon to raise some tilefish before heading inshore for sea bass on their recent trips. The general consensus is the fish are coming, but it is hard to figure out when and it's too expensive to just go looking.

Of course this conversation would not be complete without raising the issue of fuel prices. Diesel is close to \$7 a gallon on the dock. At this point all charter boats I have talked to have implemented some kind of fuel surcharge. These range from a fixed additional fee to a fuel allowance and charging the




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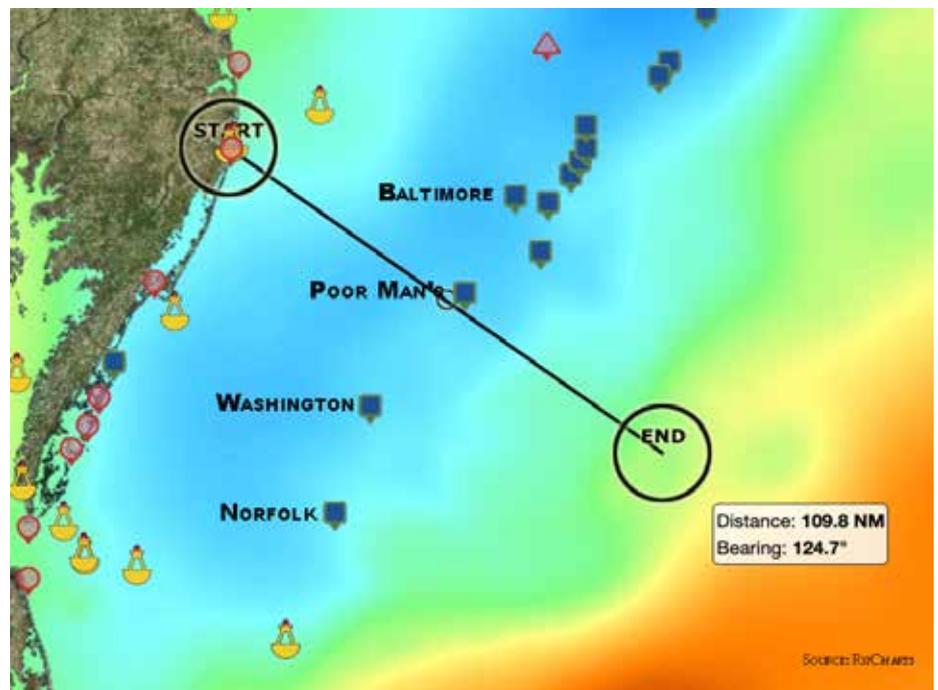
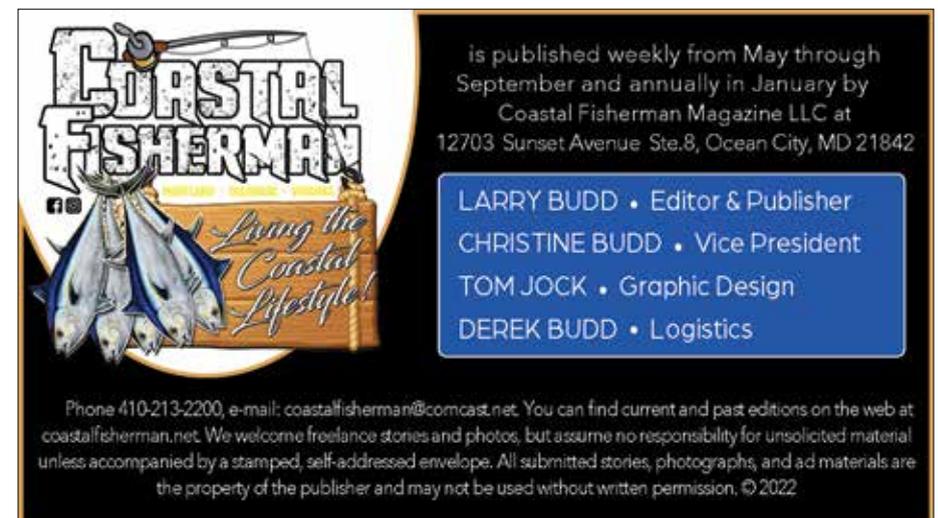
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is published weekly from May through September and annually in January by Coastal Fisherman Magazine LLC at 12703 Sunset Avenue Ste.8, Ocean City, MD 21842

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actual fuel cost for anything over the allowance. One captain has a fixed 'Charter Fee' that covers the cost of the crew, bait and boat and then adds the actual cost to the fuel used. Prices have also affected bookings, with many reporting slower sign ups for July as anglers wait to see what costs are then. So if anglers want to 'reach' for some deeper water fish, they will have to reach deeper into their pockets.

Our weekly "Chum Lines" article is always a good read, and especially this week. Capt. Mark Sampson discusses the expected upcoming changes to make shark fishing regulations that will for the first time ban recreational anglers from fishing for and keeping makos. He also offers some background on the shark fishing heritage in Delmarva, so check it out.

The offshore forecast looks good through Thursday and

we are keeping our eyes on some wind that may pick up on Friday that could lead to some sporty conditions.

Until next time, I will see you at the docks!



Upcoming Tournaments

- The 1st Annual Blues for DU Tournament is being held on June 3rd to 5th with weigh-ins at Bahia Marina from 4:30-7:30 pm. This is a new bluefish tournament to benefit Ducks Unlimited. More details at BahiaMarina.com.
- The 2nd Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament returns on June 17th & 18th. Scales are open both days from 4PM to 7PM at the Ocean City Fishing Center. More at TunaandTiaras.com.

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Shaun Flaherty was at it again! This time he landed a huge 4.8 lb. and 25" weakfish. He found this one at the South OC Jetty with Big Bird Cropper using a Roy Rig of course! Pictured and measured at AllTackle in West Ocean City.



George Brown from Phoenixville, PA didn't need to get onto Assateague Island to get in on the bluefish action last week. He caught this one and two others off the docks at the old Frontier Town (now Sun Outdoors Ocean City).



TOURNAMENT SERIES 2022 SCHEDULE

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

UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!

43rd ANNUAL SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT
Registration: June 24, 6:30-8:00pm
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 25 & 26
Weigh-Ins: June 25 & 26, 3:00-6:30pm at Sunset Marina

40th ANNUAL CANYON KICK OFF*

Registration: June 30, 6:30-8:00pm
FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS
Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 1, 2 & 3
Weigh-Ins: July 1-3, 5:00-7:30pm at Sunset Marina

14th ANNUAL OCMC LADIES' TOURNAMENT "HEELS & REELS"*

To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund
Registration: August 4, 6:00-8:00pm
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 5 & 6
Weigh-Ins: August 5 & 6 5:30-7:30pm at Atlantic Tackle



18th ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC*

To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation
Registration: July 15, 6:00-8:00pm
Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 16 & 17
Weigh-Ins: July 16, 3:00-6:30pm and July 17, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina

64th ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT*

Registration: September 1, 6:30-8:00pm
Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 2, 3 & 4
Weigh-Ins: September 2, 3 & 4 6:00-8:00pm at Sunset Marina

7th ANNUAL OCMC vs OCLTC SHOOT-OUT

Angler Meeting: July 21, 7:00pm
Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 22, 23, 24
No Weigh-Ins

44th ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP

Registration: Sept. 7, 6:00-8:00pm
Fishing Days: (2 or 3) Sept. 8, 9 & 10
No Weigh-Ins

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Rockfish regulation are difficult since you can only keep one fish per day and only in the 'slot' of fish measuring 28" to 35". So Nick Ager hit the lottery with this 35" striper. He caught it last week on a white swim shad by Lunker on the outgoing tide in the East Channel near the Cambria Hotel in Ocean City.



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Capt. Steve Harman's
Poor Girls Open
AUGUST 18-20

17th Annual
Flounder Pounder
SEPTEMBER 11

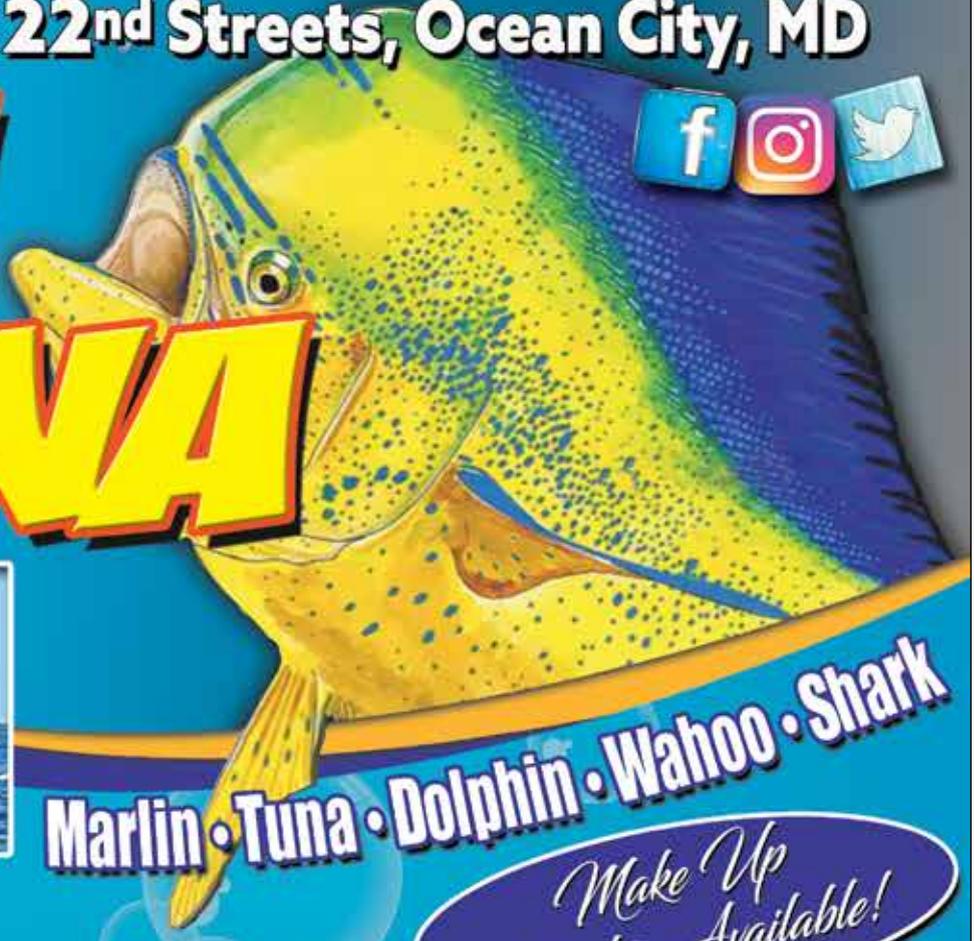
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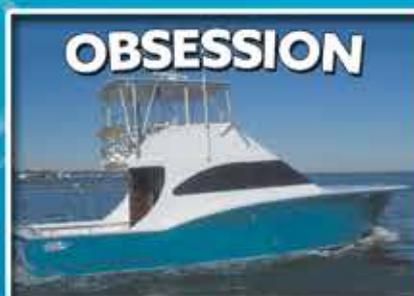
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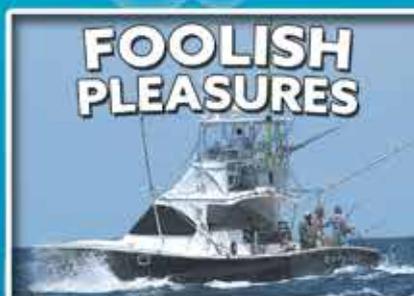
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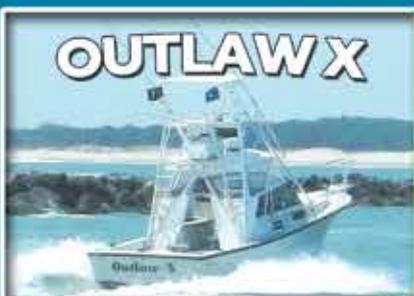
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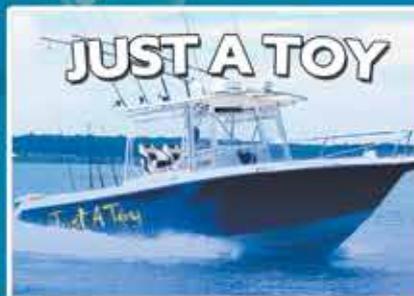
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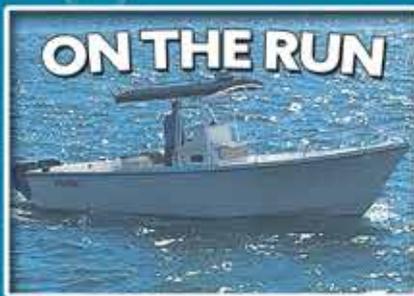
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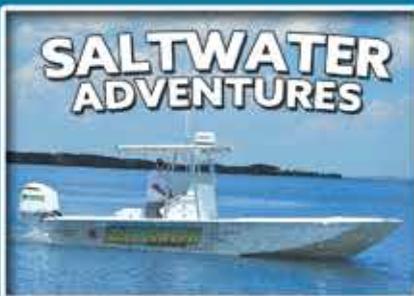
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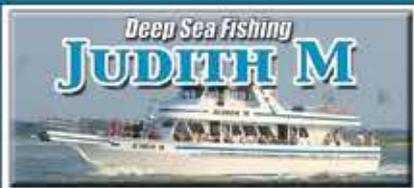
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Tommy Perry's new "Tiki Toon" is killing it on flounder. On one of several trips last week he caught this fattie and several others in the back bays by the Ocean City Airport. Due to light winds and current he actually had to troll for these, maybe he needs flounder riggers?



Avid Angler Rich Daiker is on the board! He caught this perfect size 'top of the slot' 34½" striper while fishing on his boat "Delicious" at the Ocean City Jetty with a Roy Rig.

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- Location of catch
- Name of boat, if any

Please do not compress the photo and do not run it through any photo software.

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

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



There was a lot of movement for Heaviest black drum this week in Delaware! Big drums were being reported everyday and Brandon Moyer was looking solid for the honor with 77 lb. beast caught at the Coral Grounds. That was short lived however as a fish one pound heavier was caught. He was fishing with Capt. Beau Fibelkorn on the "Undaunted". Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.



It's good to have parents in Florida! Brian Hutchinson from Frankford, DE ventured to Jupiter, FL to fish with his father John on the "Double Trouble". They fished 3 miles outside of the Jupiter Inlet where Brian caught and released his first sailfish (77") plus some mahi and a keeper cobia while trolling with a ballyhoo with a pink skirt.

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FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This week in Ocean City we saw much calmer water and a coolness to the air. Fishing in the back bays remained strong as did the sea bass offshore. I do hope that everyone took a moment to remember those fallen heroes who gave their lives so we could enjoy the freedom of this great nation. Thank you to all that have served and continue to serve, but especially to those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedom.

Sea Bass & Flounder

Sea bass is beginning to slow down as more and more boats arrive in Ocean City for the summer. These anglers put more pressure on the wrecks pulling fish off every day. Good catches and even limits can still be had as long as you're willing to put in the time. Fresh clam remains your go to bait for this time of the year with jigs being a close second. Squid is working but not producing even half of the fish that fresh clam will produce. The Jack Spot and Great Eastern Reef are the hot spots of the week mainly due to the distance (30 miles), making it less crowded. As the spring progresses the

deeper and less crowded spots will produce the best fish. John Foreman reports he had sea bass so thick this week at his secret wreck that he started using Teriyaki flavored jerky to catch his fish! Just goes to show you when they are hungry they will eat anything! "New Release Sportfishing" had some great sea bass trips with nice fish and limits for many of their customers. They said they have a few dates open in June and wanted everyone to know they do not charge a fuel surcharge. The "Ocean City Girl" was also on the brass this week reporting some big catches despite a few in each group feeling a bit sea sick. Capt. Monty Hawkins of the Morning Star had a good week out at the wrecks pulling in some nice sea bass as well as a real nice pollock which have not been seen in these waters as much as in years past. Monty has said with many of the new reef structures in place, sea bass has been getting better each and every year. Capt. Kane Bounds and Capt. DJ reported great sea bass trips this past week with some true trophy fish coming over the rails.

They shared that at least so far, limits were had by all that wanted them. The "Angler" reported that some big fish came onto the boat this week despite a few bumpy trips, with the average pool winning fish being around 2 lbs. 13oz. Down the way the "Ocean Princess" also reported some great trips and big catches. Many of the head boats are fishing the closer reefs such as the African Queen and Bass Grounds. The various headboats reported that although fishing has gotten a bit harder than opening day, many quality fish can still be had. For those of you that don't own a boat or just want to go out into the Atlantic and fish, the head boats in Ocean City are some of the best on the east coast. Costs for the boats are very reasonable with mates that are willing to help even novice anglers. Having worked headboats all my life both as a captain and mate, I can't tell you how many first time anglers were hooked on wreck fishing after their first trip. Many continued to return year after year always wearing that same smile on their face when returning to the ocean. Many of us "children of the

www.coastalfisherman.net tides" forget how lucky we are to live where we do. So introduce someone this year to fishing the Atlantic.

The "Miss Ocean City" was out this week and managed some nice flounder. The Dempsey family scored a few keeper flounder to take home for dinner. The "Tortuga" was also on the water snatching up on the flounder. Capt. Mike reports that the flounder are getting better every day as the bay water temps continue to warm up. The areas behind Assateague Island are still reporting the best catches, with the main Thorofare as close second. "Lucky Break Charters" had several trips and returned with some really big flounder. The "Happy Hooker" reports they are up and running for the summer season and have been catching some nice fish just north of the Rt. 50 Bridge in OC. Squid is still the best bait this week, however, I'm getting more reports that Gulp is beginning to really catch the bigger fish in the bay.

Rockfish, Bluefish & Drum

On Assateague Island the surf is still giving up some big black drum. The fish seem to be moving a lot more quickly this year than in past years. The changing daily temps and wind have a lot to do with this. James Augustine

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www.coastalfisherman.net caught a few slammer bluefish on the beach. Stripers are still around on the beach but most are over slot size. David Moore was at it again catching his overslot rockfish on Wednesday. Morgan Mericcle had a few good trips out and caught some over slot rockfish as well. In the bay, Craig Cropper and Shaun Flaherty landed some nice bluefish as well as 33.5" rock. Capt. Skip Courtney was fishing with Pete Renzi and managed a few nice stripers as well as some big blues. No fish were kept by the two but a fun trip was had. The Rt. 50 Bridge has been the hot spot for big blues as well as a few keeper rockfish. Some smaller stripers can still be found at the Rt. 90 Bridge in the deeper hole just northeast of the bridge. Further south, the Verrazano Bridge is also holding a few rockfish but most are undersized.



Until next week...

Tight lines and fins up §

Rich Moder from Millerstown, PA has a solid grip on these two flatfish he caught with David Borrell in the Thorofare. The pair measured 19" and 20" and fell for the always reliable white Gulp Swimming Mullet!

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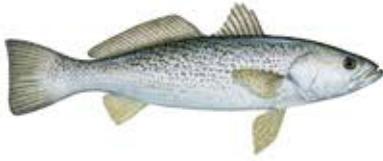


The surf was hopping with action this past week as cold water kept most offshore boats at the dock. Eric Gawel hit the 3R's drive on beach and landed this nice blue using fresh bunker. He reported there was an even bigger one bending his rod that got off just before this one.

The "Fish Frenzi" was out and about late last week fishing around the Rt. 90 Bridge. Despite the gray weather they managed a couple of schoolie stripers like this one Skip Courtney caught as well as a bluefish released by Pete Renzi.

2022 DELAWARE REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

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

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HEAVIEST

Fish of the Year

2022



(AS REPORTED TO THE COASTAL FISHERMAN - TIES GO TO FIRST FISH REPORTED. HOOK & LINE ONLY)

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
 Bluefish	May 23 Doug Schultz Fish Bowl 10.50 lbs.	 May 27 Mike Greene 3 R's 10 lbs. 12 Oz.	 Thresher Shark	May 20 Mike Eid Fingers 347 lbs.	
 Black Drum	April 16 CW Wells Assateague Island 70 lbs.	 May 22 Mike Strain Coral Beds 78 lbs.	 Bigeye Tuna		
 Cobia			 Bluefin Tuna		
 Flounder	 May 24 Dave Skirka Thorofare 5.5 lbs.	May 20 Matt Moffa Ocean Wreck 4.15 lbs.	 Longfin Tuna		
 Sea Bass	May 15 Minh Dang Marine Electric 3.25 lbs.	May 20 Randy Meyers Ocean Structure 3.50 lbs.	 Yellowfin Tuna		
 Sheepshead			 Dolphin		
 Striped Bass	May 20 Bud Martin Rt. 50 Bridge 17.19 lbs.		 Swordfish		
 Tautog	April 22 Kelly Langion-Milano Artificial Reef 18 lbs.	April 22 Billy Thornatore Ocean Wreck 7.5 lbs.	 Blue Marlin		
 Wahoo			 White Marlin		

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



Tom Hurley got a catch of a lifetime last Thursday. He was fishing the surf off of Assateague Island in Virginia when this striper hit the crab he was using for bait. After a short but spirited 5 minute fight he landed the 46" fish and released it shortly thereafter.



Our Heaviest Fish for black drum in Delaware saw a lot of changes this past week! Each catch kept moving the bar higher, however it was this 78 lb. beast caught by Mike Strain near the Coral Grounds that held the title by 1 lb! He was fishing with Capt. Brent Wiest on the "Katydid". Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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FISHING CHARTERS



The headboat "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Rich and Steve continue to get their customers on the fish! This trip last week to an inshore artificial reef saw good sea bass action with several anglers hitting double digit catches.

Another offshore battlewagon, the "Ro Sham Bo", needed to get some action despite the cold canyon waters. Scott Lane, Ryan Hayes, Azriel Ortiz, Dave Lewis, Andrew Lee and Jason DuCellier fished the canyons for tilefish before moving inshore for some sea bass.

Spring Mix II
Ocean City, Maryland Islamorada, Florida

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Spring Mix II

The advertisement features a vibrant blue and yellow background with illustrations of various fish (tuna, marlin, dolphin, wahoo) and a cartoon fish character holding an American flag. It includes several photographs of anglers on a boat, some holding large fish. A starburst graphic highlights the tournament dates, and another starburst promotes split trips. The contact information and location are clearly stated at the bottom.

FISHING CHARTERS



Despite the stormy and cold weather, the flounder bite has been fairly consistent when anglers could comfortably get out. This group of Ocean City locals took advantage of one of the nicer weather days to fish with Capt. Nick Clemente on the charter boat "Get Sum". They found these 6 keeper flounder in the Thorofare using Capt. Nick's signature white Gulp. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

Your Instructor/Captain Mark Sampson, Author of "Modern Sharking"

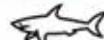
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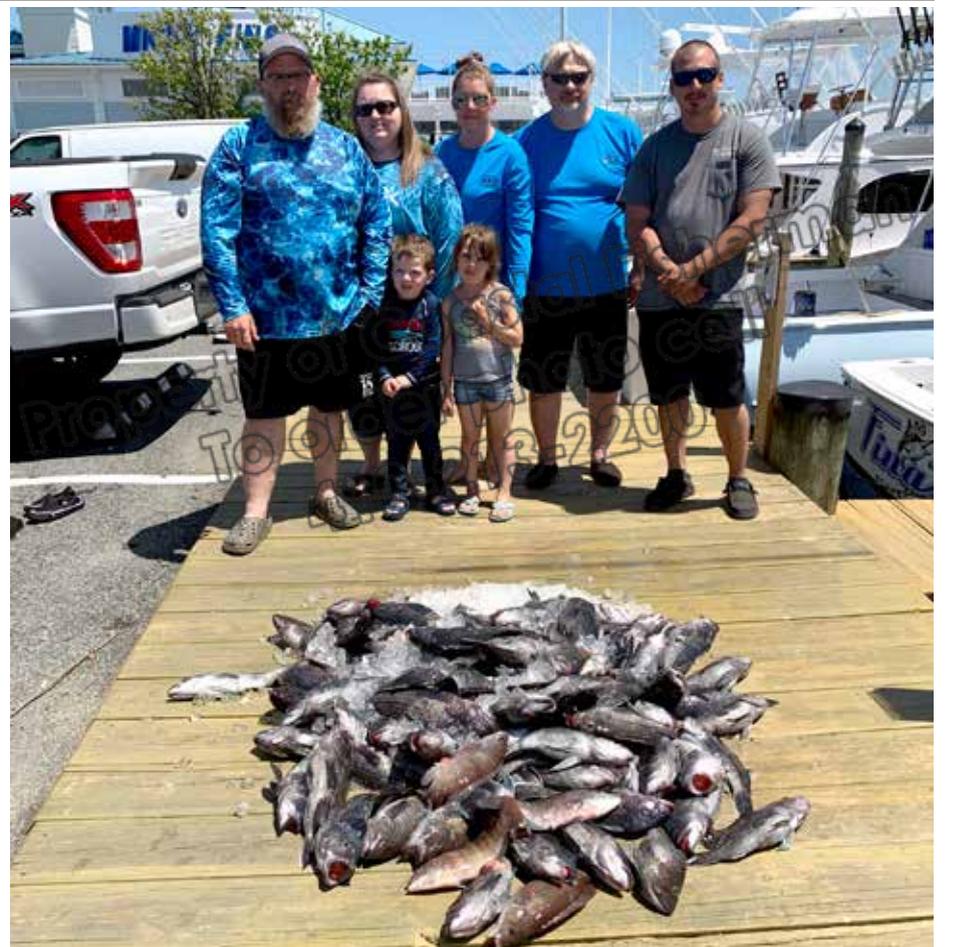
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FISHING CHARTERS



Thanks to Ben Hostetter for sharing this cute pic of a young seal resting up on the beach at Assateague Island before continuing the journey north. Please remember to leave these guys alone as they chill, or should I saw warm?!



Capt. Jake Shaffer of the charter boat "Turnin Fins" took his family out for some sea bass fishing on Sunday! They were fishing in 120 feet of water outside of the Jack Spot with mate Kevin Conrad and were able to get their 6 person limit of 90 sea bass! Just look at that sunshine.

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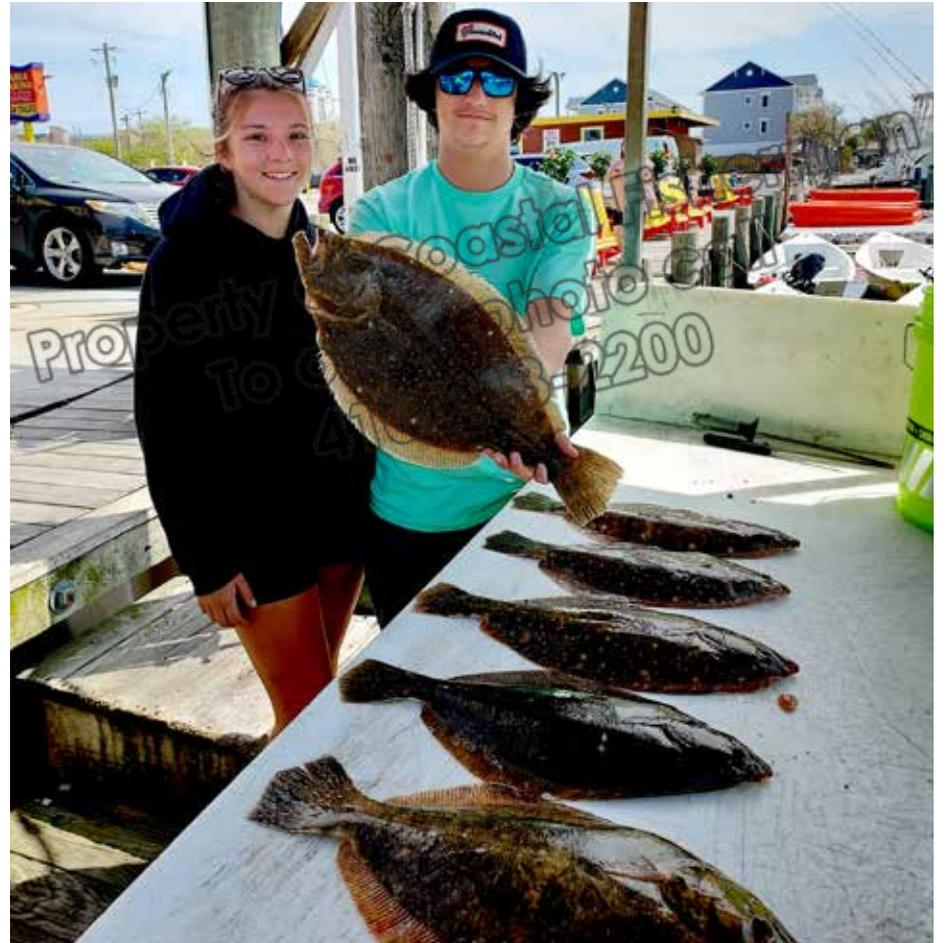
email: allinsportfishingoc@gmail.com

WWW.ALLINSPORTFISHINGOC.COM

FISHING CHARTERS



It was family fun last Sunday for Rob, Janice, Maddie and Ryan Gordon from Mt. Airy, MD. They took in the beautiful weather with Capt. Jason Mumford and mate Ethan Nock on the charter boat "Lucky Break" and found 3 keeper flounder in the south OC Bay using Ottertails with minnows.



The cleaning table at Bahia Marina was full last week when "On the Run" Capt. Dave Caffrey, mate Chris McConnell and his sister Megan hit the dock. They found 6 flounder up to 23" in the Thorofare using Gulp with Capt. Dave landing the biggest!

Ocean City, Maryland

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FISHING CHARTERS



Now that is a nice picture of a sea bass. He was one of the many anglers on the headboat "Morning Star" who hooked some fish last Friday. Despite a warning about the fog and 'sporty' seas, all the anglers showed up for the trip!



Virginia anglers Andy Ralston, Brandy Hilliard, Tim Elmore, Jr. and Andy Ralson III got into some nice keeper flounder action. They were fishing with Capt. Nick Clemente on the "Get Sum" out of the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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FISHING CHARTERS



The greatly improved weather last weekend saw some great fishing, especially for sea bass. On this trip the party boat "Judith M" with Capt. Eric Shoaff headed out to near the Jack Spot where Mr. Kim from Clarksburg, MD and young Spencer from Doylestown, MD found some nice fish using a mix of squid, clams and shiners.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Frequent 'fisher' Tracy Heltz was at it again last week. This time with Capt. Chris Mizurak on the deep sea fishing vessel "Angler". This trip last Saturday saw beautiful weather and good action for her and her fellow anglers. This sea bass fell for an Ocean Arsenal rig at an artificial reef.



Sam Smith and his group got a nice mix of sea bass and tilefish on a trip with Capt. Bobby Layton and mates Cody Smith & Austin Bowden on the "Wrecker". They fought the fog out to the Baltimore Canyon to score the tilefish before coming back to the African Queen for the sea bass.

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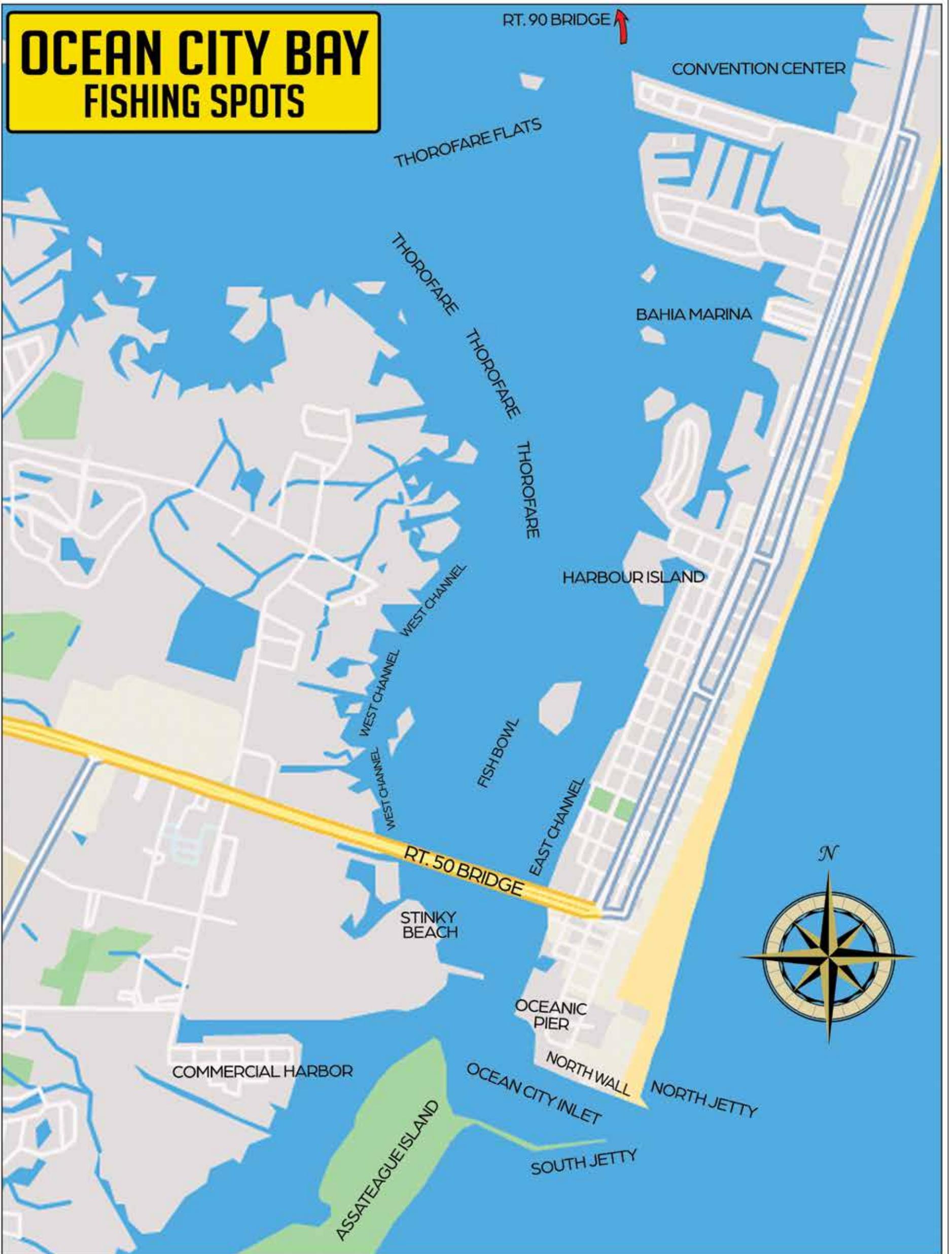
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Chum Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson

Most offshore anglers are probably aware that this season, and for the first time "ever", recreational anglers will not be allowed to take (keep) mako sharks. More background on this in a moment, but first let me say that while this regulation definitely "will" go into effect - it has not yet, so as of right now (May 28) anglers are still allowed to keep makos that meet the minimum size limits. However, very soon NMFS will be publishing their final rule on this which will confirm the date when the prohibition will start, and the latest intel I've heard suggests that it will be sometime later in June.

Very aware that the most recent size regulations of 71" for male and 83" for female makos has made a major reduction in the number of these sharks being brought back to the dock, this prohibition on makos is not something that the folks at NMFS asked for or even think is warranted. However, since the U.S. is a member of ICCAT, which is a coalition

of countries (sort of like the United Nations) that work together to manage highly migratory species including tuna, billfish, swordfish, and sharks, we are bound to go along with what the majority of the nations vote for in the way of management decisions. So even though NMFS agrees that U.S. commercial and recreational anglers have done more than our share to protect mako stocks, since makos are very migratory and will wander from country to country, the number of makos off our coast affects what might end up off of other countries, therefore, we have to stop boating them along with all the other countries. None of us on this side of the pond are happy about all this - it's just the way it is.

This is supposed to be a 2-year prohibition on makos that will allow "whoever" to figure out the status of mako populations and come up with management plans that will effectively help to maintain healthy populations of these fish. However, we

should also be prepared for the possibility that in a couple years we might hear that they're not ready to reopen the mako fishery. Time will tell!

As a charter captain and fishing guide specializing in sharks and shark fishing, my whole world pretty much revolves around sharks so regulations affecting the fishery have a direct impact on my livelihood. So ever since all of this mako stuff started at last fall's ICCAT meeting, I've been bombarded with questions about how this prohibition is going to affect both my business and the shark fishery.

To better understand how much this might locally have fishermen scrambling, it would probably be helpful to first see how shark fishing has evolved over the years and specifically off Delmarva.

Leading into the 90's, sharks were seldom fished for as they were widely considered to be "trash fish" not worth any serious fishing effort and not very good to eat with

the only exception being the mako shark which had a good reputation as being an exiting fighter and great table fare.

All that changed in 1975 when JAWS hit the theaters spawning a huge public interest in sharks and anglers interest in shark fishing. Through the 80's & early 90's sharks had become such a popular target for fishermen that shark tournaments sprang up in just about every coastal state.

In Ocean City, sharks would become coveted catches in the annual Mako Mania and Ocean City Shark Tournaments as well as have divisions in the White Marlin Open and a few other local competitions. Eventually sharks became one of the most popular offshore fish for both charter and private boat anglers to target in late May and throughout June.

Through much of that period there were very few regulations on sharks and anglers could pretty much keep whatever they wanted. But by the new millennium many shark species had dropped in numbers so much that fisheries began to tighten regulations more and more and eventually bring us to the very stringent and

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complicated rules that we've been fishing under for the last few years.

Eventually the ever tightening regulations became so much of a hassle to fishermen that many began to lose interest in chasing sharks and focus more on the tuna fishery - the season of which has recently expanded to where it now totally overlaps the entire shark season. I guess you could say that the shift in anglers' preference is a win for sharks and a loss for tuna, and most of the fishermen seem to be ok with it as they can now focus their efforts on catching fish that they don't have to worry about taking a chunk out of their leg if they get careless!

With participation in the shark fishery on the wane anyway, it's no surprise that the current and upcoming shark regulations have prompted OC's two major shark tournaments to close

shop and the White Marlin Open to drop it's shark category. The recreational shark fishery is no longer big business for fishermen!

Well, at least for most of them anyway.

As I mentioned from the start, I've been questioned a lot recently about how I think my shark fishing business is going to weather the new mako prohibition. And I've been happy to report that despite the new or any of the old regulations, there's still enough people out there who get really excited about going out on the water to catch a few sharks. They don't care about restrictive regulations because they're happy to release everything anyway. Shark fishing isn't everyone's cup of tea but there's enough folks out there who are into it enough that it'll never go away completely - regardless of whether or not they can bring home a mako! §



Capt. Jason Mumford on the "Lucky Break" kept his focus on the south Ocean City Bay last week to get his anglers on some nice fatties. Alex Phillips and Layla Armitage from Brunswick, MD found 2 keeper flounder using Ottertails and minnows with the largest at 20".

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When the bluefish are running you can count on Big Bird Cropper to be on the chase. This 30" blue was caught on the south side of the southern Ocean City Inlet Jetty using his signature Roy Rig.



Young Gunner Wertz took this flounder to Rick's Bait & Tackle to make sure the measurements were right! His 16.5" keeper fish was caught in Massey's Ditch using shiners from Rick's.

2022 FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles

 <p>BLUE MARLIN 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>YELLOWFIN TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day</p>	 <p>BIGEYE TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>GOLDEN TILEFISH No minimum • 8 per person/day</p>
 <p>WHITE MARLIN 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p> <p>NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit</p>	 <p>BLUEFIN TUNA 27" to <47" curved fork length 2 per vessel/day or trip 47" to < 73" curved fork length 1 per vessel/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 3 per Charter/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 6 per Headboat/day or trip 47" to < 73" curved fork length 2 per Headboat/day or trip</p>	 <p>SWORDFISH 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter) 1 per person / 15 per Headboat</p>	 <p>BLUELINE TILEFISH 5/1 - 10/31 3 per person (Recreational) 5 per person Uninspected (Charter) 7 per person Inspected (Charter)</p>
 <p>DOLPHIN No minimum Length Boat Limit 60 Charter Limit 10 per person/ 60 per Boat</p>	<p>SAILFISH Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>WAHOO No minimum Length • 2 per person/day</p>	
<p>SHARKS AUTHORIZED SPECIES</p>	<p>No Minimum Fork Length Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead</p> <p>54" Minimum Fork Length Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose</p> <p>NOTE: Only 1 shark from the lists above may be retained per vessel per trip. In addition, 1 Atlantic Sharpnose, 1 Bonnethead and 1 Oceanic Whitetip may be retained per person per trip. If a hammerhead shark is retained, no tunas, billfish or swordfish may be retained.</p>	<p>71" Minimum Fork Length Male Shortfin Mako</p> <p>78" Minimum Fork Length Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead</p>	<p>83" Minimum Fork Length Female Shortfin Mako</p> <p>PROHIBITED SHARKS Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White</p> <p>Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov</p>

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7th Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament
June 24-26 • Indian River Marina • 302-227-3071

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June 25-26 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

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10 year old Lawson Fentress found himself a big fattie last week. He landed this 21½" flounder from Wire Pond on the west side of Captains Hill in Ocean City. A tasty meal for the whole family!



The fish were snappin' up and down the coast last Sunday. Paul Lubold from Ocean View, DE muscled in these two flatfish from the Indian River Inlet using Gulp on a jig head. The combined pair of keeper flounder tipped the scales at 2 lbs. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.



Many of the charter boats are itching to get in the deep, but until we see warmer water in the canyons, sea bass will have to bend the rod! Capt. Bobby Layton from the "Wrecker" had a nice day at the Bass Grounds finding these 24 knot heads! Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Young Kody Knieriem plants a kiss on this dogfish he caught using chicken at the Twin Wrecks with his father Korey! They were fishing on the "New Release" with Capts. Deb and Tory Smith.



The striper bite off the beach has remained strong across the region. Lenny Gilliar from Clarksville, DE caught this 20" throwback striper on the north side of the Indian River Inlet using a white jig head with a 4" shad soft plastic lure.

2022 MARYLAND REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - December 11</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH 8" minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day Charter</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day up to 6 per boat/day</p>	 <p>COBIA 40" minimum 1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/15 Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers</p>
 <p>CROAKER 9" minimum 25 per person/day</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 18-27" minimum 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD 4 per person/day</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 4 per person/day</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 28-35" Less than 3 miles from shore 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 16" minimum 4 per person/day</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 2 per person/day 7/1 - 10/31 4 per person/day 11/1 - 12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

eregulations.com



The flounder are getting bigger in the Ocean City Bays! Angler Dave Skirka found a real doormat weighing in at 5.5 lbs. and measuring 24" making this our new Heaviest flounder for MD! He was trolling with minnows in the Thorofare with Evan Evans and Donnie Zimmerman.

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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



Crab Soup

Ingredients:

- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 4 cups half & half
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon Old Bay seasoning, plus more for serving
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons dry sherry
- ½ pound lump crabmeat, picked over to remove any shells
- Finely chopped chives, for garnish
- Lemon wedges, for serving (optional; see note)

Directions:



Melt the butter in a medium saucepan over medium-low heat. Add the flour and whisk for about 1 minute, until well blended.

Whisking constantly, gradually add the half & half. Add the mustard, Old Bay seasoning, salt, and pepper. Bring to boil, whisking frequently (be sure to scrape the edges of the pot,

where the flour mixture tends to settle). As soon as the soup starts to boil, reduce the heat to a simmer and cook, uncovered, until thickened, about 30 seconds. Stir in the sherry and crabmeat. Taste and adjust seasoning if necessary. If the soup is too thick, add water, little by little, to thin it out (it will thicken the longer it sits on the stove, even off of the heat). Ladle into bowls and sprinkle with chives. Serve with lemon wedges, if desired.

Note: Lemon is really only necessary if not using the sherry.

Black Sea Bass with Garlic Herb Sauce

Ingredients:

- 1 lb black sea bass
 - ½ cup all purpose flour
 - 1 Tsp salt
 - ½ Tsp black pepper
 - 2 Tbsp butter
 - 1 Tbsp olive oil
- For Lemon Garlic Herb Sauce:
- ¼ cup white wine



- 2 Tbsp butter
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 Tbsp oregano, rough chopped
- 1 Tbsp thyme, rough chopped
- 1 Tbsp parsley, rough chopped
- ½ cup vegetable broth
- 1 lemon completely juiced

Directions:

Pat the black sea bass fillets dry with a paper towel.

www.coastalfisherman.net
Mix together the flour, salt, and pepper in a shallow dish. Dredge the black sea bass fillets through the mixture. Be sure to shake off any excess coating.

Pre-heat a large pan on medium heat, add in olive oil and melt 2 tablespoons of butter.

Once heated, cook the fillets for 3-4 minutes on each side until golden brown. To start, place the fillets skin side down. Minimize the amount of flipping and moving around as the fillets will become tender.

Remove fish from the pan and plate.

Lemon Garlic Herb Sauce:

Turn the heat down to medium low and add the white wine (1/4 cup) to deglaze. As the wine deglazes the pan, scrape any brown bits off the pan and let the wine come close to evaporating.

Add 1 tablespoon of butter, minced garlic cloves, and all the fresh herbs (oregano, thyme, and parsley). Saute for 30-60 seconds.

Add the vegetable broth and bring the sauce to a simmer.

Turn off the heat and stir in the remaining tablespoon of butter and lemon juice. Once the sauce is at the preferred consistency, plate on top of the black sea bass fillets and serve.

Baked Rockfish Almondine

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ lbs. rockfish
- ¼ cup butter
- ¼ cup slivered almonds
- ¼ cup parsley chopped
- 3 lemons
- 1 lb. asparagus

Directions:

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

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

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- 1/2 teaspoon minced garlic
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons cognac or brandy
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 teaspoon salt, plus 1/8 teaspoon
- 1/8 teaspoon ground white pepper
- 1/2 cup finely grated

- Parmesan, plus 2 tablespoons
- 1 tablespoon dry mustard powder
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh tarragon leaves
- 2 teaspoons finely chopped parsley, plus additional for garnish
- 1/4 cup shredded gruyere cheese

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 375° F. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil and set aside.

Cut the lobsters in half lengthwise with a sharp knife and remove the tail meat.

Twist off the claws from the body and gently crack with the back of a heavy knife to remove the meat. Gently pull the front legs from the shell and discard.

Chop the tail meat and claw meat into bite sized pieces and set aside.

Place the halved lobster shells on the baking sheet and set aside.

Melt the butter in a deep skillet

over medium heat. Add the shallots and garlic, stirring, until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add the flour and whisk to combine.

Cook the flour mixture, stirring constantly to make a light roux, approximately 2 minutes.

Add the cognac and cook for 10 seconds, stirring constantly.

Slowly add the milk, stirring constantly to combine. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer until thick enough to coat the back of a spoon, approximately 2 to 3 minutes.

Slowly add the cream, stirring constantly, until thoroughly combined. Continue cooking while stirring over medium heat for 1 minute. The mixture will be very thick. Season with salt and pepper.

Remove from the heat and stir in the parmesan cheese, mustard, tarragon and parsley. Fold in the lobster meat.

Divide the mixture among the lobster shells and place stuffed side up on a clean baking sheet.

Sprinkle the top of each lobster with the gruyere and broil until the top is golden brown, 5 minutes.

Place 1 lobster half on each plates, garnish with additional parsley, and serve immediately.

Grilled Thresher Shark

- Ingredients:**
- 2 lbs. fresh thresher shark
 - 2 cups milk
 - 1 lemon, juiced
 - 2 Tbsp. soy sauce
 - 2 Tbsp. rice vinegar
 - 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
 - 1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
 - 1/2 tsp. garlic powder

Directions:

In a shallow dish, soak the thresher shark in the milk for 30-60 minutes.

Remove the shark from the milk and rinse it under cold water.

In a new dish, squeeze the lemon juice over the shark steaks and pour soy sauce

and vinegar over. Season with ginger, red pepper flakes and garlic powder, turning so that both sides are coated. Let marinate while the grill preheats.

Preheat an outdoor grill over high heat. Oil the grate or put out a piece of aluminum foil to cook the fish on.

Grill the fish over high heat for about 7 minutes, flip and cook the other side for an additional 5 minutes. Actual cooking time



will depend on how thick the steak is.

5 minutes per inch of thickness is a good starting point. Fish is done when it flakes easily with a fork.

Cucumber Gin Cocktail

A smooth and refreshing beverage that always pairs exceptionally well with shrimp!

Directions:

- 1 cucumber (seedless is best)
- Twist of lime
- 2 teaspoons of raw sugar
- 4 lemon wheels
- 4 ounces gin
- 1 ounce fresh lime juice

Club soda

Directions:

Shave a few ribbons from the cucumber with a peeler. Then chop up the remaining cucumber (or about a four-inch length) and mix with the lime leaves, sugar, and two slices of lemon in a shaker. Add the lime juice, gin, and ice. Shake to chill and strain into two glasses with ice. Top with club soda and garnish with the lemon wheels and cucumber ribbons you made.

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Buddy Martin's quest for another keeper striper was fulfilled last week! After hooking several over slot rocks on prior trips, this night the Rt. 50 Bridge produced! While only one of only two 2 hits over 4 hours, this 31½" and 11.6 lb. keeper rock was reward enough.



Avid Ocean City flounder fisherman Dave Borrell from Enola, PA was at it again. He caught this nice 21½" flounder last week in the Thorofare using white Gulp.

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Looks like the red drum may be headed our way. Matt Tribbitt, Joey Pruitt and Capt. Tim Tribbitt from Ocean View, DE took a sojourn down to Virginia waters and released a total of 5 drum and even broke off another 2!

Advertisement for Bank of Ocean City. The top part features the logo "bank of ocean city" in blue and white, with a stylized "BOC" logo. Below the logo is a large illustration of a fish, possibly a flounder, with its mouth open. At the bottom, there is a white banner with the text "SUPPORTING THE FISHING COMMUNITY SINCE 1916". Below the banner, the text reads "Fenwick, DE Branch 302-539-9444" and "BANKOFOCEANCITY.COM". There is also a small "Member FDIC" logo in the bottom right corner.

Advertisement for Fenlopen Bait & Tackle. The top part features the name "FENLOPEN Bait & Tackle" in large, bold, blue letters. Below the name is a white banner with the text "DAILY HOURS: 6:00am to 6:00pm" and an illustration of an orange alarm clock. Below the banner is a black box with the text "SALT, FRESH, BRAKISH LURES, RIGS & BAITS Surf, Bay, Ocean, Pond, Lake & River". Below the black box is a white banner with the text "WE CARRY Custom Hand Tied Rigs!". Below the white banner is a black box with the text "FULL LINE OF BAIT INCLUDING:" and illustrations of various fishing gear brands including Gulp!, ZMAN, and Bass Assassin. Below the black box is a white banner with the text "6 TOADFISH O.M.C. Rigs" and "Let's Go Fishing!". At the bottom, there is a red and white lighthouse illustration, the phone number "302.645.8106", the address "1622 Savannah Road, Lewes, DE 19958", and a Facebook logo with the text "Find us on Facebook".

If the Coastal Fisherman failed to exist, this would be YOU!



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The flounder bite in the Delaware Bay improved over the weekend. On Saturday, anglers Ty Backer and Chris Mendez were working the bay in the morning and caught this pair of flounder using a combo of Gulp and shiners. The largest measure in at 22½". Pictured at Rick's Bait & Tackle.



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Atlantic Coast Sportfishing Association Bay Angler of the Year for 2021 Shaun Flaherty continues to show his prowess! He and Big Bird Cropper pulled in some nice rockfish using his dredge technique as well as some nice bluefish. This rock measured 30".



Andy Degnan from Doylestown, PA shows off a double sea bass hookup he got while fishing with Capt. Eric Shoaff on the "Judith M". They were fishing near the Jack Spot using a mix of clam, squid and shiners.

2022 MARYLAND & DELAWARE CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES

	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u> **		<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u> **
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"	White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size
Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	SHARK:		
Cobia	44"	45 Lbs. or 48"	Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	Mako*	Any Size	250 lbs. or 83"
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	Thresher*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Golden Tilefish	35"	35" or 40"	Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	TUNA:		
Red Drum*	36"	45"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"
Sailfish*	Any Size	-	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"
Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"
Speckled Trout	24"	-			
Striped Bass	40"	44"			
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"			

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



The pier at the Cape Henlopen State Park was the place to be in the middle of last week for bluefish. Lighthouse View Bait & Tackle reported that anglers were picking at nice size blues steadily from the pier with beach action varying day by day, but still good overall. Dan and Belinda were very happy with this pair of 20" bluefish they scored from the boards!

This advertisement features a central graphic with silhouettes of four veterans against an American flag background. Above the silhouettes are five circular seals representing different branches of the U.S. military: the Department of the Army, Department of the Navy, Department of the Air Force, Department of the Marine Corps, and Department of the Coast Guard. The text "HELPING OUR WOUNDED VETERANS" is written in a curved banner above the silhouettes, and "BOATS 4 HEROES" is written below them. At the bottom, it says "DONATE YOUR BOAT!" and provides the website "BOATS4HEROES.ORG" and phone number "240.750.9899".

This advertisement for Bay Capital Mortgage Corp. features a photograph of a two-story white house with a balcony. The text "BAY CAPITAL MORTGAGE CORP. SINCE 1994" is at the top left. The main headline reads "WORRIED ABOUT RISING RATES? OUR EXTENDED LOCK WILL GIVE YOU PEACE OF MIND". Below this, it lists "Current Programs Available": 20% Down on Second Homes, 5% Down on Primary Homes, No Down Payment on VA Homes, and 3.5% Down Payment on FHA Loans. A box highlights "Extended Lock for up to 1 Year!" with "Lock in rate protection up to 360 days. Float down option within 15 days of closing should rates improve." A photo of J. Allan Hossick is shown with his contact information: NMLS #: 168868, VP Loan Origination, Bay Capital Mortgage Corporation, Phone: 301.655.7900, ahossick@baycapitalmortgage.com, www.baycapitalmortgage.com/JAllanHossick.html, 2553 Housley Rd. #200 • Annapolis, MD 21401. A disclaimer at the bottom states: "This is not a commitment to make a loan. Loans are subject to borrower qualifications, including income, property evaluation, sufficient equity in the home to meet LTV requirements, and final credit approval. Approvals are subject to underwriting guidelines, interest rates, and program guidelines, and are subject to change without notice based on applicant's eligibility and market conditions. Terms of the loan may be subject to payment of points and fees by the applicant. Currently available in MD, DE, VA & DC."

DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Last week we saw cooler temps and less wind and then a glorious weekend. Fishing overall was very good with the exception of surf fishing. The beach access north of the Indian River Bridge is still closed due to erosion from the Mother's Day nor'easter. The 3R's and Fenwick access points are open, however, anglers will have to navigate many pockets of water on what little beach is still drivable. Be careful when driving on the beach as to not drive through pools of water. They are like quicksand and you will sink right up to your axles and be stuck hard in the sand requiring a tow out. Also walking near or in the water on the beach can be treacherous, so avoid these areas.

Sea Bass & Flounder

Beau Fibelkorn reports sea bass continues to be strong out of Delaware with many boats returning with limits. "Skipjack Charters" returned with limits for their clients this week. The deeper wrecks are holding much better

quality of fish as well as better numbers of keepers. John Engler headed out to Site 11 and was rewarded with some big ones. He reported the ride out was quite bumpy but well worth it as the seas laid down in the afternoon allowing them a nice catch of big fish. Old Inlet Bait & Tackle reports sea bass at nearby wrecks are thick as thieves but slowly being picked off by anglers making a little harder to get quality keepers. DE/NJ Reef is still the hot spot for this week, however Site 11 was also on fire with big fish being caught at both locations. As we get further into the season and more tourists show up, the key will be to fish lesser known wrecks and try to fish the freshest bait available. Fresh clam is still the best bait for sea bass with jigs being number 2.

On the flounder side, a few nice flatties were taken off the wrecks and ocean coral. The water is still a little cold for this time of the year and the flounder have been slow to get up and running. The B Buoy coral is always a favorite

in the early season. Big strips of squid or large Gulp baits are your best weapons. "Bad Wind Charters" that fishes out of Delaware and Ocean City reports that they have had some good trips out for flounder with some big fatties coming over the rail. Lighthouse Tackle also reported some nice fish coming into their shop with many above the 20" mark. Lamar Meekins caught a beautiful 21.5" flounder from the canal in Lewes using white Gulp bait. Daryl Mergenthaler hit a few spots in the bay and ended the day with two 17" and one 18" flounder. Brian Marine reported that it was a nice day with his mother and grandson catching a nice 22" flounder. Pier rat Tyler Granden was able to pull in a nice 22" flounder this week at Cape Henlopen. The backwaters of Indian River and Rehoboth Bay has been heating up with more keepers coming in every day as the water warms to its summer temps. The channel in front of the VFW is the hot spot for this week as is Massey's

Ditch with fish coming from right near the boat ramp. In Rehoboth Bay, the north end near the canal is your best chance at catching some dinner. The bay areas are best fished with squid and shiner or minnow combinations. Gulp baits are working but not nearly as well as the squid combos. Lewes Canal has been much busier with boat traffic causing fish to be harder to hook, however, if you can fish during the week or right at sun up or sun down, some real nice keepers above 20" can be found. The ice breakers in Delaware Bay have also been holding some nice big keeper flounder right along the sand next to the rock walls. The area on the lighthouse side is reported to be the best area up here.

Surf Fishing

Bluefish were all over the beach in the early part of the week, but as the days progressed they became harder to hook. Fresh finger mullet on the twin hook mullet rig was the key to catching them in the surf. Lenny Gilliar was out on the beach with Guy Conaway and managed to catch a few short rockfish as well as some pretty nice bluefish. Lenny used cut bait and mullet rigs for his fish. Laura Hallanan

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www.coastalfisherman.net reported the 3R's was very crowded over the weekend but did manage some nice bluefish. Debbie Brnik was also on 3R's beach and said the bluefish were more than willing to bite their mullet. Her group managed 9 nice size bluefish. Way to go Debbie! David Wyatt had a good time this week fishing the beach and pulling in some nice slammer size bluefish. Old Inlet Bait & Tackle reported that Mike Greene caught a nice 12 lb. and 10oz. bluefish off the beach also at the 3R's this week. It hit a whole finger mullet. Kelly Mathews caught a personal best on Fenwick Beach this week. Her bluefish was caught on mullet and was over 23". In the bay areas bluefish have also been caught in pretty good numbers with Dan and Belinda catching a couple of 20" blues from the Cape Henlopen pier. Jeremy Strong fished Cape Henlopen just before high tide and managed a nice 27" blue, also caught on finger mullet. Erik Gawel was at 3R's, and although he lost a big one he managed some nice blues on cut mullet. Dillon Hornberger caught a nice 11 lb. blue while plugging the beach there as well.

Black drum heated up in the Delaware Bay over the weekend. Many fish are coming into the bay for breeding and leaving. If you can hit the high tide right and have plenty of fresh clams, you can still manage a monster of a drum, with many over 50 lbs. A few are being caught off the Delaware beaches, but the main reports of catches in the Atlantic are still south in MD and VA. Crabs and clams remain strong with Joe Bell reporting trot lining up around 60 crabs in a matter of a few hrs.

Until next week...
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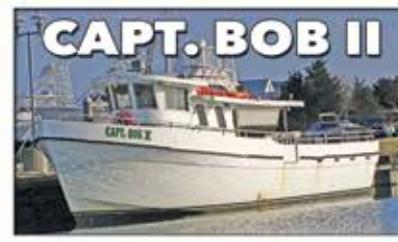
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A great site and symbol was on the south jetty rocks in Ocean City last Thursday for the crew of the "Reel Addiction" with Capt. Mike Orchulli. He hung around for 45 minutes watching them fish, proof that America loves fishing! It is a little fuzzy due to the distance.



It was a week all about big bluefish! John Allen from Barrington, IL reported this big blue to Fenwick Bait & Tackle in DE. He caught this 29" fish along with another blue in the surf off of Fenwick Island.

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. JUNE 1	High 09:49 am High 10:42 pm	Low 04:07 am Low 03:29 pm
THUR. JUNE 2	High 10:31 am High 11:02 pm	Low 04:48 am Low 04:07 pm
FRI. JUNE 3	High 11:14 am High 11:42 pm	Low 05:31 am Low 04:49 pm
SAT. JUNE 4	High 11:59 am High -----	Low 06:14 am Low 05:35 pm
SUN. JUNE 5	High 12:24 am High 12:46 pm	Low 06:57 am Low 06:27 pm
MON. JUNE 6	High 01:10 am High 01:38 pm	Low 07:38 am Low 07:22 pm
TUE. JUNE 7 1st Qtr. Moon	High 01:58 am High 02:34 pm	Low 08:19 am Low 08:21 pm
WED. JUNE 8	High 02:50 am High 03:30 pm	Low 09:01 am Low 09:22 pm

source:usharbors.com

Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge.
 Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high tide
 Delaware Bay Entrance - subtract 1 hour 25 minutes to high tide
 - subtract 45 minutes to low tide
 Wachapreague, VA - add 4 minutes for high tide - 21 minutes for low tide
 Quinby Inlet, VA - subtract 6 minutes for high tide

These tides are only meant to be a guide, as tides can be affected by storms and weather fronts.

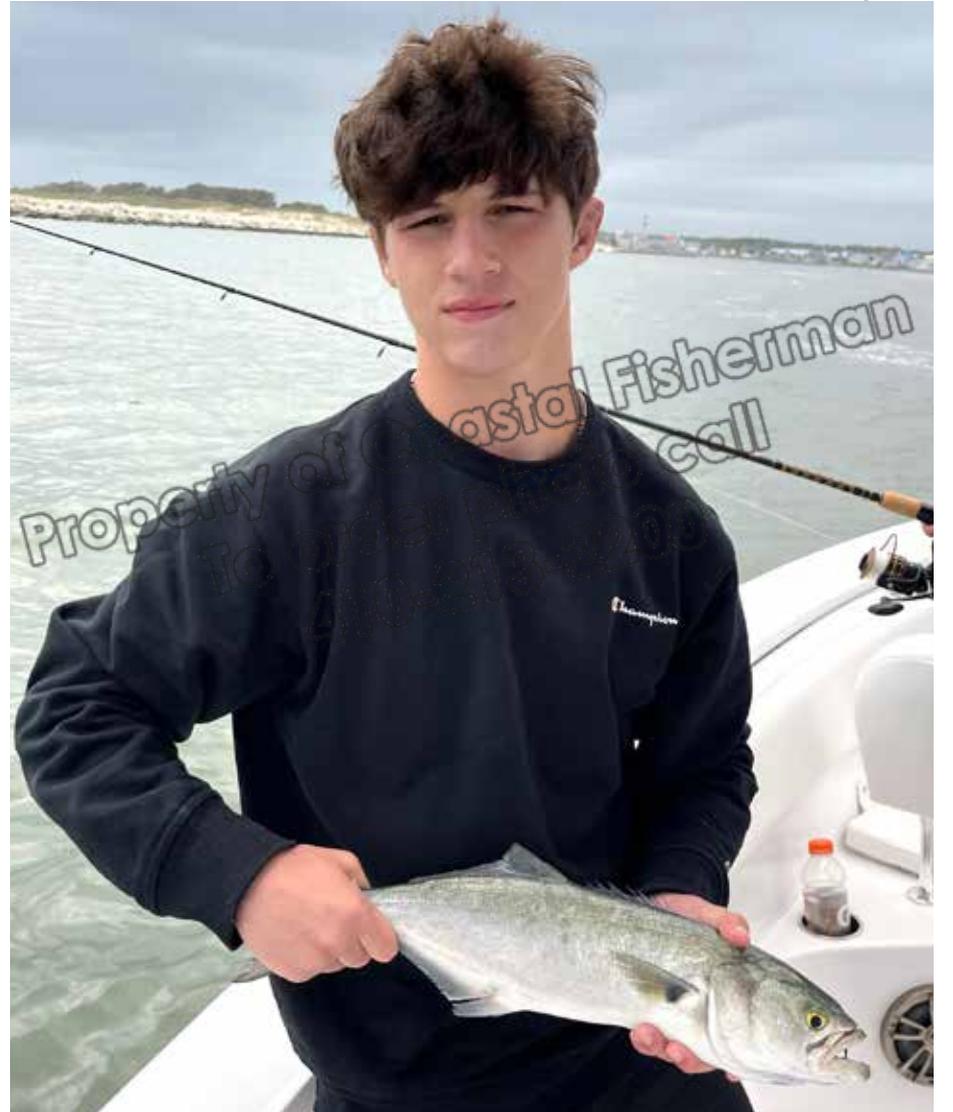
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While their hopes for flounder were not realized, anglers Cade Campbell and his twin brother Jack of Nazareth, PA did find some action. Cade released this 23" rockfish, while Jack landed a 18" bluefish. Both were caught on a Roy Rig at the south Ocean City Jetty while fishing with his other brother Maddox, his parents and local grandparents Mike and Margaret Orchulli on the "Reel Addiction".

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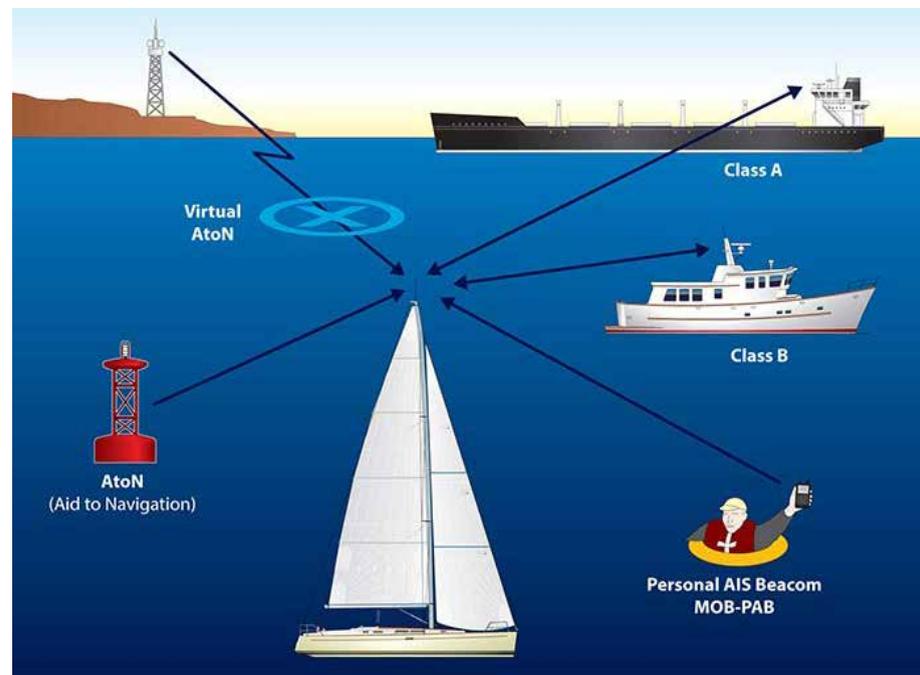


AIS- See and be Seen - Part 2

Following up from last week's column on AIS systems, this week we review different classes of AIS transceivers and the new emergency AIS transmitters

AIS transceivers (transmit and receive) are currently available in three classes; Class A, Class B, and newest Class B+. Class A transceivers report their position autonomously every 2-10 seconds dependent on the vessel's speed and/or course changes (every three minutes or less when at anchor or moored); and the vessel's static and voyage related information every 6 minutes. Class A systems are also capable of text messaging safety related information and AIS Application Specific Messages, such as meteorological and hydrological data, electronic Broadcast Notice to Mariners and other marine safety information. The class A transceivers are usually found

on regulated vessels and have a much higher cost than Class B or B+ AIS hardware designed for less regulated vessels and recreational use.



Class B AIS transceivers operate with less transmitting power and provide the vessels data report

less often. Class B AIS broadcast can be de-prioritized by a Class A device if there is heavy traffic on the AIS broadcast frequencies, such as in a busy port or shipping

lane. Even if you only receive AIS, Class A versus Class B can make a significant difference on how far away you receive data, the specific data your system receives and how often you receive it.

A new regulation a few years ago allowed for a new, third AIS system, fitting in-between the two current offerings. This is sometimes referred, Class B+, Class B SOTDMA or Class B 5W. Why is this new offering important? The Class B+ has over twice the transmit power and range of the original Class B, 5 watts which doubles the transmit range to 10-15 miles. Most importantly for sportfish vessels, the Class B+ uses the same technology of the Class A AIS for sending messages - it has the same top priority when it comes to reserving a transmission time slot in the AIS airwaves, guaranteeing that it will always be able to transmit, even in busy AIS congested waters. For fast moving boats, this is important as a missed Class B transmission can result in a vessel moving a long distance before it next manages to send a transmission.

Are you wondering how this AIS data will be used while we are out on the water?

When properly connected, most

www.coastalfisherman.net
chart plotters will show you a triangle on the chart plotter display screen representing the AIS vessel, along with more detailed information when you select that vessel. This allows another vessel to know where you are, and therefore, if needed, allows one of you to alter course to maintain safe separation distance of the vessels. One example where local anglers could benefit from an AIS transmitter is when you are fishing an overnigher in the canyon and a large freighter seems to have plotted its course directly through the fishing fleet. Instead of wondering if the other captain sees you in the dark and you are trying to make radio contact, your AIS transceiver allows you to be confident that the other boat captain can see your ship's position on their electronic navigation system. Commercial captains are usually required to contact other vessels to determine if they are going to alter course or stand-on, and this information is recorded on their VDR (Voyage Data Recorder), mandatory for many large vessels.

Worried that during a tournament everyone will know where you are fishing? Most AIS transceivers have an optional feature that lets you disable the transmitting function by enabling a "silent" mode.

AIS for Emergencies

Most offshore captains and crew are familiar with the traditional Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) and Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) These modern devices work by transmitting an emergency digital signal to an orbiting satellite. The orbiting satellites relay the distress call to ground stations and therefore the time from distress to rescue could be longer that desired. One way of shortening a response time is for the EPIRB or PLB to additionally transmit an emergency signal on the AIS radio frequency. This signal is received immediately by nearby vessels equipped with AIS receivers and that vessel could respond to the distress. There are a few of these products available in the marketplace, though there will be a lot more of these combinations units soon to be offered by a major manufacturer - keep an eye out for this innovative product.



A few misnomers about AIS:
 Satellite tracking - Traditional AIS does not transmit to satellites directly, only short range on the VHF radio spectrum to local receivers. There are special satellites that are capable of "listening" for and can receive traditional AIS RF signals and relay them to a ground station. Satellite AIS receivers are most often used to track vessels in open water where the ship is far away from an AIS land-based receiver.
 Ship tracking websites and

apps - Since AIS only transmits a radio frequency signal, AIS cannot transmit directly to the internet. A ground station that receives AIS data can reformat AIS information and send it to a specialized internet website which then graphically represents vessel AIS data for users to see in a web browser or app. The accuracy of the website data is dependent on many factors beyond the control of the vessel or viewer, so therefore this information may not always represent the true status of an AIS vessel.

An AIS system is a great simple addition to your existing navigation equipment and an important navigation tool for collision avoidance and safety.
 NOTE - if you are wondering if your vessel is required by the USCG to have an AIS system, you can review the regulations here <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/Name=AISRequirementsRev>
 Effective from July 1, 2022, the new IMO rules state that vessels under SOLAS regulations will have to fit a new EPIRB with an internal AIS locating signal

and an internal GNSS receiver, along with the 406 MHz and 121.5 MHz transmitters, when current devices are due for replacement. Recreational boats and other non-SOLAS vessels can continue to install the EPIRBs permitted under their national regulations, with many countries expected to enforce the IMO AIS EPIRB mandate in one to two years' time due to the life-saving benefits offered by these new beacons.
 Until then, as always...
 Stay Grounded! §

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Cast For A Cure - TEAM SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

The **Cast for a Cure - Team Surf Fishing Tournament** was held on May 21st. The event hosted by Old Inlet Bait & Tackle in Rehoboth, DE and sponsored by Delaware Fisherwomen benefits the Tunnell Cancer Center Special Needs Fund. Over \$10,000 was raised by the 26 teams and 90 anglers competing in this year's surf fishing competition. While the anglers had to work for their catches, a nice mix of drum, stripers and bluefish made their way to the beach!



1st Place in the 2022 Cast for a Cure Team Fishing Tournament went to team 'One More Cast' with anglers Sporto Gray, Tim Wallace, Bob Zak and Lance Cochran.



There was a tie for 2nd Place during the 2022 Cast for a Cure Team Fishing Tournament. Team 'In and Out Tire Pros' took one side of the tie with anglers Eamonn Carey, Martin Carey, Henry Busby and Jim Steel.



The other side of the tie for 2nd Place during the 2022 Cast for a Cure Team Fishing Tournament went to Team 'Bayless and Sons' with anglers Chad Bayless, Brian Hafer, Samantha Moyer and Richard Lineweaver.



3rd Place in the 2022 Cast for a Cure Team Fishing Tournament went to Team 'Two Dudes Fishing' with Matt Mills, Brandon Quidas, Dustin Smith and Keith Quidas.



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Capt. Richard Harpel of "Flip N Fins" looks like a character from Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea"! He took this john boat out to the Coral Beds from Lewes, DE and locked onto this brute using fresh clams on a top and bottom drum rig with 5/0 circle hooks and a 5 oz. sinker. The fight took about 40 minutes and the fish was release shortly thereafter. Check out the YouTube video using the QR code to the right!



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VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



Wow! What a beautiful Memorial Day weekend it has been. The sun is shining, the birds are singing and most importantly, the fish are biting.

The Pocomoke and Tangier Sounds have taken the spotlight with good catches of reds, specs, and rock in the shallows. Most of these fish have been brought to the dinner table after an offering of crab fished on or near the grass covered bottom. However, some anglers have tempted these precarious predators with an array of lures ranging from Old Skool and Assassin paddle tails to Mirrodines and X-Rap suspending hard baits. This past Monday my daughter and I slipped out after work and headed to the Tangier Sound. We only

had an hour or so, but that was plenty of time for bent rods and big smiles. We focused on structure such as stumps and rock piles while throwing X-Raps to eager stripers hiding in the eddy's of the ripping current.

The Seaside of the ESVA is still contributing flounder fillets for the substance of our local anglers. The bite has been on both tides with most action centered around each side of slack water which allows for cleaner, clearer water. Teasers colored pink, chartreuse, white, and orange rigged with Gulp and tipped with a minnow or silverside have been doing the trick. This past week the FSA Club held their annual flounder frenzy. They had a great turn out, some great fishing

and most importantly a great fun. At the weigh-in they had big fish to nearly 5 lbs. and anglers with four fish creels of nearly 14 lbs. While the black drum have been getting a little smaller this week, the inlets of the barrier islands are still producing good action mainly on the flood tide. The surf has provided some good rock and red action as well as some tasty kingfish that are destined for a dinner plate. The reds are gobbling up chunks of crab while the kingfish prefer small bits of bloodworms on small float rigs. This low key surf fishing lends itself to introducing youth to fishing the suds. Lighter tackle and more action magnify the fun. If you find yourself taking a young person out

to figuratively and literally "get their feet wet", try an Aqua Clear kingfish rig. These rigs have small floats with circle hooks which help coax these little scrappers into the cooler.

The southern Chesapeake has been yielding some black drum on clam baits around Buoy 13. The pilings of the CBBT have been sheltering some nice sheepshead that can be enticed with small chunks of crab on t&b rigs as well as tog jigs. The waters along the coast have still included some nice reds from the top of shoals right in the breakers. A couple of cobia had been released as folks get ready for the opening of the season in the middle of June.

It looks like this nice weather may stick around a while, so make a point to take advantage of these wonderful blessings that God has given us and go enjoy this wonderful place we call home. §

The 2022 fishing season is here and we are excited to capture the moments in the COASTAL FISHERMAN! Whether it's surf fishing, a private boat or charter service, send us your catch for us to review.

SEND US YOUR FISH CATCH PHOTOS!

Who knows, you just may find yourself gracing the pages of the Coastal Fisherman elevating you to ROCKSTAR STATUS!



Use your phone to scan this code to assist you!



KEYS TO TAKING A GREAT FISH PICTURE!

Email it to coastalfisherman@comcast.net
410-213-2200

INCLUDE IN THE EMAIL:

- Angler's full name and town
- Names & towns of others in photo
- Weight and/or length of fish
- Bait/lure used
- Location of catch
- Name of boat, if any

Please do not compress the photo and do not run it through any photo software.

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

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



The big black drum have found their way into the Delaware Bay to spawn. Aidan Dawson headed there and landed this citation sized fish measuring 46" and 49.6 lbs making it our Heaviest for DE so far! Pictured at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.



The bluefish were hot last week and well north in the Ocean City Bay. Ocean City native Sean Clarkson found these two near the Rt. 90 Bridge using a bucktail with a salt & pepper worm on the outgoing tide.

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Species	2022	2021	Species	2022	2021
 Bluefish	April 26 Morgan Mericle South OC Jetty	May 8 Gavin Murray Gull Island	 Thresher Shark	May 20 Mike Eid "HotLine" Fingers	May 22, 2021 Patrick Snell "MAKO me CRAZY" Twin Wrecks
 Black Drum	March 29 Jay Phillips Assateague Island	March 31 Allen Sklar Assateague Island	 Bigeye Tuna		May 28 Pete Gudiatas "Blood Money" Poor Man's
 Cobia		June 17 Shannon Pickens South OC Inlet	 Bluefin Tuna	May 17 Andrew Dietz "Take Em" SE Poor Man's	May 7 James Hammond "Hot Lick" Norfolk
 Flounder	April 3 Scott Lenox Thorofare	April 18 Danny Cox Rt. 90 Bridge	 Longfin Tuna		July 17 Morgan Michael "Reel Fun" Baltimore Canyon
 Sea Bass	May 15 Jeremy Michalski Jack Spot	April 12 Camryn Baeder Inshore Wreck	 Yellowfin Tuna	May 17 James Haren "Take Em" SE Poor Man's	May 28 Bill Pino "Blood Money" Poor Man's
 Sheepshead		June 17 Veronica Cannuli Outside OC Inlet	 Dolphin New	May 29 Adam Davidson "HotLine" East of Poor Man's	June 10 Michael Seicke "Second Chance" S. Poor Man's
 Striped Bass	April 20 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	May 6 Buddy Martin East Channel	 Swordfish		New Category for 2022
 Tautog	March 27 Michael Guigley Stinky Beach	January 1 Mike Sadowski "Tide Runner" Ocean Structure	 Blue Marlin		New Category for 2022
 Wahoo		June 17 Gary Welch Washington Canyon	 White Marlin		June 13 Brad Young "TUNAFOWL" Washington Canyon

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

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Featured Boat of the Week



Constellation - 37' 1984 Sonny Briggs - Call Ronnie Fields



**2005 64' Sculley
Call Jimmy Fields**



**BARRATUNA - 53' 2008 Sculley
Call Steve Hedrick**



**SLOB KING - 57' Island Boatworks
Call Jimmy Fields**



**WOODCUTTER - 38' 1983 Buddy Davis
Call Jeff James**



**ISLANDER - 40' 1971 Warren O'Neal
Call Jeff James**



**SALVATION - 1977 Omie Tillet Sportsman 50'
Custom Carolina - Call Jeff James**



**HONKY TONK - 61' 1989 Buddy Davis
Call Jeff James**



**TOBASCO - 1979 48' Whiticar
Call Jimmy Fields**



**DARK HORSE - 34' 1979 Glenn Bradley
Call Jeff James**



**PRODUCER TOO - 2008 41' Bahama
Call Colton Cunningham**



**DOUBLE NICKEL - 1997 42' Buddy
Harris - Call Ronnie Fields**



**2021 24' St. James Custom Boatworks
Call Jimmy Fields**



**25' 2018 Regulator
Call Mark Barton**



**28' 1986 Ocean Master
Call Glenn Cameron**



**2018 25' Custom Blackfin
Call Jimmy Fields**



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



**29' 1996 Luhrs
Call Ronnie Fields**



**30' 1984 Blackfin
Call Chris Workmon**

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