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Allyson Airey took the early lead for Heaviest Flounder of the Year honors with this 26-incher she hooked while slow trolling Rat-L-Traps and bucktails near the Rt. 90 Bridge. The 7 lb. 8 oz. flattie was caught during a trip with her husband Jul Airey and Bryan Keith. Photo courtesy of Fenwick Bait & Tackle.



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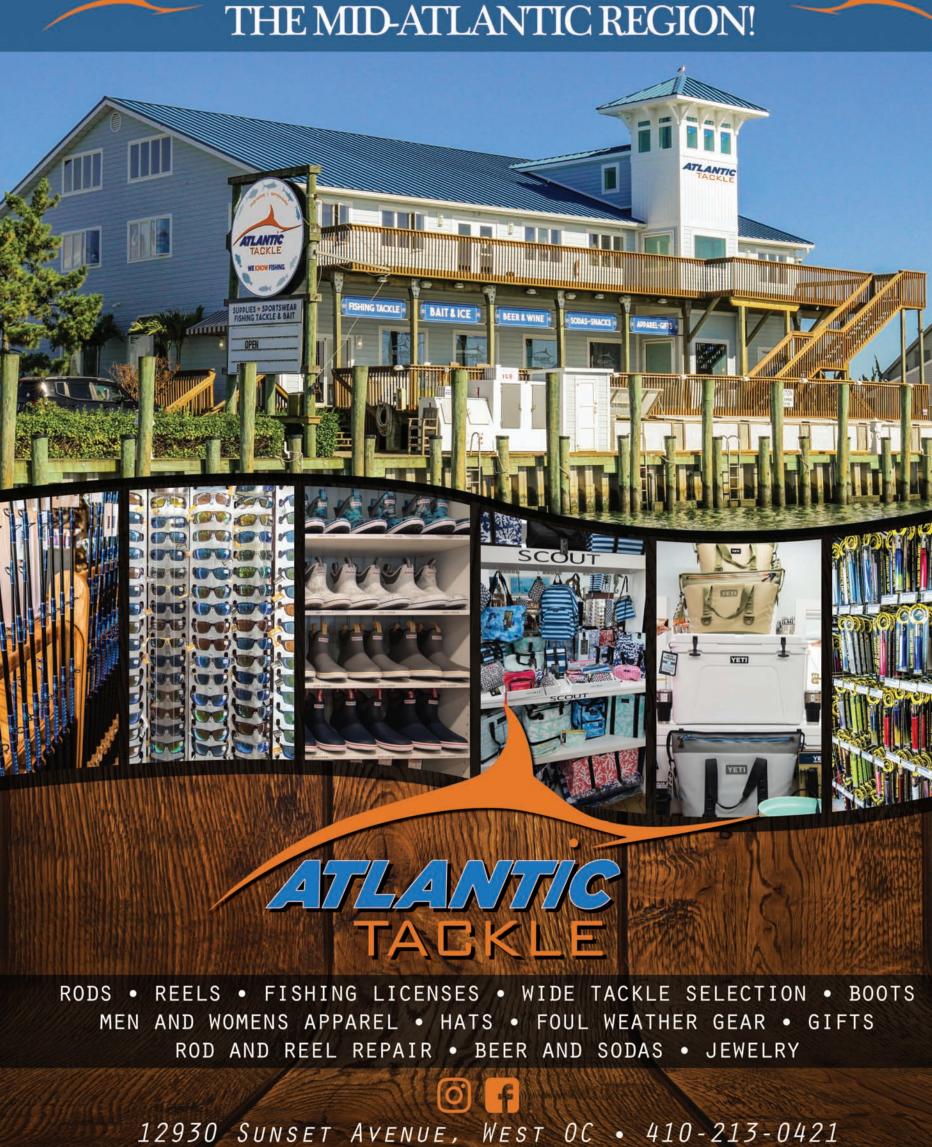
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In late February, local anglers Jimbo Bunting, Shane Heimer and Capt. Scott Stapleford headed south to fish out of Oregon Inlet, NC and were rewarded with a 90-inch giant bluefin tuna. It was an epic 4-hour battle before the guys stuck the bluefin and hauled it onto the deck of the "Reel Precision".







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Ocean City Fishing Report by Larry Jock

Welcome back to another season of the *Coastal Fisherman*.

What a difference a year makes. Last year at this time, good size bluefish were all over the bay and in the surf, yellowfins and bluefins were caught near the Triple 0's and the first mako shark was brought to the scale on April 28th after being hooked at the Rockpile. This year, after a very cold winter, fishing is off to a slow start. A long stretch of bad has weather not only dampened fishing action for those who can get out but it has also delayed the larger boats from getting in the water due to boat work still needing to get done. This past weekend we finally saw some nice weather in Ocean City and the boatyards were a beehive of activity.

Not uncommon for this time of year, tautog are dominating the action and we have seen

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some really nice fish hit the dock. Back on April 18th, Ron McClelland threw a 23 lb. 9 oz. blackfish on the scale to set the bar high for heaviest of the season. That will be a tough one to beat. The fish was caught during a trip aboard the charter boat, "Fish Bound" in 120-feet of water where Capt. reported Kane water temperatures at 44-degrees. On Saturday, the "Fish Bound" had 12 tog weighing over 10 lbs. including a 19 pounder. Since most of the fish were females, the anglers only kept a few. On Sunday, Capt. Kane's anglers returned with 11 tog, ranging in weight between 6 and 7 lbs., and had to hit a number of wrecks to make it happen. Conditions were not ideal and interestingly, Kevin mate Twilley said that he threw a Go Pro camera down to where one angler wasn't having much

success, only to see numerous tautog surrounding the bait. They just weren't biting and conditions made bait presentation difficult. The good news is that the ocean water temperature increased into the 50's with warm weather coming down the pike.

Tautog fishing in the bay has been tough with some short tog being hooked along the rocks in the West Channel (Martha's Landing) and off the 3rd Street Bulkhead.

Sea bass season opens up on May 15th with a 12.5-inch minimum and a 15 fish creel limit. There is a meeting later this week and things could change. Rumors have it that we could pick up 2 weeks of fishing in the fall, so stay tuned.

Shark fishermen were dealt a blow over the winter when the feds increased the minimum size for mako sharks from 54-inches to 83-inches, basically shutting down the fishery. There is still a rumor going around that they may reconsider and soften the blow, going to a 72-inch minimum.

Flounder fishing has just started to pick up in the bay, primarily over the Thorofare flats for anglers trolling Rat-L-Traps or bucktails tipped with Gulp artificial baits. The largest flounder caught so far this year, a 26-incher weighing 7 lbs. 8 oz., was hooked on the flats by Allyson Airey on April 22nd. On Saturday, a few anglers had a good day flounder fishing on the flats. Mike Johnston, who really has the slow trolling

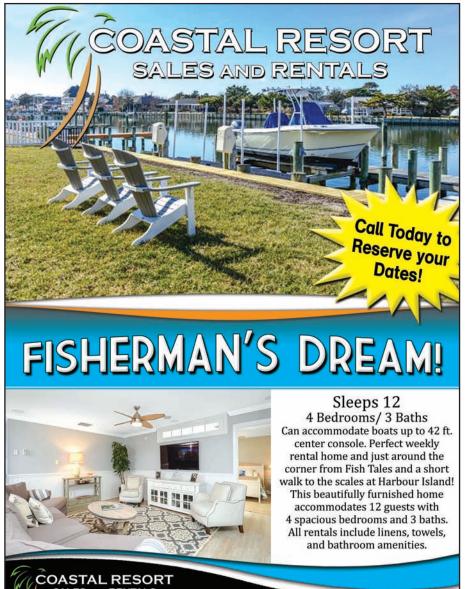
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technique down, caught his limit in windy conditions. The water clarity wasn't great or the bite would have probably been even better. A few boats ventured south to the bay behind Frontier Town but they mostly ran into short flatties. Lamont Hilbert did manage to get a 19-incher on a Gulp artificial bait.

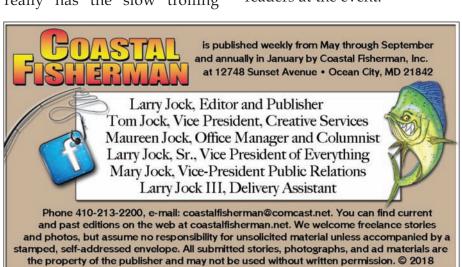
Small striped bass, in the 15 to 20-inch range, have been found over the last couple of weeks hanging around all three bridges. There were a lot of anglers fishing from the Rt. 50 Bridge last weekend, but they mostly dealt with small fish and an occasional flounder according to John at Alltackle.

Surfcasters fishing off Assateague Island this past weekend tangled with a lot of skates in addition to small stripers and some black drum. The small schoolies were right in the wash and caught on a variety of baits including sand fleas, bunker and artificial soft baits.

As we head into the season, it would be a good time for folks to consider joining the Ocean City Reef Foundation or renewing their membership. This is a great organization that does a tremendous amount of work that benefits our fishing community. Just this past weekend, Capt. Monty on the "Morning Star" took a group of volunteers out to the Bass Grounds where they dropped 6.5 TONS of concrete block. That's a lot of reef! The Reef Foundation's annual fundraising dinner is on May 6th at Seacrets and for the 15th straight year I will be working the door. Hopefully they will have a great turnout and I look forward to seeing a lot of our readers at the event.



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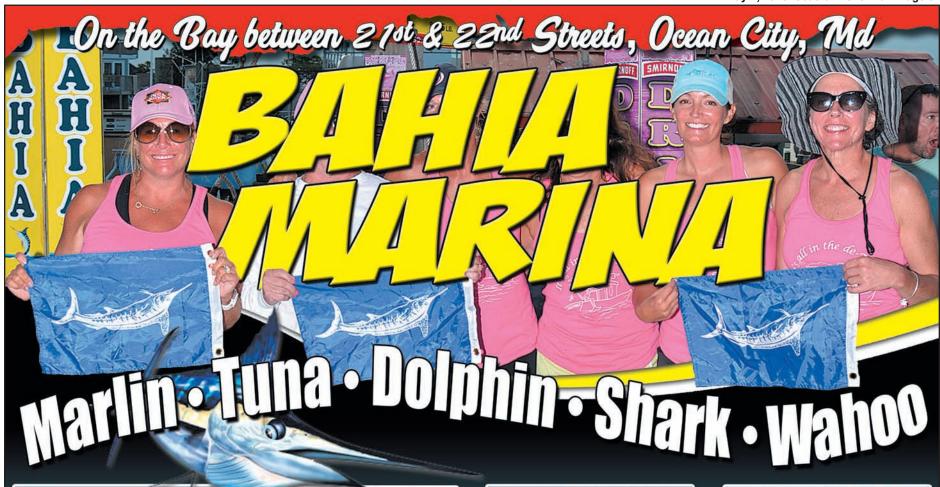
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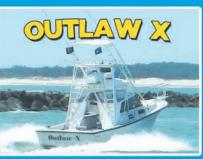
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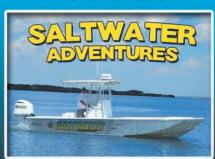
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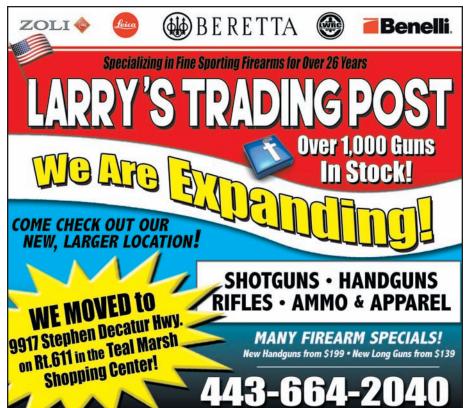
On April 19th, Allen Sklar of Ocean City, MD landed this 30-inch black drum, the first of the year, while fishing with sand fleas from the surf on Assateague Island. Pictured at the Coastal Fisherman office.







Last winter, Ken Yen of Germantown, MD had a great day fishing on the charter boat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mate Rich Fouts. Ken ended his day with flounder up to 5.5 lbs., sea bass up to 3 lbs. and bluefish weighing up to 12 lbs.





It's been a slow spring striper season so far in the Chesapeake Bay, but Helen Pantoulus managed to catch this 50-incher just south of Solomons Island while fishing on the charter boat, "Marli" with Gregory and Brad Martin, Capt. Mark Hoos and mate Mark Stephens. The fish hit a parachute rig in 45-feet of water.







Last week NOAA Fisheries published this year's bluefin tuna regulations, so starting immediately angling category fishermen on private boats are allowed to take two school-size bluefins and one large school/small-medium fish per boat while those on charter boats will be allowed three school-size fish and one large school/small-medium. I don't think the new bluefin limits will be too painful for most fishermen to digest, but I'm guessing that, at the very least, a lot of fishermen won't know or understand "why" these or other fishery regulations are what they are.

These days anglers are absolutely inundated with fishing regulations; size limits, season, bag limits, tackle restrictions, different ways of measuring fish, safe handling regulations and closed areas. As if all that isn't enough, just when you think you've got it all figured out you find that there are sometimes differences in state and federal regulations that require anglers to keep track of whether the fish they catch are taken more, or less, than three miles from the shoreline.

With so much to keep up

with, and so much of it being downright confusing, fishermen often get very frustrated by it all and conclude that certain regulations are just plain "stupid" with no rational foundation behind them. While I'll be the first to admit that, over the years, there have been times when I too have been more than a little unhappy regulations certain handed to us by folks sitting behind desks in Annapolis or Washington, I have also realized that the more I know about the reasoning of "why" regulations become law - the easier they are to digest.

As it is, fishery managers have two primary jobs; to maintain populations of our marine resources at prescribed levels, and to provide the access to resources. In other words, keep the populations up while allowing fishermen to fish. Of course, this creates a balancing act for fisheries people who must be able to control the harvest of fish so that anglers can take "some" but not "too many" out of the population, and to that end they have certain tools to do this.

fishermen

accustomed to "size limits" which are one of the most common tools fishery managers use to control the harvest of resources. Whether it's fish, clams or crabs, almost all managed species have some of minimum kind maximum size limit. Sometimes specific size limits are not biologically important but they are set at a certain length just to slow the landings of a particular species. When the intent is to help allow juveniles to reach a certain size before they are subject to harvest, the limit might be set at a length that is known to be the minimum size that a particular species needs to grow to before they reach sexual maturity in hopes that the fish has at least one opportunity to reproduce before being caught. The latest example of this is the new 83inch limit for mako sharks, which represents the minimum size female mako sharks have ever been reported to be mature.

In many species, even though smaller fish might be able to reproduce, it's the largest and oldest ones that are able to produce many more offspring in a single season, so (as with rockfish and red drum) "maximum" size limits or "slot limits" are a tool sometimes used to allow the best breeding-size fish the opportunity to spawn. Slot limits can also be used to

provide a tailored level of conservation to certain yearclasses of fish, as with bluefin tuna, which are classified in five management categories of school, large school, small medium, medium and giant, all with their own unique length measurement.

Catch limits - also known as "creel limits" are another wellknown way of controlling harvest. Anglers have become very accustom to being told "how many" fish they are allowed keep to sometimes, just like size limits, creel limits are a very contentious subject! Obviously, creel limits are set to control the harvest, and when doing so marine mangers take into account the estimated size and overall health of the fish population, the amount of fishermen or "effort" that will be pursuing those fish, as well as how effective anglers are at catching them.

Fishing "seasons" are tools that are used for some but not all species. Some fish, such as bluefish, yellowfin tuna and coastal rockfish are open all year, while others such as flounder, black sea bass, tautog and bluefin tuna open and close at different times for a variety of reasons. Such as with bluefins and flounder, seasons are sometimes set simply to control fishing effort and the harvest of a species. In other cases, such as with some species of sharks, seasons are





set to keep anglers from pursuing them during periods of breeding or pupping. That's why anglers may not take any of the large coastal shark species in this region until after July 15th.

Closing specific areas to fishing is a tool occasionally used by marine managers to protect species during critical times in their life such as during migrations or breeding. If, for instance, a particular river or other body of water is known as a breeding or pupping area for a certain fish, that river might be closed for specific times that coincide with such activities. Sometimes areas are closed because they are known to be the primary habitat of juvenile fish and managers determine that the area should not be subject to any kind of fishing pressure. Occasionally, bodies of water declared "sanctuaries" where no fishing of any kind can take place at any time. Often controversial, this tool is used to provide total protection to fish living within a specific with boundary area thought that as their populations increase many of them will move out of the sanctuary zone and provide opportunities to fishermen in other places.

Gear restrictions and safe handling requirements can provide additional conservation to a fishery by helping to ensure that released fish have the best chance for survival. The required use of circle hooks for billfish and now sharks are great examples of how sometimes simple changes in the gear fishermen use to catch their fish can provide positive impacts on a fishery without reducing catch rates or the enjoyment anglers find in their sport. Requiring that sharks, tuna and billfish be released in the water without first being brought out of the water for photos is an example of safe handling regulations.

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





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Eddie Santiago muscled in this 16 lb. tautog during an April 22nd trip aboard the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. Eddie used a green crab to fool the toothy blackfish while fishing at an ocean wreck. The "Fish Bound" is docked at the Talbot Street Pier.



Slow trolling over the Thorofare flats can be a deadly method of flounder fishing in the spring and that is exactly how Mike Johnston caught this 19 1/2-incher in mid-April. Mike was fishing on the "Hell Bent" with Jeremy Hale when he hooked the flattie on a white Gulp artificial bait.

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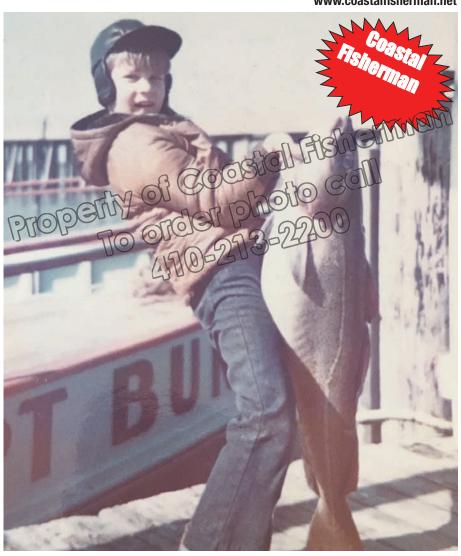
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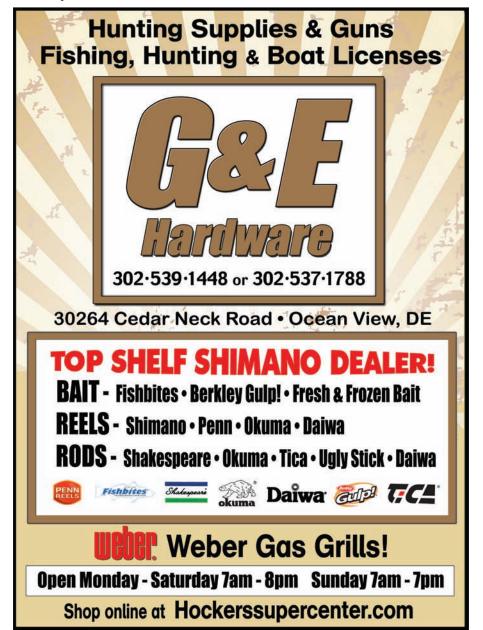


In mid-April, Capt. Brian Perry on the "Sweetie" took a group out to the African Queen and returned with a nice catch of tautog weighing up to 12 lbs. They also caught a fair amount of good size sea bass as well during their trip.





While fishing with his dad back in 1973, ten-year-old Eddie Richardson caught this cod over Christmas break. The father and son team were fishing on the "Capt. Bunting" and caught 6 cod during the trip. The 26 pounder was the second heaviest cod caught that day.

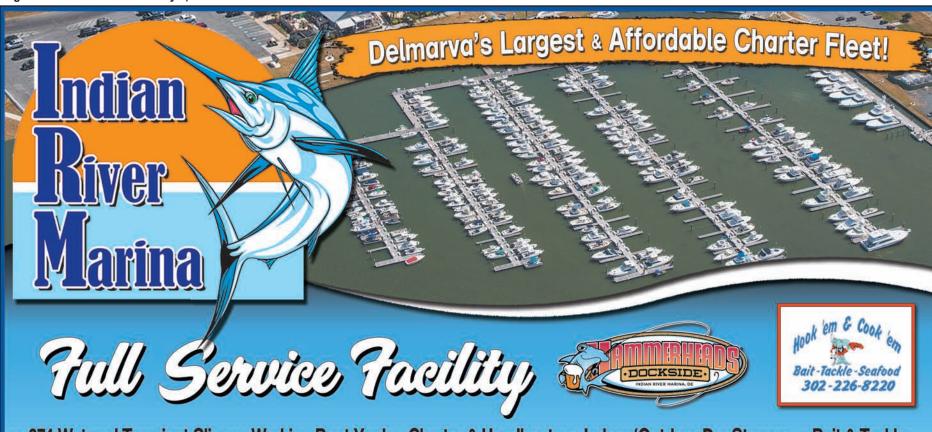


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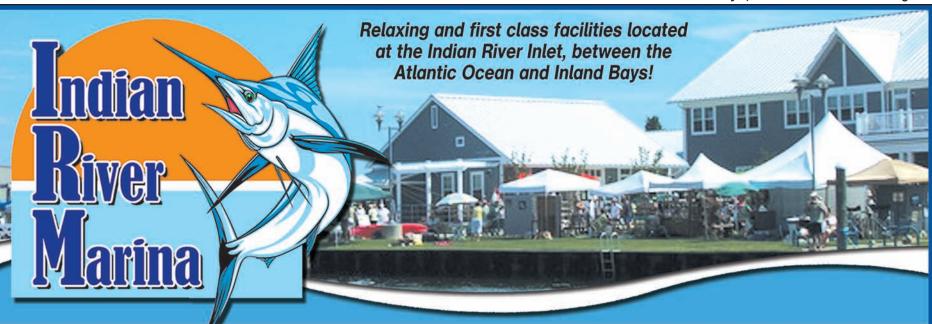


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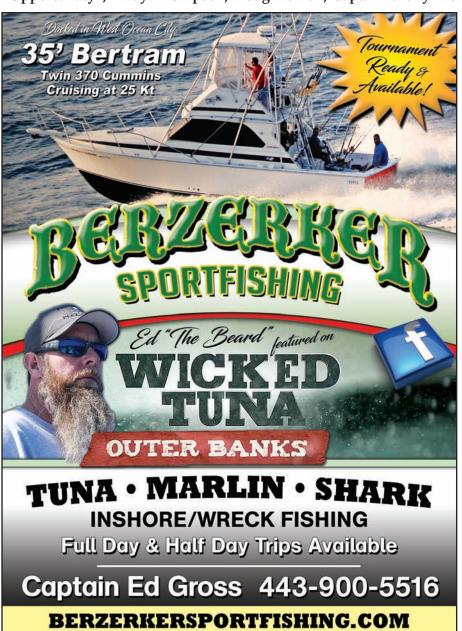
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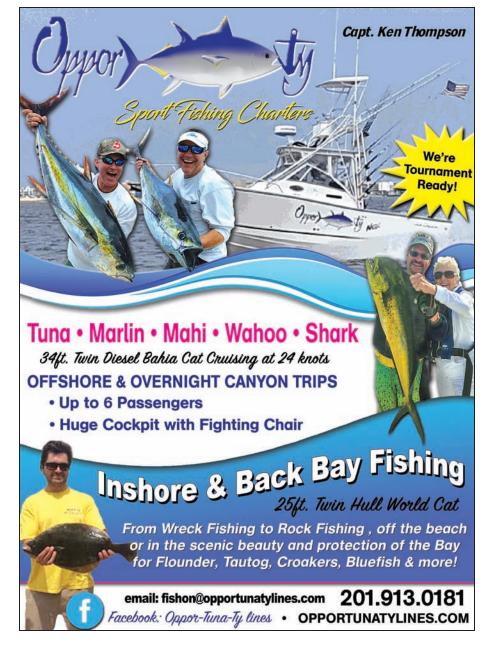
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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Last winter, a group of local anglers ventured down to Isla Mujeres, Mexico where Rick Lippenholtz of Timonium, MD (center) caught and released his very first sailfish. Rick was fishing on the "Keen M" with Capt. Ken Thompson of the Ocean City charter boat, "Opportunaty", Andy Thompson, Doug Howell, Capt. Anthony Mondillo and mate Gallo.











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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS

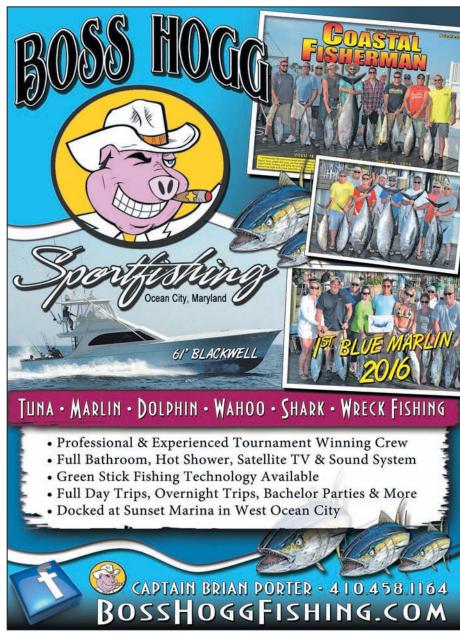


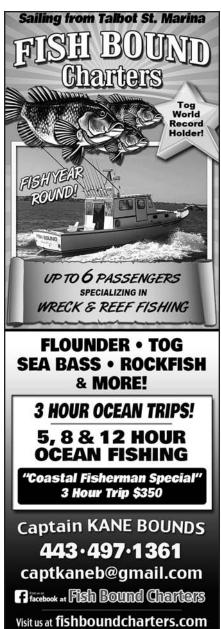
Jason Widgeon of Berlin, MD ventured down to Ocracoke, NC to do some surf fishing with Gary and Lee Savage, also from Berlin, MD and was rewarded with this 52-inch red drum that he released after hooking it on a chunk of cut mullet.



Kevin Twilley took a few minutes off from his mate duties on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" to catch and release this 11 lb. tautog while fishing with green crabs in 40-feet of water. As always, Capt. Kane Bounds was at the wheel. The "Fish Bound" is now docked at the Talbot Street Pier.









OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Austin Ensor, who fishes locally on the "Primary Search", took a trip down to Big Pine Key over the winter and ended up having 4 hours to kill before catching his plane ride home, so he jumped on a local headboat and caught this Queen triggerfish and a dozen other triggerfish...





Gregory Martin from Sykesville, MD hooked this 51-inch striper while trolling south of Solomons Island on the charter boat, "Marli" with his dad, Brad Martin, his sister Helen Pantoulus, Capt. Mark Hoos and mate Mark Stephens.





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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS

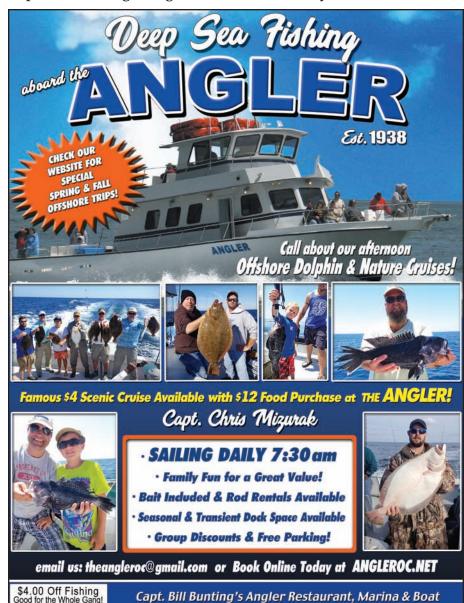


Dennis Muhlenforth of Hockessin, DE caught and released this 27-inch female tautog while fishing on the head boat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins at an artificial reef. Looking on fondly is Franky "Fingers" Graziano!





This past winter, Bob Telford of Pocomoke, MD ventured out on the head boat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mate Rich Fouts. Bob ended his day with this 25-inch flounder that he fooled with a strip of squid on an ocean wreck. The "Angler" ties up at Capt. Bill Bunting's Angler Dock in Ocean City, MD.



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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



In late March, Chan Park from Fairfax, VA caught and released this 15 lb. 5 oz. tautog during a trip aboard the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. Chan hooked the fish on a green crab in 65-feet of water. The "Fish Bound" is docked at the Talbot Street Pier.



This group of local fish slayers took a trip down to Islamorada, FL and spent the day fishing with Capt. John Oughton on the charter boat, "That's Right". They ended their trip with yellowtail snappers, mutton snappers, gray snappers, beeliners, groupers, king mackerel, cero mackerel, porgy and barracudas in the box. Pictured back at the dock are Jen and Franky Pettolina, Missy and Chris Evans and Monica and Ryan Freese.









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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Tyler Tribbitt is all smiles as he poses with the 63 lb. black drum he caught while surf fishing on a Virginia barrier island. The big black drum was fooled with a peeler crab during a trip with Tim Tribbitt.



Last winter, Steve Fink, Danny Cox and Mike Austill were trolling parachute rigs off the coast of Delaware when they caught these 3 good size stripers. The largest measured 45 inches and the other two taped out at 37-inches each.



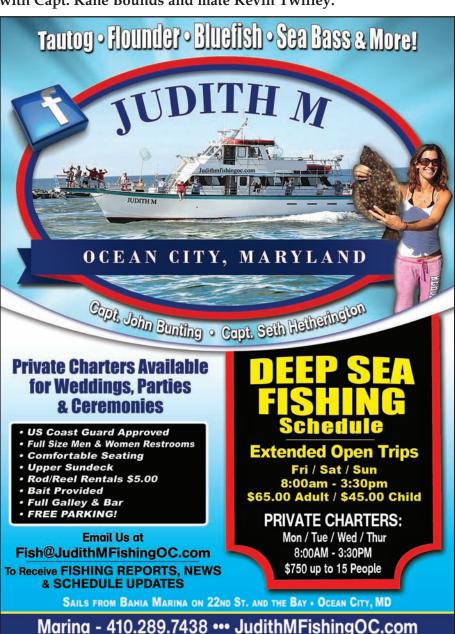




OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



You know that winter/spring tautog fishing off the Maryland and Delaware coast is world class when many anglers head south from New York and New Jersey to get in on the action. On this day in April, Ray Muiz from New York, NY boated this 14 pounder after hooking it on a green crab in 40-feet of water a few miles from the Ocean City Inlet. Ray was fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley.





Local angler, Pete Renzi took some time off from work at I.G. Burton to head south during Easter week and do some fishing out of Key West. Pete is pictured with a skipjack tuna he caught while trolling a squid lure on the charter boat, "Fishy Business".





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BAY FISHING CHARTERS

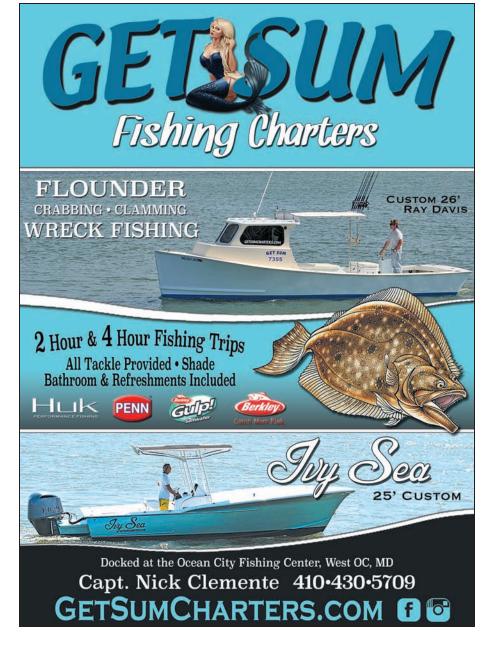


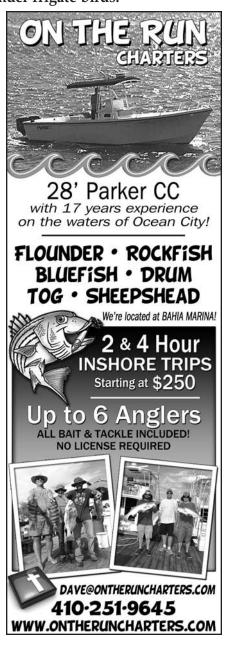
Mud crabs fished in 80-feet of water was the winning combination this day for Augie Gee of New York, NY. Augie caught this 14 lb. tautog while fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. The "Fish Bound" is docked at the Talbot Street Pier.



During the off-season, local angler, Lisa Cherivtch took a trip down to Raccoon Key, FL with her son Ashton and her parents, Al and Sharon Rittmeyer. They spent a day fishing in the Cudjoe Channel where they found huge schools of jack crevalles and had non-stop action for over an hour under frigate birds.





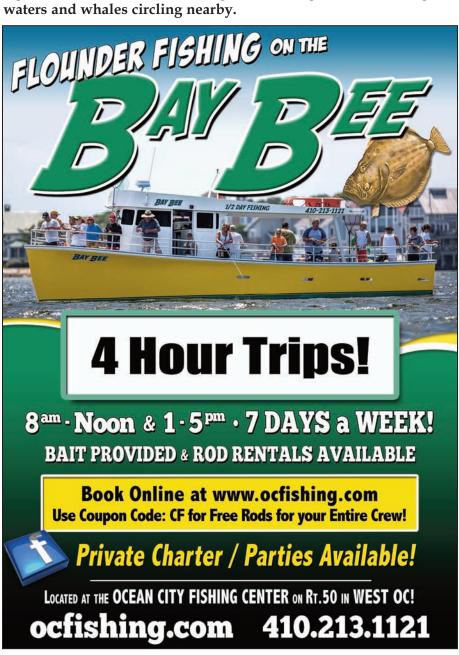




BAY FISHING CHARTERS

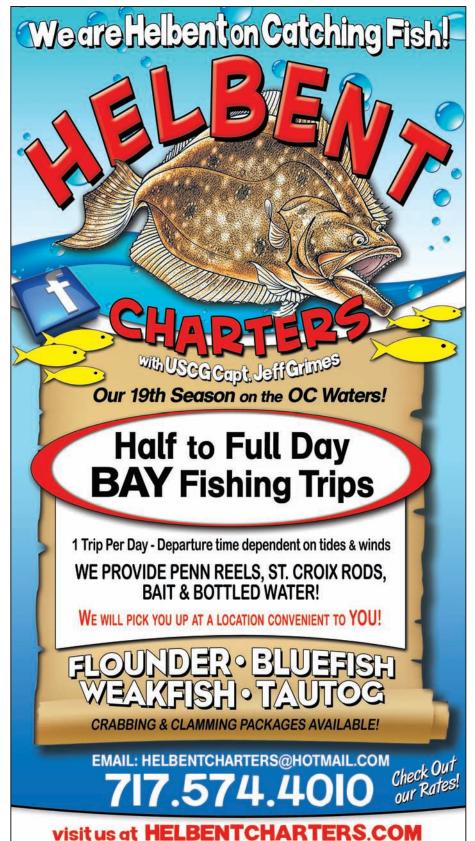


When the big stripers were moving south last winter, Mike Karsnitz of West Ocean City jumped on the bite just off the coast of Chincoteague, VA and released this 42-incher while fishing on the "Top Billin" with Josh Farr, Jeremy Thomas and Sean Coyle. All the signs were there when the anglers found gannets bombing the waters and whales circling nearby.





Back in March, Kevin Lougheed of Lewes, DE (left) caught and released this saifish while fishing on "Panamax Sportfishing" in Guatemala with Sam Connors of West Ocean City, MD.









During the summer months, Joe Vansant, Andrew Levinson and Rick Levinson fish on the "Seaflame" out of the Indian River Marina, but this past winter they decided to head to Lucaya, Bahamas in mid-March and ended up with this 50 lb. wahoo and a 30 lb. mahi in the box.



During a trip to Ocracoke, NC in mid-April with his son, Gary Savage and Jason Widgeon, Lee Savage of Berlin, MD caught and released this 44-inch red drum after hooking it on a chunk of cut mullet fished from his lucky white surf rod.







After making the long trip down to Ocean City, MD, Eddie Santiago of New York, NY caught and released this 20+ lb. female tautog while fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. Edward used a green crab to fool the fish in 80-feet of water near "B" Buoy. This was the 4th tog that weighed over 20 lbs. caught by an angler on the "Fish Bound" this spring. The "Fish Bound" is docked at the Talbot Street Pier.

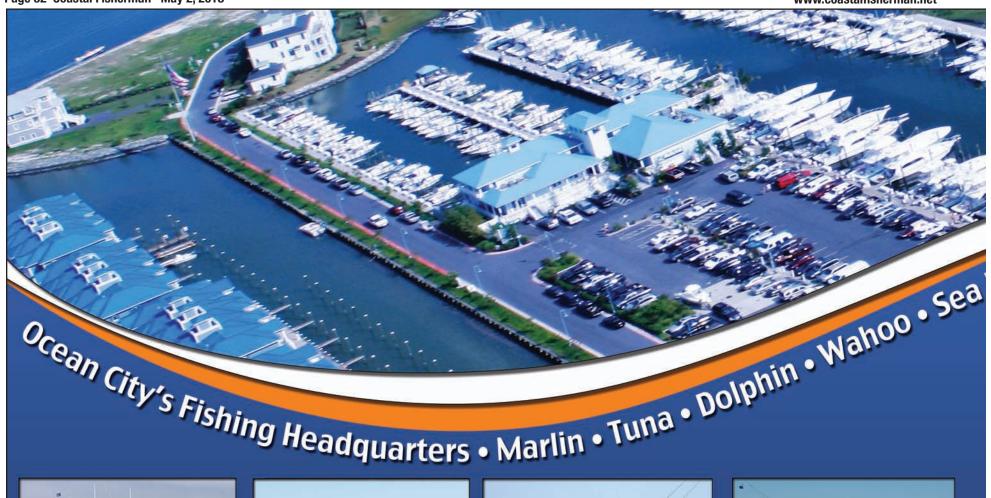






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Creole Style Sea Bass

2 TBSP. olive oil

1 cup each diced onion, celery and green pepper

4 large cloves garlic, minced

1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and diced

2 (15 oz.) cans petite diced tomatoes

1 cup water

2 TBSP. tomato paste

1 TBSP. hot sauce

1/2 tsp. each salt and pepper

1 lemon, 1/2 juiced, other thinly sliced

2 lbs. skinless sea bass fillets

2 scallions, green parts only, sliced thin

2 TBSP. parsley chopped

Rinse fish and pat dry with paper towels.

Lay the fish down on cutting board and cut the fish lengthwise into long pieces, 2 inches wide.

Cut the long strips into 2-inch chunks.

Heat oil in a large skillet.

Saute onion, celery, green pepper, garlic and jalapeno for 5 minutes.

Add tomatoes and water and bring to a simmer.

Stir in tomato paste, hot sauce, salt, pepper and lemon juice.

Simmer 20 minutes.

Fold fish into sauce and simmer for 15 minutes or until fish flakes.

Garnish with parsley, scallions and lemon slices.

--

Serves 4.

Shrimp and Clam Pizza

1 lb. refrigerated pizza

dough, brought to room temperature Flour, for dusting 1 shallot, thinly sliced 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil Salt and pepper 1/3 cup dry white wine 4 cloves garlic, minced 12 littleneck clams, scrubbed 1/2 cup fresh parsley 1/2 tsp. grated lemon zest 8 oz. medium shrimp, peeled, deveined, and halved

Preheat oven to 450-degrees.

Press and stretch the dough into a 10x14-inch rectangle on a floured piece of parchment.

Scatter the shallot on top. Drizzle 1 TBSP. olive oil and rub into the dough, www.coastalfisherman.net

pressing the shallot into the dough.

Season with salt and pepper.

Transfer the dough on the parchment onto an inverted baking sheet.

Bake 10 to 15 minutes.

Bring the wine, 1 TBSP. olive oil and garlic to a simmer in a large skillet over medium heat.

Add the clams, cover and cook until they open.

Transfer to a cutting board, using a slotted spoon.

Discard any unopened clams.

Continue simmering the liquid until reduced by half.

Remove the clams from the shells and chop.

Pulse the parsley with the remaining 2 TBSP. olive oil and lemon zest in a food processor until chopped.

Add the clam cooking liquid with the garlic and pulse until thickened.

Spread the parsley sauce on the baked crust.

Top with the clams and







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shrimp.

Season with salt and pepper.

Return to the oven until the shrimp is cooked through, 3 to 5 minutes.

Serves 4.

Tuna Preserved in Oil

1 lb. tuna, cut into large chunks Coarse salt Olive oil

Place the tuna on a plate and salt generously on all sides.

Let it sit at room temperature for 30 minutes.

Transfer the tuna to a heavy pot just large enough to accommodate it in one layer and cover with oil.

Set the pot over low heat and cook for 30 minutes. You want the oil hot but not bubbling.

Remove the tuna from the heat and let it cool completely in the oil.

Transfer the tuna and oil to

a large jar, making sure the tuna remains covered in oil.

Store in the refrigerator. It will keep for weeks.

Grilled Shrimp with Jalapeno

Marinade
1-2 jalapeno chiles, seeded
and minced

3 TBSP. olive oil

7 garlic cloves, minced

1 tsp. grated lime zest (use lime for the juice)

5 TBSP. lime juice

1/2 tsp. salt

1/2 tsp. ground cumin

1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper

Shrimp
1 1/2 lbs. extra-large
shrimp, peeled
1/2 tsp. sugar
1 TBSP. minced fresh
cilantro

For the Marinade:

Process all of the ingredients in a food processor until smooth.

Set aside 2 TBSP. of the



Paul Daisey shows off a pair of 12 lb. tautog caught during a trip with Jeff Waxman and Pat Petrera aboard the "Priceless". The bucktooth blackfish were hooked over an ocean wreck while jigging with light spinning tackle.







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Last winter some big striped bass migrated south along the Maryland coast and local angler Josh Farr was there to take advantage of it, catching and releasing this 42-incher after finding birds bombing on the 3-mile line, 12 miles south of the Inlet. The big linesider was hooked on a trolled mojo while fishing with Mason Farr (pictured), Kayla Rocco (pictured) and Karl Hoelper.

marinade and transfer rest to a medium bowl.

For the Shrimp:

Pat shrimp dry with paper towels.

Make shallow cut down outside curve of shrimp.

Place the shrimp in marinade and toss to coat.

Refrigerate at least 30 minutes or up to an hour.

Preheat grill until hot.

Thread 8 to 9 shrimp onto 4-inch metal skewers.

Cook, covered until shrimp are no longer translucent, turning once.

Using tongs, slide shrimp into a medium bowl.

Add reserved marinade and toss to coat.

Place shrimp on platter and sprinkle with cilantro.

Serves 4.

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Crab Cake **Burgers**

1 lb. lump crab meat 1/3 cup bread crumbs

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1/3 cup plus 3 TBSP. mayonnaise, divided 1 large egg, lightly beaten 1/4 cup chopped chives 1 TBSP. Worcestershire sauce

Kosher salt Freshly ground black pepper

2 TBSP. extra-virgin olive oil

Juice of 1/2 lemon

1 TBSP. dill pickle relish

1 TBSP. Old Bay seasoning

4 Martins Potato

Hamburger Buns 4 pieces bibb lettuce

In a large bowl, make burger mixture by combining crab meat, bread crumbs, 1/3 cup mayo, egg, chives and Worcestershire.

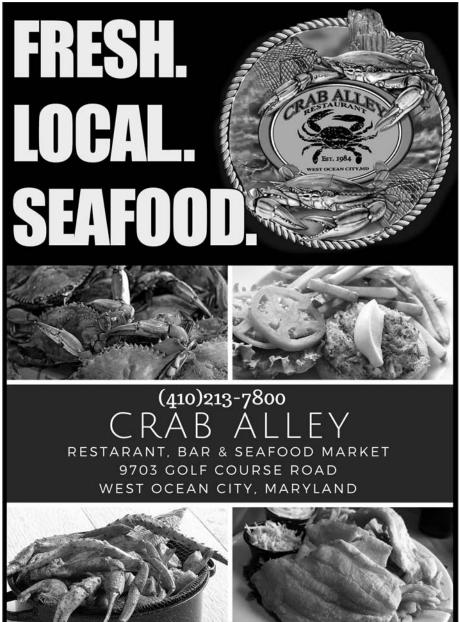
Season generously with salt and peppe and form into four patties.

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat.

Cook burgers until golden, 5 minutes per side.

Make Old Bay burger sauce by combining remaining





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3 TBSP of mayo, lemon juice, relish and Old Bay in a small bowl.

Season with salt.

Serve crab cake burgers on buns with lettuce and Old Bay sauce.

Fantastic Flounder Rolls

4 flounder fillets

1 container fresh sliced button mushrooms

2 Spanish onions

2 TBSP. olive oil

1 box Manischewitz® Everything Tam Tams

1 cup corn flake crumbs

2 bottles Thousand Island dressing

Salt

Pepper

Curly parsley

Red bell pepper

Preheat oven to 350-degrees.

Sauté onions in oil until soft and translucent.

Add mushrooms and

continue to sauté until mushrooms are nicely browned.

Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Crush Manischewitz Tam Tams lightly and add to mushroom onion mixture, continuing to crush tams until they're in very small pieces.

Take a piece of fish, spread a generous tablespoon of Tam Tam mixture in center of fillet and roll like a jelly roll.

Place in greased baking sheet seam side down.

Continue with each fillet.

Liberally pour Thousand Island dressing over fish.

Sprinkle corn flake crumbs over fish.

Bake for 20 to 25 minutes until cooked through.

Garnish with curly parsley and red pepper.

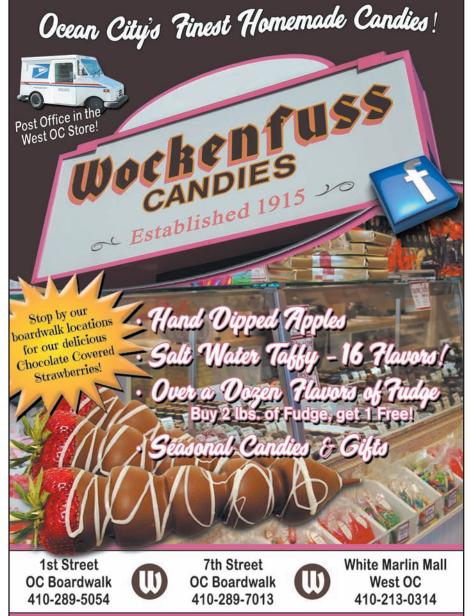
Serve warm or cold.

If you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share with Coastal Fisherman readers, simply email it to maureenjock@comcast.net.



During a trip aboard the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley, Bill Pissaro of New Jersey caught this 14 lb. tautog on a chunk of clam in 40-feet of water. The "Fish Bound" is docked at the Talbot Street Pier.







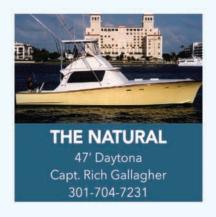
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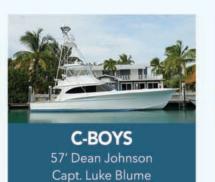


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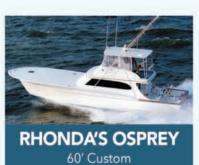


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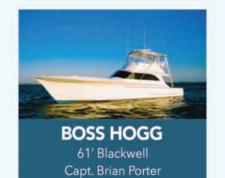






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Pish by Capt. Franky Pettolina Stories

This time last year I was typing about taking fishing rods down to our charter boat, "Last Call" and complaining that it was the first time that I had touched a fishing rod since October. Thankfully that is not the case this year. Yes, Dad is still bugging me to get all the rods down to the boat (so far I have made two trips and still have one, maybe two, more loads of rods to go), but I did in fact get to go fishing a little bit this past winter. Since you last heard from me in the Coastal Fisherman Winter Edition I have fished a whopping three days. They were, however, pretty spectacular days... each in their own way.

Day 1

Fishing out of Bud-n-Mary's Marina in Islamorada, Florida aboard the "That's Right" with Capt. John Oughton. The rest of our crew consisted of the mates Austin and Tommy, Capt. Monica of the "A Salt Weapon 3", her husband Ryan, my Co-Captain Chris and his wife Missy (also referred to as the sister I never wanted) and yours truly. The plan for the day was to harass anything that swims, but to put our emphasis on chasing sailfish.

For those of you that haven't spent much time in the Florida Keys... What the heck is wrong

with you???? It's great down there! But I digress. The name of the game when targeting sails the Keys during the wintertime is live baiting. We started our day with the mates throwing a cast net at schools of ballyhoo and assorted other reef dwellers. Johnny O and the crew of the "That's Right" have got the bait fishing down pat. In very little time we had a livewell full of tasty sailfish snacks and we proceeded to run up to the north where the best of the action had been in the days leading up to our trip. It felt like we ran forever, but in reality we had probably only ran about 10 or 12-miles. That's one of the great things about fishing in the Keys, a 10-mile run seems like a long way! In short order we had two kites up in the air with multiple baits dangling beneath each kite, a free drifting bait and a bait on the bottom to try and scare up some dinner.

The sailfish did not cooperate right away but that didn't stop the rods from bending. The bottom rod paid off with a nice mutton snapper and the other rigs accounted for an assortment of mackerel, bonita and barracuda. There was plenty of action, just not our target species.

Around lunchtime we made a move a little to the south and it

paid off. The sails must not have been in the mood for breakfast, instead choosing to make lunch their main meal of the day. Running right along the edge of the reef, Capt. John spotted a couple of free swimming sailfish. Baits were pitched and we were hooked up tight on one! A few minutes, and some wild jumps later, we had a feisty sail boatside for release. the Somehow during that fight Chris was able to hook a mahi that swam up to the boat to see what was going on, so we also had more dining fare in the box. The action continued to be exciting that afternoon but our luck turned bad and we did not successfully release any more sails (I am pretty sure Ryan messed one up though).

Day 2

Same boat, same place, slightly different plan and crew. For our second day we were joined by my wife Jen. For those of you that do not know, Jen let me describe her idea of a good fishing trip. It involves nets, gaffs, guns, explosives, weapons of mass destruction and anything else that causes carnage. Be prepared to throw away your clothes because they will be covered in blood and guts. The fish box better be overflowing and the only things that get released are billfish. If it is edible and of legal size it better stay away from my wife! Also, don't let down your guard around her or you are liable to receive a fish slap with a mahi or you could end up with a mackerel in your hoodie!

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Johnny and his crew were well aware of this and we were rigged and ready for an all out assault on the reef. We caught our live baits quickly again and then we moved on to one of Johnny's snapper holes. And thus began the mayhem. Yellowtail snappers? Dead. Mutton snappers? Dead. Gray snappers? Dead. Beeliners? Dead. Groupers? Dead. King mackerel? Dead. Cero mackerel? Dead. Porgy? Dead. Barracudas? Dead. By the end of the trip Jen had the commandeered gaffs because merely cranking them in wasn't enough to satisfy her primal urge to curtail the fish population! Now before any of you fish huggers get your feelings hurt, not a one was Everything was wasted. consumed or used for future baits. Jen likes to get the fish box dirty and the decks bloody, but she won't harvest anything that won't be put to good use. She also happens to be a science teacher, so do not take your chances debating fishery management with her. Then you will get your feelings hurt!

Day 3

Christmas Eve. A whole new gig. Capt. Monica and Ryan had to go home for the family Christmas. Missy just doesn't have the stamina to fish too many days while on vacation. Chris? Well suffice it to say either the lobster bisque or some bad conch got the best of him and a boat toilet is no one's favorite place to spend the day. That left Jen and me to accept the



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invitation from Capt. Jake go Robinson to daytime swordfishing aboard beautiful 33-foot custom walk around L and H express, "Stuff It". After a slight delay due to a pair of forgotten sunglasses we were on our way to the swordfish grounds. Compared to the other fisheries in the Keys, this spot is a ways further offshore. About 20 miles. Have I said that I love the Keys? Anyway, we left about 7:00 AM and we were making our first deep drop by 8:30. Drop numero uno proved to be unsuccessful, and I was quite happy to have

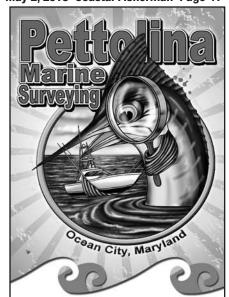
the hybrid electric assist reel to crank up the 10 pound lead, strobe light, and Bonito belly strip from the 1,600 foot depths. We repositioned and made our second drop. Drop number two was a bit more exciting as we came tight on a bite. But the outcome was much the same as the first and I was again thankful for the electric assist. They say that the third time is the charm, although I don't know if "they" have ever been swordfishing. In this instance, at least, "they" were right. We were tight again. Jolly old Capt. Santa came a little early and around 10:30 AM the

harpoon was drilled through a 100 pound swordfish. Jen had the straight gaff ready to lend a hand and a little while later we had our Christmas swordy under ice for his long winter nap and we were back to the dock by noon. Jake's wife, Meeghan, was waiting for us at the dock with the perfect topper for our Christmas Eve fishing adventure. A Santa hat for the swordfish and some Elf hats for the rest of the crew.

Now that I have shared the sum total of my winter fishing trips with you I am going to go take another batch of rods to the "Last Call". I look forward to sharing a few more fish stories with you this season, and I would like to wish all of my readers the best of luck this summer. It is a great time to be alive! Unless you are a fish. Especially if you are a fish within gaffing distance of my wife!

Capt Franky Pettolina is Co-Captain of the charter boat, "Last Call", owner of Pettolina Marine Surveying, Inc. and multi-term President of the Ocean City Marlin Club.

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On April 27th, Vicki Welsh was drifting cut spot in the Lewes Canal when she muscled in this 21-inch flounder, her first keeper of the year!



Back in March, local junior angler, Conner Jezierski caught his first Pacific sailfish while fishing on the "Tranquilo" in Los Suenos, Costa Rica with his dad, Aaron Jezierski (pictured), his mom, Kristin Jezierski, his sister Torri Jezierski and buddy C.J. Little.







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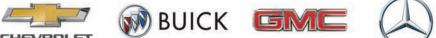
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Nick Ager was tossing a white Gulp artificial baits into the surf next to the North Jetty when he hooked into this beautiful striped bass during the mid-afternoon.





Last Saturday, volunteers on the headboat, "Morning Star" dropped 6.5 tons of concrete block at the Lucas Alexander Reef located at the Bass Grounds. The blocks were donated by Potomac Valley Brick and Frank Graziano. On the way home, Bill Gordon and Rhonda Daub were rewarded for their hard work with a pair of good size tautog while fishing with green crabs on an artificial reef.



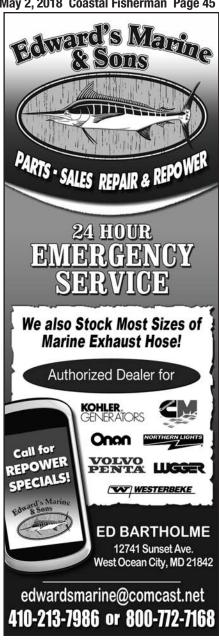


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It wasn't a great fall/winter striper run off Ocean City, but the fish that did roll through were big, as shown by this catch from Bill Oass, Tyler Mentzer and Jeff Hill. The anglers ended their day with 4 keepers measuring 37, 45, 45.5 and 46.5-inches. Their largest fish weighed a whopping 50 lbs.

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2018 Schedule

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

9th Annual Memorial Day Tournament*

To benefit the Catherine & Charles Kratz Memorial Foundation & Scholarship Fund Registration: May 25, 6:30 PM Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 26 & 27 Awards Banquet: May 27, 6:30 PM

39th Annual Small Boat Tournament*

Registration: June 15, 6:30 PM Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 16 & 17 Awards Banquet: June 17, 6:30 PM

36th Annual Canyon Kickoff*

FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS Registration: June 28, 6:30 PM Fishing Days: (2 of 3) June 29 & 30 July 1 Awards Banquet: July 1, 6:30 PM

14th Annual Kid's Classic*

To benefit Wish-A-Fish Foundation Registration: July 20, 6:30 PM Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 21 & 22 Sunday Carnival & Awards: July 22, 5:00 PM

6th Annual OCMC

Rockfish Tournament* To benefit the Jimmy Fund Registration: December 7, 6:00 PM Fishing Days: (5 of 9) December 8-16 Awards Banquet: December 16, 5:00 PM

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10th Annual OCMC Ladies' Tournament Heels & Reels"

Registration: August 2, 6:00 PM Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 3 & 4 Awards Banquet: August 4, 6:30 PM

60th Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament REE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS Registration:

August 30, 6:30 PM Fishing Days: (2 of 3) August 31 September 1&2 "with overnight option Friday/Saturday or Saturday/Sunday" Awards Banquet: September 2, 6:30 PM

3rd Annual OCMC vs. OCLTC Shoot-Out Angler Meeting:

September 6, 7:00 PM Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 7,8 & 9 Awards Banquet: September 9, 6:30 PM

40th Annual Scott Smith & Charles Kratz Challenge Cup

Registration: September 12, 7:00 PM Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 13,14 & 15 Italian Night September 14, 6:30 pm Awards Banquet: September 15, 6:30pm

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Delaware-Pishing Report by Larry Jock

Welcome back to another season of the Delaware Fishing Report. If you have a picture that you would like to submit for possible inclusion in the Coastal Fisherman, all you need to do is email it, at "Actual Size" (largest size possible) to coastalfisherman@comcast.net. Make sure you include the angler name, town, fish caught, length and/or weight, bait or lure and location of catch. If you have one that could possibly be the heaviest caught so far this season, make sure you get the picture and report to us right away. Reports over 48 hours old fall out of the running. It keeps everything legit.

As far as fishing is concerned, it is no secret that we are off to a slow start. The fall/winter striper run was weak once again with warm water temperatures keeping

fish to our north for an extended period of time and rapidly cooling water causing the fish to blow by us 10 to 15 miles off the beach. This was the 3rd straight year of poor late year striper fishing.

The cold water temperatures have put a damper on early season fishing as well. The Indian River Inlet is seeing temps in the high 40's during the incoming tide and low 50's during the outgoing. This time last year we were experiencing a great run of chopper bluefish in the surf and all over the bay. We even had some makos and yellowfins hit the scale. What a difference a vear makes!

At the Hook'em & Cook'em Tackle Shop in the Indian River Marina, Capt. Bert Adams reported short stripers being caught during the outgoing tide. They don't seem to be

hitting during the incoming tide and Bert feels that it has to do with the colder water temperature. Along the rocks in the Inlet, anglers are finding short stripers, shad, a few bluefish and flounder. Some keeper flounder are being caught in the VFW Slough where Bert had reports of a couple of anglers catching their limit. Flatties are also nibbling at baits in Massey's Ditch.

In the surf, good size black drum are being caught, along with solid numbers of kingfish, some short striped bass and bluefish.

Bert said that the headboat, "Capt. Bob II" ventured out on Saturday and had a good catch of tautog. Anglers hooked into quite a few in the 5 to 6 lb. range and the largest tipped the scale at 10.7 lbs. Fish were caught 8 to 9 miles off the beach while mainly using green crabs for

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bait. Good tog reports came in from Site 11 with smaller fish at Sites 9 and 10.

Sea bass season is opening on May 15th and rumors are that we may only have a 2 week closure instead of a month in the fall. My understanding is that the decision will be made on Thursday this week.

At Fenwick Tackle, Matt Shoup reported a few black drum, small sharks and short stripers being caught in the surf with the black drum coming from the beach near 3R's Road. The Fenwick Ditch has been disappointing so far with nothing but a few short stripers being caught.

Up in Lewes, Tommy at Lewes Harbour Marina said that a couple of flounder have been caught in the Lewes Canal along with some short stripers. Bad weather has kept anglers away from the walls, typically a good spot for those looking for tog.

Stay positive! Fishing can only get better and we have some nice weather on the way.

Until next week, tight lines!







www.coastalfisherman.net May 2, 2018 Coastal Fisherman Page 47 Park Place JEWELERS WHITE MARLIN MALL Next to Bed Bath & Beyond **ALEX AND ANI** West Ocean City, MD 410.213.9220 PANDÖRA **BOARDWALK** Between 2nd & 3rd Streets Ocean City, MD 410.289.6500 ParkPlaceJewelers.com Moving to Park Place Plaza in June!





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Last weekend, Collin and Wendy Beall each caught and released their very first red drum while trolling spoons across the flats off Onancock, VA. The anglers were fishing with Mike and David Burt (pictured) when they hooked the 40-inch reds.



Dennis Casey of Berlin, MD boated a 45-inch striper last winter that tipped the scale at 42.6 lbs. He hooked the linesider while trolling white shads 2 miles outside the Ocean City Inlet. Weighed at Atlantic Tackle in West Ocean City.







Dave McKay of West Ocean City, MD (center) joined his buddies, Frank and Franky Updike of Kent Island, MD for a trip to Gargatha, VA for some spring flounder fishing and the guys ended their day with 3 keepers in the box, up to 20-inches, and a half-dozen throwbacks. Water temperature hovered around 53-degrees and the hot combination was a minnow and Gulp New Penny Shrimp.









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No stranger to Coastal Fisherman readers, Victor Felichio of New York, NY took a trip on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley and ended up catching and releasing this 14 lb. tautog. Victor hooked the big female on a white crab in 50-feet of water back in January but went home with his limit of keepers in the cooler. The "Fish Bound" is docked at the Talbot Street Pier.



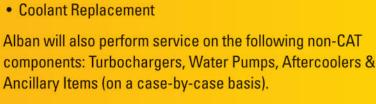
On January 21st, Jeff Kukel caught a pair of flounder with the largest measuring 26-inches and weighing 6 lbs. 3 oz. The fish were caught on dolphin belly at an ocean wreck while fishing on the "Double Trouble" with Mike Geesaman (pictured), Todd Martinek and Capt. Kevin McCabe. The anglers released 25 sea bass and 50 spiny dogfish sharks during their trip to 25 fathoms where Capt. Kevin reported water temperatures hovering around 46-degrees.

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Spring... get ready!

Welcome to the 2018 Coastal Fisherman "Ship to Shore" column. We will start off this column just as you should start off your season, by reviewing and preparing for the fishing season ahead.

One look around the roads, marina and waterways it is easy to see the signals that the winter has passed. Boats are being uncovered and being trailered back to their summer locations and some are even back in the water. This time of the year is also a good time to conduct some boat maintenance.

With limited fishing options a warm day can provide the opportunity to hang out at the boat and get some work done.

After this winter's record breaking cold weather, some extra checks are needed before heading out to sea. Always at the top of the list are the boat's batteries. Partially charged batteries can easily freeze, leading to permanent damage. A fully charged battery at rest

should indicate 12.65 volts. Anything less is a concern and should be investigated. A slow trickle charge using an automatic battery charger is the best way to re-charge a battery. If you are having a battery problem, a professional test should be conducted, such as a traditional load test or modern conductance test. A load test places a predetermined fixed amperage load on a battery and the voltage is monitored to be sure it doesn't drop too low at the rated capacity. This type of test creates heat at the tester and could produce a spark, so this test should be conducted out of the boat. A conductance test is often available at battery retailers at no charge. This is a quick test that reports the capacity in cold cranking amps (CCA) or similar rating and often gives a status of the batteries health. If you think you have a faulty battery, it should be replaced, allowing a trouble free summer.

If you need a new battery, what type is best? Cranking batteries are made to supply a lot of power in a short burst (to start an engine). Deep cycle batteries are designed to

supply moderate power for a long duration (to supply electronics). Unlike starting batteries, deep cycle batteries can withstand the effects of continual deep discharge and still be recharged. If you have a newer outboard powered boat, many of the engine manufacturers have minimum specifications on the type and capacity of the battery required for acceptable operation of the engine. If you have a Sportfish that has larger 4D or 8D batteries, they can be replaced with a few smaller batteries in parallel, making installation and removal much easier while maintaining capacity.

Marine battery group size is one of many specifications found on boat batteries. The group size is simply the physical dimensions of the battery housing as set by the (Battery Council International). If needed it may be possible to upgrade to a slightly larger, higher capacity battery that will still fit in your boats battery box. Consult a BCI group size battery chart to find the appropriate size battery.

Another critical area to be checked this spring are the bilge pumps, especially after the below freezing temperatures this winter. Each bilge pump should be checked for operation on manual mode, automatic mode and also

check the discharge hoses to be sure the hoses and fittings have not cracked. Just the other day I was working on a boat that had a cracked bilge pump discharge hose. The split in the hose was not visible but when the pump ran the bilge water leaked back into another bilge area. It turned out that there was a low spot in the hose that held water and the water froze over the winter and cracked the discharge hose.

Moving up to the helm and your navigation electronics, now is a good time to connect and power up each piece of equipment. Note - CHIRP fishfinders/sonar transducers should not be powered on while out of the water since they can overheat. Turn on your VHF radio, conduct a radio check, listen to the marine weather and be sure all functions are operating properly and that your transmission and reception are loud and clear. Check the GPS signal reception on your chart and navigation plotter equipment. Also review your built-in or add-on electronic

Check your waypoints to confirm that all of your data still there from last year. Operate the radar briefly, confirming the system is picking up and displaying targets as expected and that they are plotted on the screen



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in the proper orientation.

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

This is a great time of the season to install a new transducer or replace your old one if your boat is still out of the water. Transom mount, thru-hull or in-hull, there are many transducers that can improve your existing sonar. The CHIRP transducer is a popular upgrade, with many different styles available, such as tilted element thru-hull for smaller and mid-size boats and pocket mount for larger boats. If adding a CHIRP transducer, fishfinder/sonar

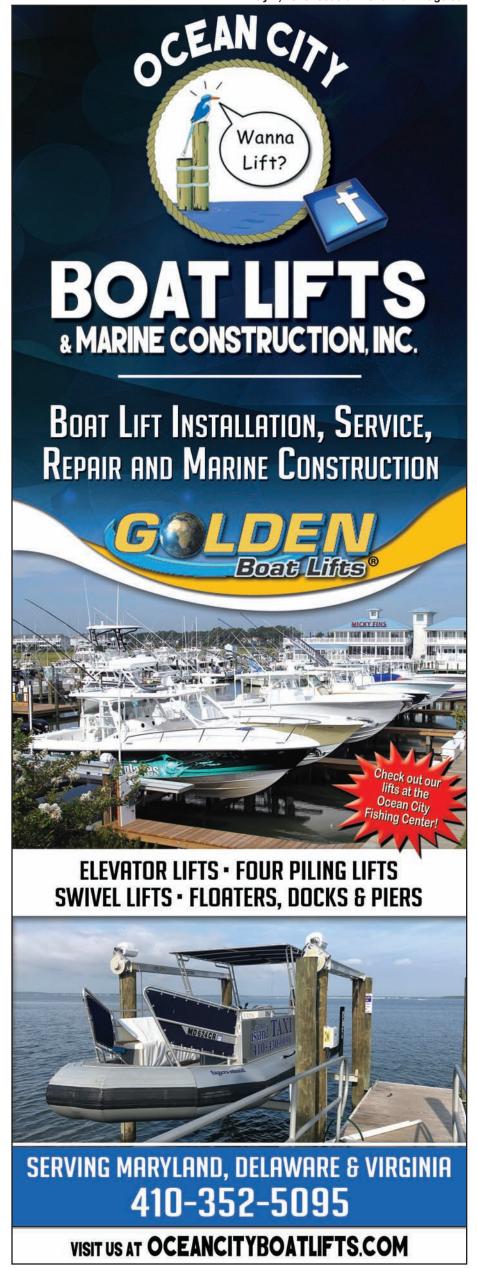
needs to be CHIRP compatible to get the full advantage of CHIRP technology. If you don't have a CHIRP system, often you can operate a CHIRP transducer in single frequency mode using your non-CHIRP fishfinder. This way when you upgrade the fishfinder system, your transducer will be ready and you won't need to take the boat back out of the water midseason.

In the upcoming weeks I will review some of the new products introduced during this winter's boat show circuit.

On a side note, my thoughts and prayers are with the Jones family. Tom Jones, a.k.a "Kingbone", owner of the "Kingfisher" passed away last week and will be missed by all who knew him.

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







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When the fish were cruising south along the Delmarva coast last winter, Scott Peters was there to capture this 46 1/2-incher while trolling umbrella rigs 2 1/2 miles off the Ocean City shoreline. Scott



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Local angler, Andy Thompson took a trip to Isla Mujeres, Mexico and caught this beautiful Queen triggerfish during a trip with his dad, Ken Thompson and Rick Lippenholtz.







On April 11th, Danny Yadegar from Long Island, NY, Simon Stastny from Westchester, NY, Dariusz Skarzynski from Fresh Meadows, NY, George Kiouzellis from Queens, NY and Eddie Parker from Howard Beach, NY had a trip to remember, returning to the Talbot Street Pier with 22 tautog in the box of the charter boat, "Fish Bound". The anglers caught the fish on green crabs in 44-degree water on an ocean wreck. George caught the heaviest blackfish of the day, weighing in at 19.9 lbs. As always, Capt. Kane Bounds was at the wheel and mate Kevin Twilley was working the deck.

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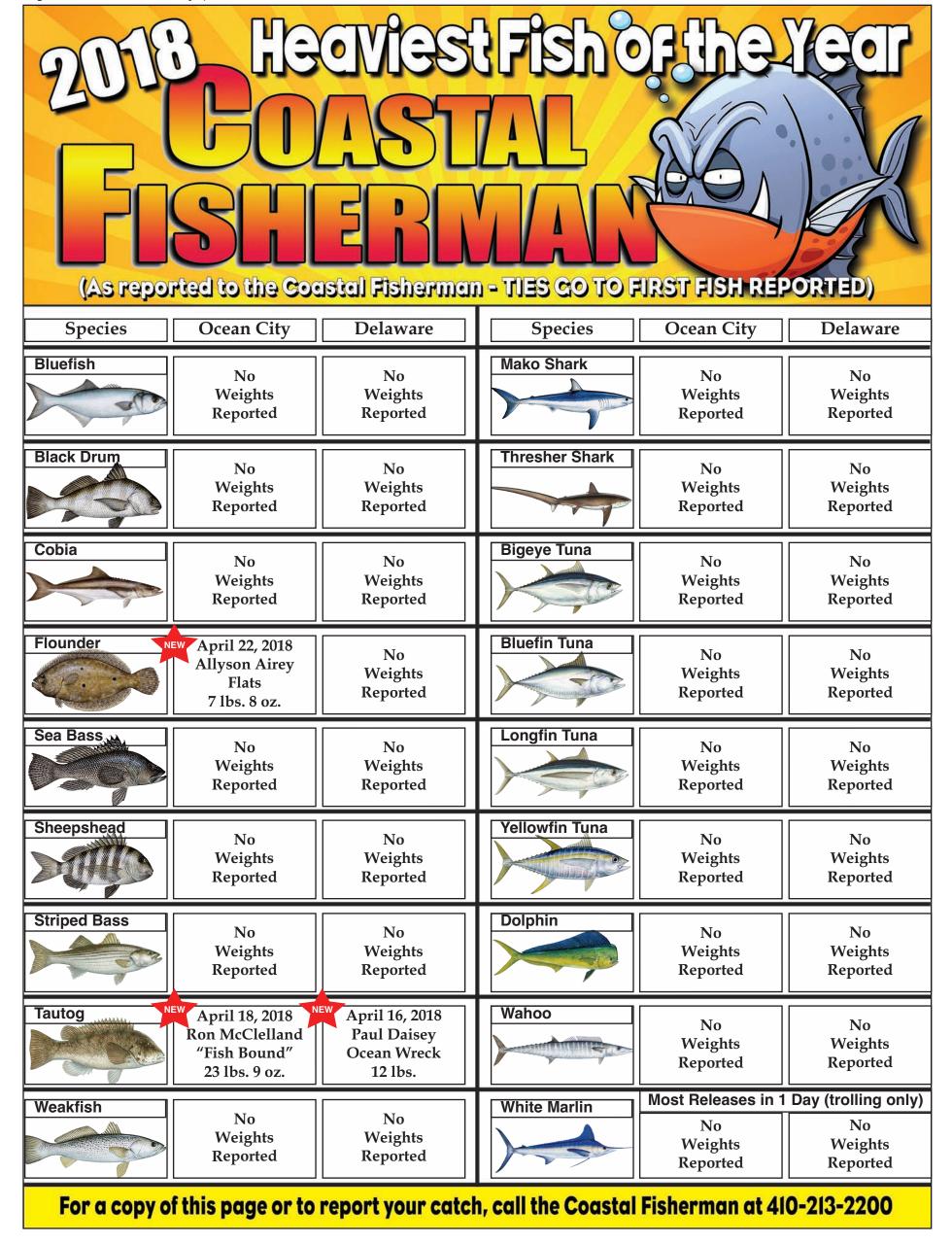
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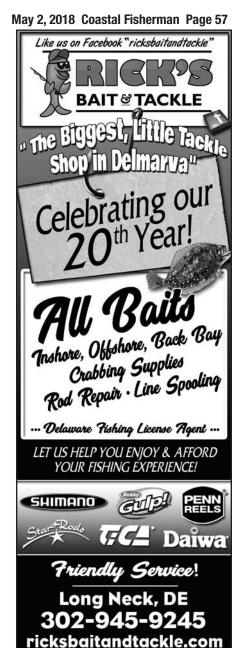
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Danny Cox and Mike Austill caught these 4 stripers while trolling parachute rigs 2 miles out from the Ocean City Inlet. All four of the keepers measured 45-inches.





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While fishing with his mom, Lisa Cherivtch and grandfather Al Rittmeyer, local angler Ashton Cherivtch caught this jack crevalle while fishing in Cudjoe Channel near Raccoon Key, FL. After coming upon a huge school of jacks, the anglers had non-stop action for over an hour.





This 18-inch flounder made the grave mistake of going after the spec rig tipped with a Gulp artificial bait being fished by Jon Siddons off a pier in Cape Henlopen. Photo taken at Lewes Harbour Marina and submitted by Fenwick Tackle.





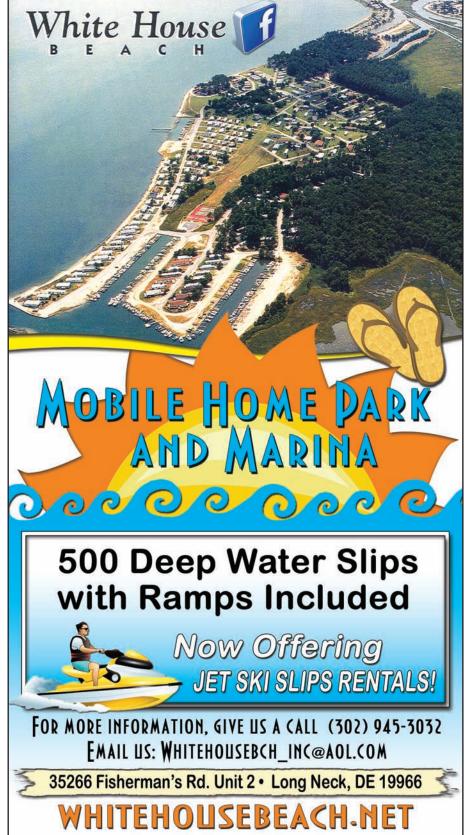


Jeff Waxman uses the rare "back of the hand" hold as he displays the 7 lb. 8 oz. tautog he caught while jigging with light spinning tackle on an ocean wreck off Indian River. Jeff was fishing on the "Valkyrie" with Steve Redden and Shane Martin.





Nathan Davidson made the most of his first ocean fishing trip, catching a 44-inch striper and releasing a 40-incher. Both were caught while trolling Stretch lures and mojos off the Delaware coast with his dad, Bill Davidson, Del Baker and Ryan Savage.







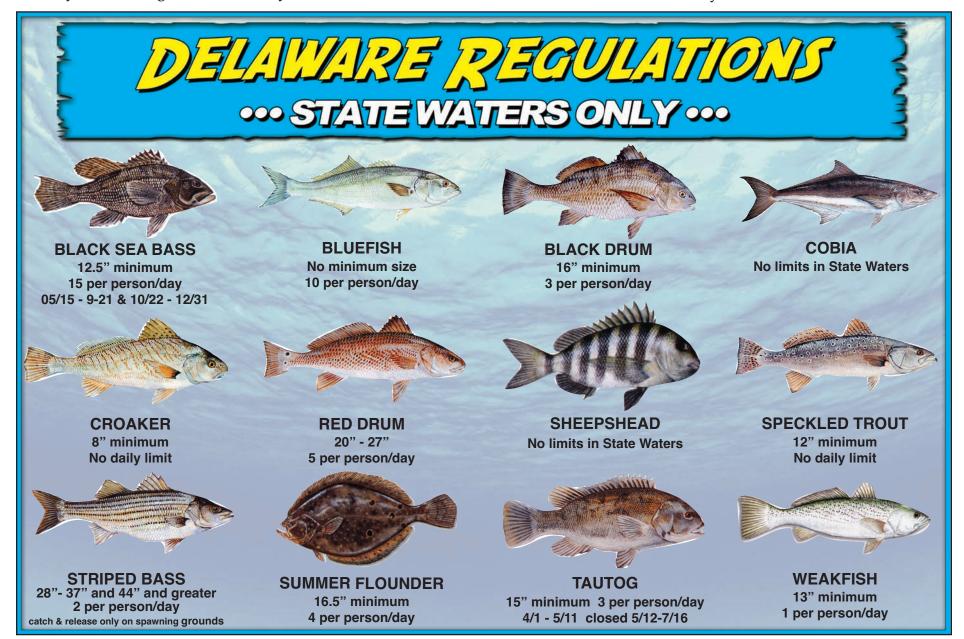
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At the Atlantic Coast/MSSA Holiday Party, Dale Christensen was named "Angler of the Year - Ocean" and Big Bird Cropper and Budd Heim tied for "Angler of the Year - Bay" honors. All were recognized for catching the largest fish of the most species during the 2017 season. John McFalls (far right) was presented with the "Outstanding Membership Award" for his many years of dedicated service to the fishery and environment of Ocean City and Ocean Pines. For many years, John has been heavily involved with the ACC/MSSA and The Ocean Pines Anglers Club and has done monthly water testing of the coastal bays since 1995.



Ashton and Kenny Schoen show off the pair of stripers caught by Ashton while trolling Maryland state waters 12 miles south of the Ocean City Inlet last winter. The stripers measured 45 and 47-inches and were 2 of 20 hooked this day.











Ocean City angler, Torri Jezierski fishes on the "Haulin n Ballin" during the summer but took some time in late March to head to Los Suenos, Costa Rica with her family for some fishing and R&R. On this day, Torri was fishing on the "Dream Girl" when she released her very first Pacific sailfish but not before she jumped into the water for a quick swim with the fish.









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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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