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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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OCEAN CITY MARLIN CLUB
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Event 14th Annual Heels & Reels
Species Big Eye / Mahi
Weight 230lb / 25.6 / NQ
Angler CREW
Boat Just One More
Date Saturday 8/6/22

It looked like the 14th Annual OCMC Ladies Tournament, "Heels & Reels", was going to be a yellowfin tunapalooza with many 60 and 70 pound class fish hitting the scales. That view however was shattered on the last day and by the last boat when the "Just One More" pulled up to the dock. We had already heard rumors of a bigeye tuna on board and sure enough there was a big tail sticking out of the in-deck fish box! It took the whole crew of Tiffany Zimmer, Melissa Stellfox, Heather Simmons, Jessica Ross and Alix Wilkes over 4.5 hours to get the 230 lb. eyeball to the boat. The big fish was caught late in the day, so Capt. Tommy Perry with mate Jess Simmons had to wrestle the big fish in the boat and high tail it back from the Baltimore Canyon to the scales to make it just in time. As a sweetener, the crew also caught a 25.6 lb. mahi that took 2nd Place in that division. Overall, the 2 fish earned the crew a combined prize payout of \$33,621 for Heaviest Tuna and 2nd Place Heaviest mahi.



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The yellowfin tuna have been on the chunky side this past week with most in the 50 lb. range. Jennifer Hanwell from Taneytown, MD got hers while chunking butterfish on the "Canvasback" just west of Massey's Canyon. The crew also boated a 10 lb. mahi.

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The white marlin are starting to show as if on queue for the White Marlin Open this week. Manheim, PA anglers Dan Gense, Brad Moyer, Zach Waltz, Amy Martin and Landan Moyer were fishing on the "Canyon Crew" with Capt. Devon Martin when this white marlin hit on a Black Bart Plug in the Poor Man's Canyon on August 3rd. No measurements as the fish was quickly released.

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A father and daughter trip yielded a couple nice flatfish for Michael and Marina Guigley from Mohnton, PA. They were fishing with minnows in the Isle of Wight Bay near Fishtales where they caught these two 18½" and 17" flounders. Looks like dad has a pretty good stretch going there!



The crew on the charter boat "Covered Up" had a good workout last Friday. Capt. Keith Puller and mate Jake Banda set up the anglers with light tackle to chunk for some big fish at the 12 Fathom Lump. They ended the day with 6 yellowfin tunas in the box and this gaffer 15 lb. mahi caught by Leonard Buber!



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to the docks. Mainly yellowfins, and heavy ones at that, with most in the upper 50's to upper 60's. Still, the top 2 spots for tuna held from day one, but then word came in that a bigeye was coming. The "Just One More" had an eyeball on the line late in the day that they were still fighting in the Baltimore Canyon after lines out. They had to hustle back and just made it as the last boat to the scales. They blew up the leader board with a 230 lb. fish, locking in 1st Place in the Tuna Division as well as getting on the leader board in the Dolphin Division.

Some nice fish were weighed for mahi including a 31.2 pounder from the "Following Seas" that they trolled up in the Poor Man's. That one withstood a couple challengers, including a 25.6 lb. from the "Just One More" and took 1st Place in the Mahi Division. See our full coverage starting on page 72.

Tuna

Earlier last week many were still chunking at inshore lumps, however as the weekend arrived it was back to the troll. Baltimore was the hotspot for sure and offering up heavy fish. 60, 70 and even an 81 lb. yellowfin by the "Spring Mix II" were raised in that canyon. The Poor Man's and Massey's were productive, but with smaller fish. The bigeye from the tournament was our only report last week and unlike the Big Fish Classic, we did not hear of any longfin or bluefin tunas either. I can't imagine that will stay the same with over 400 boats in the WMO.

Billfish

"Rare but there" is the motto as we shared. The blues caught over the week were spread out, with 3 reported from the Baltimore, 2 from the Wilmington and 1 from the Norfolk. The white marlin seemed to be spread out. We heard from the "Boss Hogg" that they went 2 for 4 last Thursday in the Poor Man's Canyon and the "Canyon Crew" had one there as well on Wednesday. The "Reel Steel" found one in the Washington on Friday and the "Seven" reeled one in from the Baltimore!

Mahi & Wahoo

This fishery has improved, especially the speedsters. During the Heel's & Reel's, three nice size mahi hit the scales with the winner from the Poor Man's and two mid 20's fish from the Baltimore.

This Week Last Year

- The White Marlin Open was the earliest it could be in 2021 running from August 2 - 6. The big winner was the "Sushi" who brought in the winning white marlin to the scales as almost the last boat with a 76" and 85.5 lb. fish they caught deep in the Norfolk Canyon.
- Just outside of the Poor Man's Canyon was a hot spot for blue marlin. The "Mama C" caught a 559.5 lb. blue there on a pitch bait and the "Canyon Lady" landed one at 511 lbs. The "SEVEN" found the largest blue for the WMO at 775 lbs. in the Wilmington, also on a pitch bait.
- Big tunas were found in the Wilmington and Spencer Canyons.

As I write this report, the White Marlin Open has already kicked off with 292 of the 408 boats registered fishing! This year there is \$8.6 million dollars up for grabs in the world's richest white marlin tournament across 11 categories and even more calcuttas. While it has been a hard year for marlin, over the past 2 weeks we have seen more releases, especially blue marlin over the last weekend. As we are saying now, 'they are rare but they are there!' The other saying during the WMO is 'it only takes one'. To help out this year the tournament has adjusted the lines in time from the normal 8:30 AM to 8:00 AM hoping the extra half hour will put anglers on more fish. The organizers have also stressed the importance of conservation and asking the anglers to be conscience of the current standings so as not to bring in marlin that would not be in the money. Also new for 2022 is a Swordfish Division that replaces the Shark Division

due to the ban on mako fishing for the next few years. As of now the weather looks good for Friday offshore so that should make for an active day at the scales with lots of last minute changes. Good luck to all the anglers and we know there will be excitement at the scales as always.

As for fishing over the last week, it was solid but remained a tunapalooza with almost all yellowfins. Like last week, much of the action was centered around a weekend tournament, this time the 14th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club's Ladies Tournament, "Heel's & Reel's". There was a strong turnout with 67 boats registered while many other boats stayed in the slips prepping for the WMO.

We did see an uptick in marlin releases, but overall reports to us were less than a dozen combined. A highlight though has been the wahoo bite. We had the 'Heaviest Wahoo' for Maryland change hands three times last week as big 80+ pound speedsters hit the scales. The tournament also had some nice mahi's over 20 lbs. with the biggest at 31.2 lbs. Let's break down the details.

Heel's & Reel's

With a strong turnout we knew the scales would be busy, however the weather for day 1 was sketchy so only 15 boats went out, meaning 55 boats were planning to fish on day 2! Team "Top Dog Hook Optics" set two bars on day 1. First was the only billfish release, a blue marlin from the Wilmington Canyon as well as boating a 76 lb. yellowfin tuna, putting them in the top spot for Billfish Release and Tuna Divisions. Day 2 started with the "FFMD" waiting at the scales and several more queued up in the harbor. Danielle Robertson on the "FFMD" released a blue marlin in the Poor Man's Canyon and took top honors in the Junior Angler Division. We also saw the "Buckshot" return from the Baltimore with 2 blue marlin release flags flying. That secured them the top spot in the Release Division. What followed next was 20 other boats bringing fish

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Lots of peanuts remain and are around the sea bass and lobster pot buoys. The wahoo reports started with the "Bail Out" sharing the 55 lb. fish they got in the Poor Man's trolling ballyhoo. They were followed by an 81 lb. speedster caught by the crew on the "Makowish", also in the Poor Man's, only to be topped on Sunday when the "New Release" brought an 85 lb. wahoo from the Baltimore Canyon to the scales at Sunset Marina!

While not really 'offshore' there were a couple other cool catches to share from last week. Numen Bilal with his son Evren and friends hooked into a big southern ray off the beach in Fenwick Island. The fish took over 45 minutes to beach on 50 lb. braid and was estimated to weigh over 200 lbs. Another notable surf catch was from Chris Whiteman. While there have been many reports of sand sharks from the surf, Chris pulled in a 10' 4" tiger shark to the shore at Assateague Island using stingray for bait! Both of these cool catches were released to swim another day.

Until next week, I will see you at the scales!

Upcoming Tournaments

• The **49th White Marlin Open** hosted at Harbour Island in Ocean City is on this week! The world's richest white marlin tournament is always a show! Different for 2022 is the location of the Marlin Fest viewing and vendor area which is being held in the Ocean City Inlet parking area immediately adjacent to the Inlet. This location is a great option to watch the boats come back as well as see the weigh ins on the jumbotron. Scales are from 4:00 - 9:15 PM every day. Get in on the fun.

• The **29th Captain Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open** returns to Bahia Marina on August 18th - 20th. This fun filled ladies only billfish release tournament benefits breast cancer research and has donated over \$1.7 million to the American Cancer Society. Go check out the Pink Party, vendor village, Chinese Auction, Bras Competition and of course the anglers Best Dressed Competition. Scales are open every day from 4 - 8PM. More at PoorGirlsOpen.com.



At 71 years young, Jane Lucien-Sholle from Billings, MT decided to give deep sea fishing a try. She took her first trip with Capt. Scott Stapleford on the charter boat "Game On" and is hooked! On this trip she single handedly reeled in 2 big yellowfin tunas and assisted on 3 others while chunking at an inshore lump. She is even going to be part of the "Game On" crew for the White Marlin Open! Rounding out the crew were her husband Bob and mate Paul Czachorowski.

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It was a mess of flounder for Tom Jaschik, Jim Crandall, Bob Moser and Rich Kaeser! They managed 10 keepers while fishing with Capt. Nick Clemente and mate Camdyn Chute on the "Get Sum" based at the Ocean City Fishing Center. They were fishing with white Gulp in the South Ocean City Bay.

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The headboat "Judith M" has seen a nice mix of fish this last week. In addition to sea bass like this double header, Capt. Eric Shoaff added trolling to the trips and anglers have been catching bluefish, spanish mackerel and bonita!



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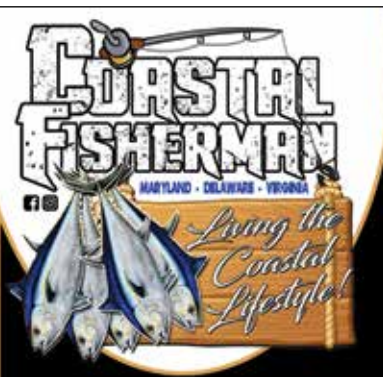


OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. AUG 10	High 06:38 am High 07:38 pm	Low 12:52 am Low 12:39 pm
THUR. AUG 11 Full Moon	High 07:39 am High 08:34 pm	Low 01:46 am Low 01:37 pm
FRI. AUG 12	High 08:39 am High 09:26 pm	Low 02:36 am Low 02:32 pm
SAT. AUG 13	High 09:36 am High 10:14 pm	Low 03:24 am Low 03:26 pm
SUN. AUG 14	High 10:28 am High 10:58 pm	Low 04:11 am Low 04:20 pm
MON. AUG 15	High 11:19 am High 11:41 pm	Low 04:57 am Low 05:17 pm
TUE. AUG 16	High ----- High 12:09 pm	Low 05:44 am Low 06:16 pm
WED. AUG 17	High 12:24 am High 01:02 pm	Low 06:32 am Low 07:16 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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Another local dynamic duo got some nice flounder and a sea bass. Kenny Schoen and Rich Daiker bounded around a bunch of small offshore wrecks to get this 2 man limit of 8 flounder using strip baits and squid.

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We have seen good reports for shark fishing off of the Delaware and Maryland beaches, mainly in the evenings making pictures difficult. Luke Rickrode from New Oxford, PA was lucky enough to beach this sand shark at dusk. He caught it off of the surfers beach in Ocean City using a bluefish head. After clearing the hook and a quick pic, back in the suds he went.

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OCEAN CITY

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This past week in Ocean City was more of the same hot humid nasty heat and then more heat! The fish seem to have gotten used to the warmth as well as the busy boat traffic and fishing showed it. Good catches of flounder were made last week with some really big sea bass. Mahi are all along the shipping channel and near shore wrecks.

Flounder, Sea Bass & Tog

Bass Grounds & African Queen

The inshore fishermen were out en masse last week. On the near shore reefs the catch was great for flounder, with several over 20" reported. Capt. Dave Caffrey of "On The Run" charters reported he was out with Reef Joe, Joe Jr. and Mackenzie Peters hooking 13 fluke up to 23". That is quite the haul after slower fishing in past weeks! I guess the flounder have arrived.

Kevin McNelis said the bite this past week was on fire. Kevin has been having a

banner year bringing home limits of flatties along with triggerfish. Luke Wrye from College Park, MD was fishing out around 20 miles and had to contend with lots of throwbacks, but did manage a few nice fluke along with a boat load of sea bass. The crew used sand fleas and squid while drifting natural bottom. Capt. Chris Mizurak of the "Angler" along with mates Steve and Griffin were on the water with Dean Miller and crew of West Ocean City and managed 14 keepers on their trip using squid. Captain Chris said the fluke bite is getting better every day. They are also starting to see more and more small mahi located near the bass pot balls and buoy markers. Mahi will take small squid strips on a circle hook. Hopefully over the next couple of weeks the flatties will really make an appearance.

Out on the reef, sea bass have also been pretty good despite the warm water. Captain Monty Hawkins of the boat "Morning Star"

had a good past week on the Bass Grounds. Eamonn "Irish" Carey got a few nice bass with the biggest one at 4 lbs. on a jig. Eamonn was also out later in the week on a private boat hooking a 24" 5 lb. 7 oz. flounder out on the Old Grounds.

Looks like Mr. Carey had quite the week! Trevor Winters of New Castle, DE, was aboard the "Judith M" and caught his largest sea bass of the season.

Back Waters of OC

Caleb Dinges found his first keeper while fishing with his dad Chad Dinges aboard the "Power On" in the Thorofare. The 17" fluke was caught on orange Gulp.

Adam Carnes caught a 22" fish off the Rt. 50 Bridge on a 1/2 oz. bucktail at night on a full tide. Adam was fishing for stripers when he hooked this beauty of a flatfish. Timmy Barger caught a nice 16" keeper at the East Channel. He used a flounder rig with a shiner and squid combo. Karmen, Rebecca, and Presh Slezak of Middle River, MD,

caught some nice fish while fishing the Thorofare with Gulp baits aboard the "Grey Goose". Great catch folks!

Other Species Caught

Ellie Harrell of New York was fishing the Rt. 50 Bridge with a Storm lure and caught a nice 5 lb. 21" bluefish.

The Oceanic Pier was also on fire last week with several nice catches of flounder, sharks and rays. Fishing off the pier was Jonathan Knight who got a nice 19" rockfish. Although this fish was not a keeper, any size rockfish caught in the hot part of the summer is a trophy as far as I'm concerned. Pete Renzi was also lucky enough to hook a couple nice stripers while fishing the inlet of OC. He had a great day on the "Fish Frenzi" and caught a 16" as well as a 19" flattie on a Fluke Killer lure later in the week. The fish were caught on paddle tails. Pete said he saw a leatherback turtle and even caught a hake, which is a unique catch this time of year.

Of course our pal Big Bird Cropper and Shaun Flaherty were not going to be out done. They had a great night landing an overslot 39" rockfish as well as a 29" keeper. I wonder what he caught it on? A Roy



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Skip Maguire out of White Marlin Marina was at his secret spot bringing home a nice boat filled with sheepshead. This specie can be found close to the mouth of the Ocean City Inlet in the deep hole on the south jetty. The problem here is many anglers fish for them this time of the year and the area gets very crowded. Be sure you are capable of handling your boat in tight spaces because you will need to get in line and follow the other boats on a drift around the rocks and into the inlet to catch these fish. Due to the fact the fish will not stray far from the rocks, you will need to position rather close to the rocks, which are very unforgiving if you hit one with your boat. For anglers wishing to target sheepshead, I would recommend a trip to the Delaware Bay and fish the "Ice Breakers" out front. They allow for a lot greater space to fish in a less aggressive current and are much easier to fish from any size boat. Sand fleas are the recommended bait but frozen shrimp and crabs will also be effective.

Crabs & Clams

Assateague Island is flat out fantastic this year for clams. This time of year usually finds the sandy bay areas picked over, however this year many clams are very close to the top of the sand and easily raked up. The area at the first turn off in Federal Park is the current hot spot.

Crabs are averaging about 9-12 keepers per pot in the waters close to the Delaware line. Many crabbers report some of the biggest males they have seen in years!

Until next week,
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SEPTEMBER

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21st Annual Ocean City Fishing Center Spot Tournament
September 11 • OC Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

17th Annual Flounder Pounder
September 11 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

44th Annual OC Marlin Club Challenge Cup
September 8-10 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

Delaware Seashore Fall Surf Fishing Classic
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OCTOBER

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



Another seasonal record is set! Mike Brockmeyer of Fallston, MD was live lining in the East Channel with Bob Miller from Bel Air, MD and Jay from Ocean City where the group caught 9 keeper flounder including this 27.5" and 7.85 lb doormat! This is the new Heaviest for MD, beating the previous catch by over 2 lbs!



Master sneakhead hunter Dick Wetzel shared that the invasive fish has been playing hard to get lately, but he was able to reel in this 30" fish and a couple others at Blackwater.

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Anglers Nathan Babikow, Alayna Eufemia, Jon Miller and Laura Miller landed this chunky yellowfin tuna in the Baltimore Canyon while trolling on the "Pilots Mermaid". The big fish hit on a white squid Sidetracker.


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FISHING CHARTERS



Despite the name, Jimmy Trout from Frederick, MD did some saltwater fishing with Luke Wrye of State College, PA! They were fishing with Capt. JD Eddy on the "Green Reaper" about 20 miles out of Ocean City over a natural bottom. They used sand fleas and squid to boat these 25 keeper sea bass as well as a 19" flounder and reported many other throwbacks!



The boys had to pick at them, but Newcorp work buddies Bill Lo, Bob Brady, Mike Mishler, Matt Dyess, Matt Olson and Carlos Eparza ended the day with 7 fat yellowfins in the box! They were trolling with Capt. Joe Drosey and mates Eric Strauss & Mario Rosales on the charter boat "Rhonda's Osprey".

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FISHING CHARTERS



It was another successful half day trip for the anglers on the headboat "Judith M" based at Bahia Marina. The crew had to work a little harder to get the bites, but the sea bass eventually cooperated with double digit catches for many.



The tuna were snapping in the Baltimore Canyon last week. Capt. Chris Watkowski of "Spring Mix II" with mate Jacob Bialk set the troll with ballyhoo and plastic baits and got anglers Capt. Nick Korenowski, Paul Jones, Zach Klina, Alex Wiggs, Josh Romito and Tammy Gleim onto 4 heavy yellowfins with the largest at 81 lbs. They also snagged 13 peanut mahi.

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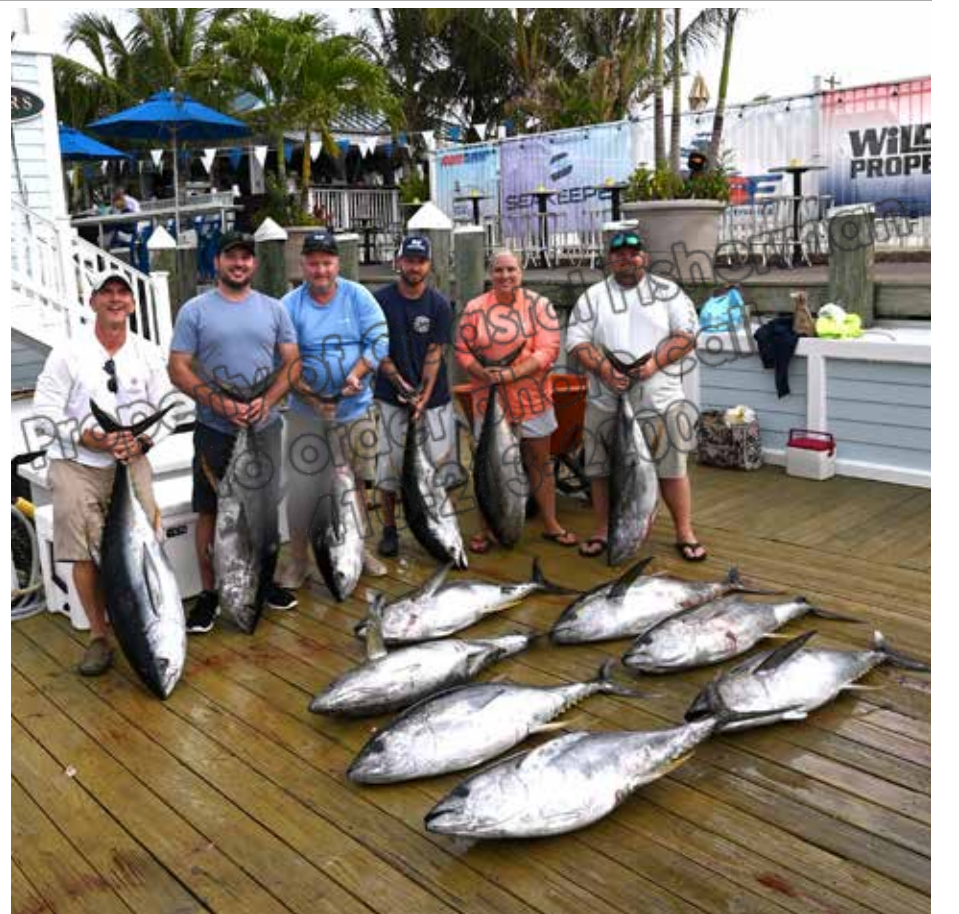
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FISHING CHARTERS



It was a good day on the North Ocean City Bay for Kim and Jeff Garner from Mannheim, PA! They chartered the "Get Sum" based at the Ocean City Fishing Center with Capt. Nick Clemente and scored these 4 keeper flounder using white Gulp Swimming Mulletts.



Capt. Brian Porter with mates Alex Beane & Jack Hannum are definitely on a run lately. This trip last Friday saw RSL Electric anglers Steve Ross, Steve Wagner, Steven Ford, Jim Frock, Lindsay Ross and Dustin Zeigler trolling a little below the Baltimore in 200 fathoms with big ballyhoo. They ended the day with 13 yellowfin tuna in the box with most in the 60 lb. range.

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FISHING CHARTERS



It was a flounderpalooza for Joe, Joe Jr. and Mackenzie Peters! They were fishing at an inshore reef with Capt. Dave Caffrey from "On the Run" charters and boated 13 keeper flounder up to 23" using Gulp.

Young anglers Ryder Haines, Cash Haines and Everett Wieder from Dansville, PA caught a little bit of everything on this trip with Capt. Jason Mumford on the charter boat "Lucky Break". They reeled in croaker, spot, kingfish and even an 8 lb. black drum using Fishbites.

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FISHING CHARTERS



The "Boss Hogg" found some more white marlin last week in the Poor Man's Canyon. Capt. Alex Beane with mate Jack Hannum got Rich, Emily and Tyler Edwards to go 2 for 4 on white marlin and boated a yellowfin tuna.



Jason Whaley of Ocean View, DE booked a full day trip with Capt. Chris Adams on the headboat "Judy V" based at Indian River Marina. He caught his limit of flounder using a jig with the largest at 3 lbs.

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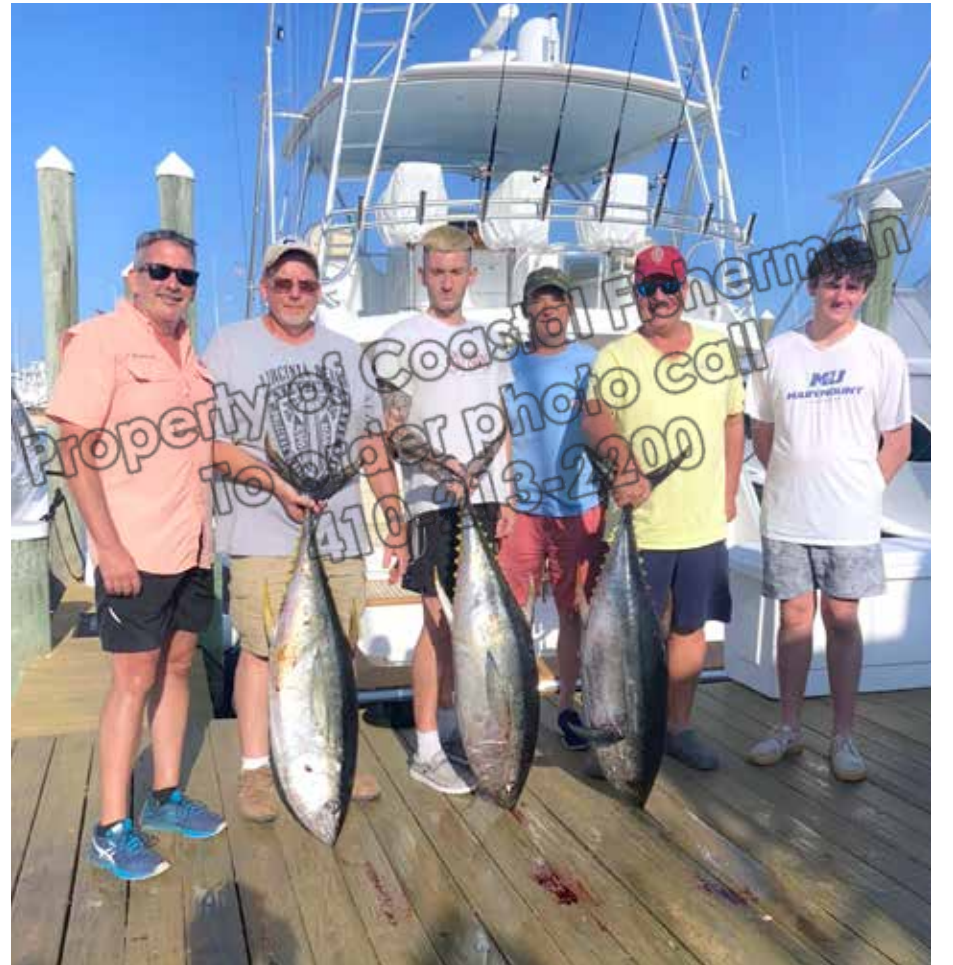
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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Chris Mizurak from the deep sea vessel "Angler" got his crew onto some good sized sea bass. This trip to an inshore natural bottom saw several multiple hook ups and heavy fish!



The charter boat "Pumpin' Hard" with Capt. Mike Burt and mate David Burt found some big yellowfin tuna while trolling in the Baltimore Canyon. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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FISHING CHARTERS



This big wahoo caught by angler Jake Melcher from College Park, MD just set a new record for 'Heaviest Wahoo' of the season for Maryland. He was fishing with Capt. Debbie Smith & mate Kory Knieriem in the Baltimore Canyon with "New Release" sportfishing. Once back to Sunset Marina, the speedster weighed in at 85 lbs.



The crew of the charter boat "All In" went all in during the 9th Annual Big Fish Classic Tournament last weekend. Anglers Joe DiNenna, Joseph Konopacki, Jeremiah Anderson, Ryan Asper, Jeff Asper and David DiNenna with Capt. Dave Midgett and mate Zane Rutt brought 2 yellowfin tunas to the scales on Day 3 of the event that they caught in the Poor Man's Canyon while trolling. The largest was 65.5 lbs. and ended up in a 3-way tie for 3rd Place Heaviest Yellowfin Tuna!

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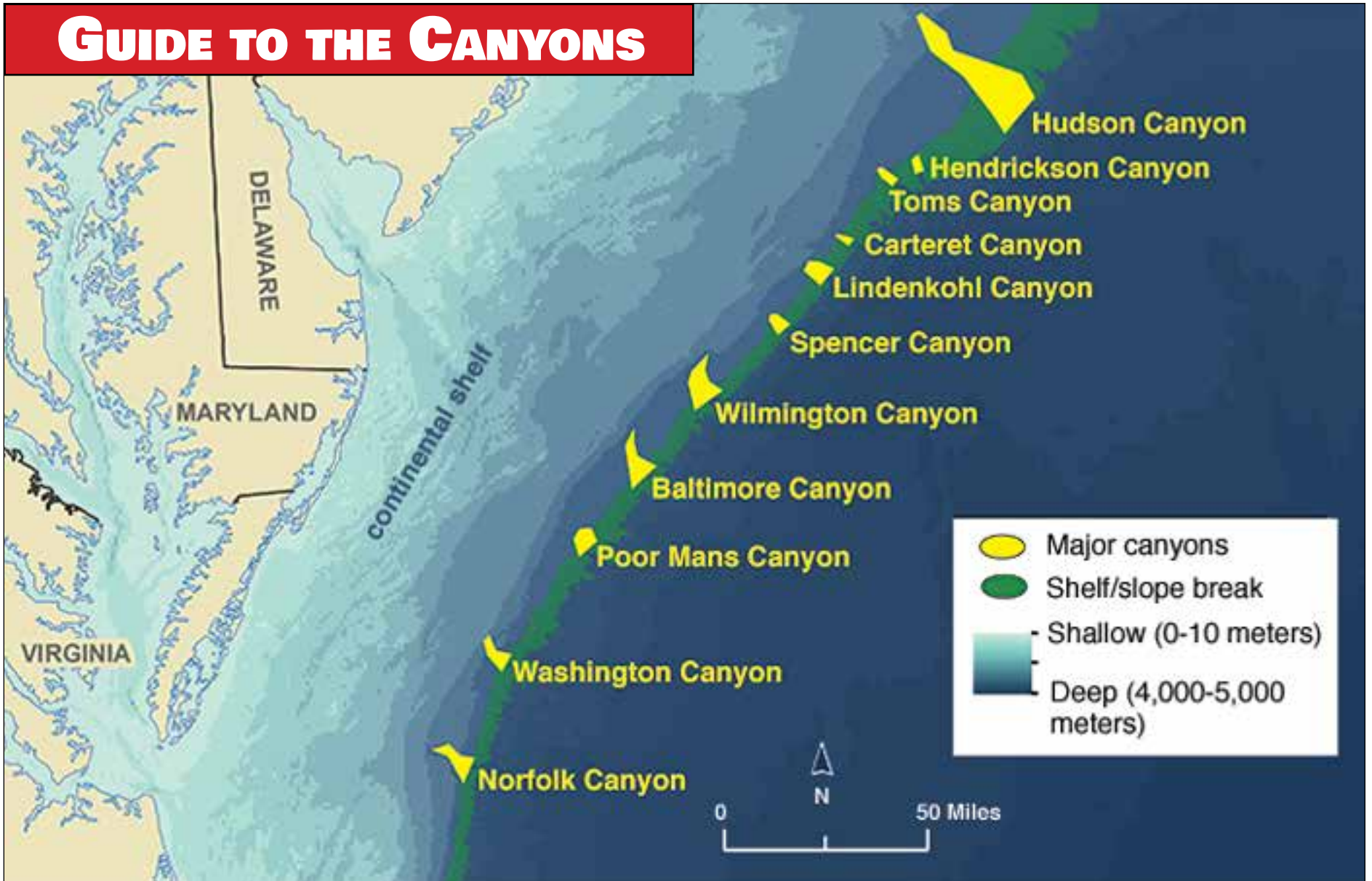
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While returning from a fishing trip the other day I passed a guy who was bottom fishing from a small boat about ¼ mile NE of the inlet. As we went by my first thought was that he didn't likely have much experience around here because where he was anchored is flat bottom and not exactly known for a great place to catch a fish. But noticing how focused he was on what he was doing, I began to wonder if maybe he had something good going on there, so I gave him the benefit of the doubt. An hour later, while going back out for an afternoon trip, my original assessment was confirmed as I passed him again and saw that he was now sleeping in one of

the boat seats while his two fishing rods were left to fish themselves from the rod holders. Perhaps he was just worn out from catching so many fish, but I'm guessing that he was lulled to sleep by the rocking of his boat and the lack of fish beneath it! Ironically, just a few hundred yards away was the inlet and all of its wonderful fishing opportunities - if only he knew!

When anglers are not overly familiar with the waters they're fishing, they'll often just pick a spot where they hope there might be a few hungry fish, get a line out and wait for what they hope will be a good outcome for their efforts. After a while, if

they haven't had any bites, they might optimistically conclude that there could be fish present that simply don't like what they have on the end of their line and start changing bait, lures, retrieves or anything else they can think of to hopefully solicit a bite. Eventually they'll either start catching fish or come to the conclusion that they're in the wrong place at the wrong time and move off to a new location or maybe call it quits for the day. That's just the way it is with most fishing situations here in Delmarva, you can never tell what lies beneath the water so you just keep plugging away at it until you either start "catching" (you fall asleep) or your day comes to an end. Even if just yesterday you caught lots of fish in a particular place, today it might be an entirely different chain of events happening beneath the waves, and you can try every bait and cast every lure in your tackle box, but if the fish aren't there - you still won't catch a thing. It's that simple.

In the winter months I fish down in the Florida Keys, and down there it's an entirely different story because we often don't even wet a line until we actually see our quarry. There's no sense in making a cast when the clear waters reveal that there are no fish around. Instead we move the boat around until we find the fish. This is sort of a combination of both hunting and fishing (could anything be better?) in that anglers slowly and quietly prowl about areas where they figure the fish should be

www.coastalfisherman.net and then, hopefully, spot the fish and make a cast before they themselves are spotted and the fish scoot away. If a fish is on the move anglers might have to immediately fire off a quick cast just as soon as it's in range. But if the fish is holding stationary, or perhaps feeding in one location, anglers can sometimes move into a position where they can use the wind or current to bring their cast to the fish in an effective manner.

As many differences as there are in the waters and the fish of south Florida compared to what we have on Delmarva, there are enough similarities that many lessons and techniques learned down there can certainly be helpful to know and use up here as well. One thing is the depth factor; it's usually not too hard to find the channels in Ocean City's back bays because that's typically where most of the people in boats will be fishing - the deepest parts of the bay. But anglers who concentrate most of their time fishing the channels are overlooking a lot of fertile waters because finding big fish in shallows isn't unique to Florida. Rockfish, bluefish, sea trout, croaker and "yes", even flounder will move up into shallow water, particularly on a rising tide when they're following bait.

Sometimes, rather than moving about and looking for fish, anglers will instead choose an area where they figure the fish will eventually be traveling through, anchor their boat and wait for them to arrive. For this type of fishing, anglers should have a pretty good knowledge of the area and where the fish travel - they certainly don't want to spend a lot of their day staked-out and waiting

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in an area the fish seldom pass through. Good places for "fish-stands" are often the sharp edge of a bar as the tide sweeps over it, the mouth of a channel that runs up through some large expanse of shallows, or the side of a channel. Depending upon the area and the fish species, almost any kind of bottom structure that creates a corridor for fish to follow can be a potential place where fish might travel past and where anglers can set-up and possibly find action.

But fish in shallow water are spooky critters, so unless anglers move in very slowly and quietly they'll never have a chance to get a cast off before their quarry bolts for safer territory. Moving in close to areas where fish might be holding without spooking them requires low voices, motors off, anchors and chains handled ever

so quietly, and definitely no banging or clanging of anything inside or against the boat. Sometimes just the lap of waves against the side of a boat will make fish move off. Electric trolling motors are great assets for this type of approach.

Even though our back bay waters are (usually) not clear enough to see more than 2-3 feet down, by studying charts and observing the water at low tide anglers can get a pretty good mental picture of what the bottom contours look like and where fish might reside. The Rt. 50 Bridge is a great asset for this and a stroll across the span during a good low tide will reveal a wealth of information that will greatly help anglers when they fish that part of the bay. Looking at satellite images is a huge assist and can be a real eye-opener for anglers trying to

figure out the layout of our coastal bay waters as well as a critical step in preparing to fish an unfamiliar area for the first time. Fishermen and boaters should not forget that apps on their phones can provide a wealth of location information for not just finding fishy places but also for finding the best way off a sandbar and back to navigable water.

Though the option of true sight-fishing is not usually available to Delmarva anglers, those who know the layout of the bottom of the area they fish should at least have a pretty good understanding of where the fish "are likely to be" and then be in a better position to successfully slip in and set up within striking range of what they hope to catch - which is always better than sleeping outside the inlet while spider crabs chew on your baits! §



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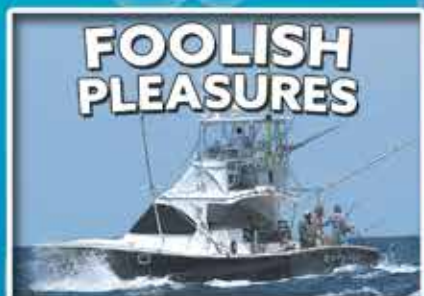
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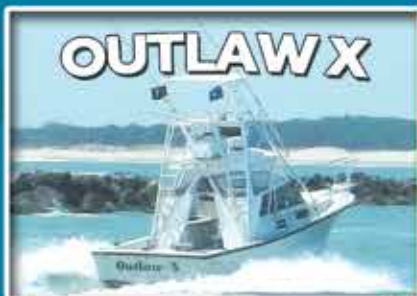
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Parker Pastorius got in on the chunking action at the Massey's Canyon last week and snagged this 51 lb. yellowfin tuna. Measured at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.



Ellie Harrell from Howard, NY got a nice slammer bluefish using a Storm Lure under the Rt. 50 Bridge.

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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Members of the Marlin Club Crew of OC, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, recently awarded a total of \$10,000 in scholarships to eight Worcester County college-bound students. Among those accepting in person at the meeting on July 9 were Ayush Batra (Duke University), Megan Wheeler (University of Lynchburg), Lauren Moses (Old Dominion University), Allison Milburn (Frostburg State University), and Bennett Tinkler (University of Maryland, College Park). Other winners not pictured were Saige Figgs (Flagler College), Katelyn Kline (Sweet Briar College), and Emma Sperry (North Carolina State University). The Marlin Club Crew of OC raises money throughout the year to award these scholarships and make donations to other local charities. The largest fundraiser is the popular Jewelry, Fashion and Home Decor Show held during White Marlin Open week. This year's event is August 11th 11 am - 4 pm at the Marlin Club located at 9659 Golf Course Rd. in West Ocean City. The public is invited.

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Capt. Zach Brunner on the "HotLine" made a short evening run to an 'unnamed' lump with mate Mike Eid outside of the Massey's Canyon and went 1 for 1 on this yellowfin tuna caught by Allison Connell. It was the fifth day in a row they went out and caught fish every day.



This family gets the 'shaka' going early! Anglers Jerry and Chase McLaughlin of Newark, DE snared this 50 lb. yellowfin tuna on a live peanut bunker at the 20 fathom lumps.

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Capt. Mike Austill and first mate Danny Cox, both of West Ocean City, ventured offshore Saturday on the "One More" and caught these four mahi using ballyhoo. The largest measured 38 inches.



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Garlic Butter White Wine Shrimp Linguine

Ingredients:

- 4 tablespoons butter, divided
- 4 cloves garlic, minced, divided
- 4 cups chicken or vegetable broth
- 2 cups water
- 1 lb. linguine
- 1 1/2 lb. jumbo raw shrimp
- 3/4 cup dry white wine
- 1/4 cup minced fresh sage
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1 lemon
- Salt and Pepper to taste

Directions:

One-Pot Pasta:



Heat 2 tablespoons butter in a large pot over high heat. Add half of the garlic and sauté, stirring constantly for one minute. Add the broth and water; bring to a boil. Add the pasta and boil until the pasta is cooked. Lower the heat and simmer until most of the liquid

is absorbed. Do not drain – there should be some liquid left in the pan to help coat the noodles.

Cook the Shrimp:

While the pasta is cooking, heat two tablespoons butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the shrimp and saute for 1-2 minutes on each side until the shrimp are almost cooked through.

Build That Garlic Herb Flavor:

Add the garlic, sage and white wine to the shrimp pan. Let the shrimp cook for another 3-5 minutes or until most of the wine has evaporated and the shrimp are lightly browned on the outside. Remove from heat and set aside. Cover so the shrimp stays warm.

Add the shrimp, whipping cream, parmesan and parsley to the cooked pasta. Toss everything together and finish with a squeeze of lemon juice, salt and pepper.



- 2 large garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1 1/2 cups chicken stock or low-sodium broth
- 1 cup bottled clam juice
- 1 cup drained, diced tomatoes (from a 15-ounce can)
- 2 thyme sprigs
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/2 teaspoon hot sauce, plus more for serving
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 2 dozen littleneck clams, scrubbed
- 3/4 pound skinless snapper fillets, cut into 2-inch pieces
- 1/2 pound shelled and deveined medium shrimp
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 tablespoons coarsely chopped flat-leaf parsley
- Sourdough toast, for serving

Delmarva Seafood Stew

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 large shallot, thinly sliced



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Directions:

In a large soup pot, heat the olive oil. Add the shallot and garlic and cook over high heat, stirring, until softened, about 3 minutes. Add the wine and boil until reduced by half, about 3 minutes. Add the stock, clam juice, tomatoes, thyme, bay leaf and hot sauce and season with salt and pepper. Bring to a boil over high heat and cook until slightly reduced, about 10 minutes.

Add the clams, cover and cook just until most of them open, about 5 minutes. Add the snapper and shrimp, cover and simmer until they are cooked through and the remaining clams have opened, 2 to 3 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the seafood to 4 bowls. Add the butter and parsley and cook over moderate heat for 1 minute, swirling the pan. Spoon the broth over the seafood and serve with sourdough toast.

Flounder with Prosciutto, Sage & Lemon

Ingredients:

- 2 flounder fillets
- 1 shallot, very thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- The juice from 1/2 a lemon
- A few big scrapings of nutmeg
- Black pepper
- Salt
- 6 beautiful fresh sage leaves
- 2 very thin slices prosciutto
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees.

In a small bowl, mix the lemon juice with a tablespoon of olive oil. Season it with the nutmeg, black pepper, and salt (go light on the salt since the prosciutto is salty). Lay the flounder fillets skin side down in a small baking dish. Pour the lemon oil over them. Scatter the shallots on top. Place three sage leaves

on each fillet and cover the fillets with the prosciutto. Dot the top with butter and bake until the prosciutto is lightly crisped and the flounder is just tender (mine took about 6 minutes, but judge the time by the thickness of your fish). Serve right away.

- 1/4 tsp Old Bay seasoning
- 1/4 tsp ground mustard
- 4 saltine crackers crumbled
- 4 tbsp mayonnaise
- 1/2 tsp lemon zest
- 2 tbsp butter

Directions:

Mix all ingredients except butter together in a bowl then form in 4 individual patties, tightly packed and pressed flat to about 1" thick.

Lightly brown for 5 minutes on

Maryland Crab Cakes with No Breadcrumbs

Ingredients:

- 16 oz fresh jumbo lump Maryland crab meat



- 1/4 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 2 egg yolks
- 1/4 tsp salt

each side in a buttered pan over medium heat. Serve hot on a bun with arugula or butter lettuce.

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Steamed Mussels with White Wine Broth

Ingredients:

- 2 pounds mussels, cleaned
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 small shallots, thinly sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 cup low-sodium chicken stock
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- Splash heavy cream
- 1/4 cup roughly chopped fresh parsley
- Salt and fresh ground black pepper
- Lemon wedges, for serving
- 1 baguette, warmed for serving

Directions:

Melt butter in a large pot with a lid over medium heat. When the butter begins to bubble, stir in the shallot and garlic. Cook until softened, about 5

minutes.

Add the chicken stock, white wine, and mussels then give them a good toss. Cover the pot with its lid and cook until all the mussels have opened; 6 to 10 minutes. If any mussels do not open, discard them.

Remove the pot from the heat, then stir in the cream and parsley. Taste the broth, and then adjust to taste with salt, pepper, or more cream.

Serve in big bowls with lemon wedges and plenty of warmed bread to sop up the broth.

How to Clean Mussels:

How to Clean Mussels: Look through the mussels. If you find any cracked, chipped, or open mussels, discard them. Most mussels will have a "beard," which is just the fibers that emerge from the mussel shell. It's best to remove this. To remove it, hold a mussel in

one hand using a dry towel. Pull the beard out and away from the mussel with your other hand. Sometimes it can be a bit tricky to remove, but will eventually come out. Finally, use a firm brush to remove extra sand and the odd barnacle. Rinse the cleaned mussels under cold water, and then move on to cooking them.



Swordfish Spiedini

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1-2 tsp herbes de provence
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp fresh ground black pepper
- 1 1/2 lbs swordfish steaks, trimmed and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 6 slices pancetta, thin slices
- 6 skewers (metal or wooden, but soak the wooden for 30 minutes in water)

Directions:

Prepare a charcoal or gas

grill for medium-high heat or preheat a ridged grill pan over medium-high heat.

In a large bowl, whisk the oil, herbes de provence, salt and pepper to blend.

Add the swordfish cubes and toss to coat.

Thread the swordfish cubes alternately with 1 slice of pancetta onto each of the skewers, wrapping the pancetta around the fish cubes as you go.

Grill the skewers until the swordfish is just opaque in the center and the pancetta is crisp, about 8 minutes, turning and brushing often with the remaining marinade. §

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Tim Keener, Dave Weller and Gerard Chaveca headed out to the 30 fathom line and started the day trolling on the "Turn Me Loose". They saw multiple tunas hit on the surface in the morning, but none came tight. Switching to chunking in the afternoon they finally got one rod screaming. It took the boys 1 hour and 15 minutes to get this 52" yellowfin tuna to the boat!



Most remember their first fish, for 10 year old Hannah Gibson from Lutherville, MD it will be this 13" flounder she plucked from the East Channel. She was using a top and bottom rig with minnows on a high tide just north of the Route 50 Bridge. Fellow anglers were Pat Clap and Chris Gibson.

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Adam Carnes was striper fishing off of the Rt. 50 Bridge at night when he got a nice side catch. He landed this 22" flounder using a 1/2 oz. bucktail at high tide.



It is clear that 13 year old Morgan Miles from Marriottsville, MD is a force to be reckoned with! She caught both of these yellowfin tunas, her first tunas ever, in the Poor Man's Canyon on the "Hey O". They both hit on a zucchini Sterling Wide Tracker Bar with the heaviest at 70 lbs.

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STEVE'S MARINE SERVICE
by Steve Katz



Tournament Tips

The next few weeks is an exciting time for anglers and crew fishing in the many local tournaments. Congratulations to all those who are participating, it takes a lot of effort to prepare for these events, let alone catch a winning fish! We wish all crew and anglers good luck in all the upcoming tournaments.

Here are a few tech tips that may be helpful in the coming weeks:

Tournament Time

While fishing crew may not wear a wristwatch while fishing, keeping track of the correct time is critical during a tournament. With so many electronic gadgets supplying the time, we expect the time we see to be correct and synchronized between all devices and the tournament organizers. A marine chartplotter or GPS, as with most modern timekeeping devices, needs to be properly programmed to your location for the

proper time zone and daylight savings time if applicable. Many of us on a boat have come to rely on the time on chartplotters for the proper "official" time.

The manufacturers of marine GPS receivers automate the device's time settings, allowing the time to adjust automatically based on your GPS location, just like a smartphone. Seems like a clever idea, right?

Well, many of the devices may be too smart; they know when your boat moves into a different time zone or time of year and even when the boat has crossed the coastal 12-mile territorial waters of the USA.

Once beyond the 12-mile coastal limit, the chartplotter often automatically eliminates daylight savings time on the way to the distant fishing grounds and then re-adjusts the time on the return trip to the dock at the 12-mile territorial water limit. If your system is not set-up with a manual time

zone, your GPS clock, while offshore, could be an hour different from the official time back at the dock!

Tournament Turf

Most tournaments have a geographic boundary as part of their regulations, for instance, the White Marlin Open sets a 100-mile fishing limit as measured from the Ocean City, MD sea buoy. With fast boats and a desire to fish less fished waters, many boats may run to distant spots, often close to the boundary. Many modern chartplotters allow you to set-up a boundary, this allows you to easily monitor your proximity to the range limit. For example, on popular Garmin GPSMAP unit's you can create a boundary by selecting Info > User Data > Boundaries > New, then Select a boundary shape and follow the on-screen instructions. On the newest Furuno chartplotters, tap on the screen select "New Boundary" (Area, Circle or

Line) to create your custom boundary. You can often set an alarm to show you how close you are and to notify you that you have entered these boundaries.

Tournament Togetherness

When the fishing is good in a particular spot, seems somehow "all" the boats run to and congregate in that "spot." While professional captain seamanship is needed to fish in tight quarters, there are a few technical issues that can occur too:

Sonar - with the growing use of Omni style, 360 sonars and their long horizontal range there can be some overlap and interference. All of the popular Furuno Omni sonar's operates at fixed frequency of 85 KHz.

With their high sensitivity it is easy to overlap coverage resulting in interference on your screen from other nearby 85Khz sonars. This does not often occur with traditional sounders since their transmitting beam is vertical and stays within the footprint of your boat.

VHF radio-Most marine VHF radios have two output power settings, low and high,



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often 1 watt or 25 watts. The low power setting is good for communicating boats within a few miles. This feature may be beneficial during a tournament when you want to restrict how many boats are listening to your conversation with a nearby boat.

There are many factors that affect the range of a VHF radio. The VHF radio signals operate within a line of sight and therefore a taller antenna inherently has a longer range. Interference from some LED lighting is a trending problem, causing poor reception in effected radios. The U.S. Coast Guard has received reports from crews, ship owners, inspectors, and other mariners regarding poor reception on VHF frequencies used for radiotelephone, digital selective calling (DSC) and automatic identification systems (AIS) when in the vicinity of light emitting diode (LED) lighting on-board ships such as navigation lights, searchlights and floodlights, interior, and exterior lights.

Fair Winds and Following Seas for all tournament participants! §



The speedsters are in the suds! We have had several reports of nice wahoo's being caught so it was only a matter of time until a new 'Heaviest' was set. Roy Butler set the new record for MD with this 81 lb. and 72" fish he caught in the Poor Man's Canyon. He was assisted by Robert Jacobs on the gaff, Brian Jacobs on the leader and Capt. Keith Jacobs on the "Makowish".

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Colton Rhodes got in the club early. At 11 years old he has already caught his first white marlin. He was aboard the "Reel Steel" with Capt. Jason Parker trolling in the Washington Canyon last Wednesday. Look at how smooth that water was that day!



Fenwick Tackle shared this picture from Chase Evanofski and Abe Hobson-Tomascik from Scranton, PA. The boys caught and released this nice 24" striper they got from the surf at Fenwick Beach. Mullet head did the trick for this one.

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Capt. Joe Drosey with mates Eric Strauss & Mario Rosales on the charter boat "Rhonda's Osprey" do what they do best, find tuna! This trip last week for the 'Skinny' Barbacu gang ended the day with 6 yellowfin tunas with 3 fat ones. Pictured at Fisherman's Marina.



Preston Walls lived out the ancient saying "when the student is ready, the master will appear. When the student is truly ready, he becomes the master!" He slipped out with his 10 year old grandson Harrison Kincaid from Sparrows Point, MD to the East Channel on the last of an incoming tide to fish with live spot. Young Harrison out fished him catching this 20" flounder.

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It was a great mixed grill trip for Brandon, Melissa, Marlee and Brody Basom from Lewistown, PA. They were fishing with Capt. Brett Glatfelter on the "Warhorse" out of the Indian River Marina and ended the day with 3 mahi, 14 sea bass and a keeper flounder.



Stephen Youngstrom knew he had a big sheephead, but wondered if it qualified for a DE citation? He checked in with Lewes Harbor Marina who weighed the 9.79 lb. convict and confirmed it! He used sand fleas and found the big fish at a bay structure.

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DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Last week saw calm seas at the beginning of the week changing to big storms and lots of lightning at the end of the week. The water is getting warm and the fishing is getting hot. Flounder bite is more keepers than in past weeks with the bigger ones coming off the deeper structure. Mahi are all over the Shipping Channel but are very often picky as to what they will bite.

Flounder & Sea Bass

Coral Grounds

The inshore Coral Grounds have really started to heat up with more keepers coming onto the boats than we have seen in past weeks. Jerry Hammond, Ronnie Mumford, and Micky Payne,

all from Georgetown, DE fished Site 11 with Gulp baits on jig heads and came back to the docks with 8 keeper flounder weighing up to 3.3 lbs. The fish were weighed at Hook'em and Cook'em Tackle at Indian River Marina. Also out of Indian River Marina, was the "Capt. Bob" full day charter/headboat which had a great group on the boat last week including Chris Adams who caught his limits of flatties up to 3lbs using a jig. The "Capt. Bob" is located at Hook'em and Cook'em Bait & Tackle on the south end of the Indian River Marina.

Aaron from our last issue, who was so happy to finally get a citation flounder, was back at it again this week weighing in an impressive 8 lb. flattie

while mating on the charter boat "Surface Tension". The citation fish was checked into Lewes Harbour Marina. Let's see if he can do it again next week! Site 10 has been fairly consistent for keepers early in the morning, but as the day wears on and more boats arrive, the bite shuts down to almost nothing. The Old Grounds in general have been the best within the area; dead in the middle of A and B Buoy being the most productive. Try to find the deeper water on the east side of the Shipping Channel for your best chance at some real quality fish. Big Gulp baits are the best baits again, but squid and shiner combos are a close second. The good thing about using squid is there are tons of mahi out on the Shipping Channel. If a school of mahi comes by, simply undo your bottom weight and throw out the squid-baited rig and you have a pretty good chance of hooking into one of these great eating fish. The reports from many anglers are that these fish can be very picky as to what they will bite. Have a few different baits ready on different size hooks and rigs so you don't miss out on the opportunity. Samantha Pietryak and I hit the Bass Pots just north and west of the Lightship and managed to hook six gaffer mahi up to 10 lbs. The fish were caught on Ocean Arsenal Smoke Bombs as well as a new flying fish style lure released at I-Cast last month. Ted Proseus was out at the same area earlier in the week and came home with 10 mahi. Ted said that on his day out the fish would not touch a trolled lure and would only take squid thrown at the pots ball. Just goes to prove what I

said earlier, the fish are picky and won't always take a lure. Today we outfished most of the ones throwing bait at the balls.

Back Bays

Shiloh Keinfelter, age 13, was at it again this week pulling in a really nice flounder of 19.5" and 3 lbs. at the Indian River. That's 2 weeks in a row, girl. I'll be waiting to see if you can outdo this fish for our next issue. Oh and to dad: don't feel bad, my daughter outfishes me all the time and I do it for a living!

Cliff, Norm and Anthony were out with "Bad Wind Charters" on a beautiful day last week and all three managed to get their personal best jumbo flounder as well as a boat limit. Captain Brent sure knows where the flounder live, bringing back a limit for his clients as well as a few mahi and sea bass.

"Pirate King 2" charters run by Captain Jackie caught a smorgasbord of fish with the most excitement being 12 year old William who caught a citation 3.62 lb., 22" sea trout. So great to see all these young kids catching quality fish!

Susan was fishing the Indian River Inlet and caught a 16.25" tautog off the rocks. The fish was checked into Lewes Ice House Bait & Tackle.

Along the rocks at Indian River there are also some bluefish still around. Mathew Scott got a nice one fishing early in the morning on an incoming tide.

Lewes Harbour Marina was once again the site of several citation sheephead catches. Stephen Youngstrom got his 9.79 lb. citation off structure while using sand fleas. Not to be outdone by the adults, Alex, a young man fishing with his grandfather, pulled in a sheepy just shy of 10 lbs. Another great catch by our youth, and another citation!



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As I have stated before, if you want a citation sheepshead this is the time to target them.

Surf Fishing

Numen Balal was fishing with son Evren and friend Quinn Finnegan and Max Sontag and hooked an estimated 200 lb. southern ray. The fish was caught on cut bunker and 50 lb. braid. The 45 minute fight ended with the fish safely released to be caught another day. Continuing with sharks, Jamie Vandruffalong along with Gary, Kevin, Kasey, Cali and Libby Chandler fished the charter boat "Top Fin", run by Captain Pete Haine releasing 6 tiger sharks and a bunch of brown sharks averaging 150 lbs.

Fishing is really heating up with tons of big fish around, so get out with the family or friends and get in on some of the action.

Until next week...
Tight lines and fins up §



Another speedster hit the docks at Hook'em & Cook'em located at Indian River Marina. Anglers Aaron Sanders, Eddie Bishop, Curtis Ball, Frank Geck, Paul Tutsi and Lou Fisher caught this 55 lb. wahoo and two yellowfin tuna while trolling ballyhoo just south of the Poor Man's Canyon.



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13 year old Shiloh Kleinfelter made her father and beloved puppy Scout proud when she caught this 19½" and 3 lb. flounder. She was fishing the Indian River Bay with live minnows.



Capt. Fred Winward with mate Capt. Heath Berger and anglers Bob Kannenberg & Bryon Flick went 4 for 7 on yellowfin tunas. They were fishing in the Massey's Canyon on the "Stress Reel-lef" and the largest tuna was 72 lbs.

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VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



Anytime you can experience environmental influences like the sweltering sun, driving rain, gusting gales along side of serene swells, beautiful blue water, and a sea breeze that whisks away all memories of negativity, you know that you are in a diverse place that has a lot to offer. Anytime you experience all those factors in one day, you know you are on the great Eastern Shore of Virginia!

As folks from all over respool their reels and tie on new leaders in hopes of contending for the crown of the WMO, the weather has allowed for a snapshot of what is to come. The Washington has continued to house most of the activity with good numbers of mahi and a decent yellowfin bite. We have had several good reports from anglers using the Tormentor side-winder planing spreader

bars. These lures track out to the side into clean water and can be very effective on all targeted trophies of the troll. The prized white marlin have made an appearance and promise to make this week's tournament interesting so long as the wind and seas allow.

The deep blue has more to offer than the prestige of pelagic's. Myself and good friend Jacob snuck out this past Wednesday in search of tasty sustenance. On structure about 100' we found a nice grade of sea bass taking jigs to fulfill our quest. There we also found some nice triggers to add an exotic flare to our already fun outing. In shallower depths the flounder are still taking Gulp grubs jigged directly over the twisted metal structures that make up an oasis of life just off our coast.

The seaside inlets continue to surprise elated anglers with

superb late summer flat fishing. The flood tide is responsible for cleaning and cooling these coastal estuaries which has elongated our inshore season and put smiles on folks holding up supersized stringers of delicious flounder. Minnows or silversides matched with Gulp swimming mullet (particularly the pink shine color) have tempted these flaky fillets to come aboard, and in some case's, to stay for dinner!

The Chesapeake has conjured up the beginnings of the red drum spawning run. Captain C.L. of "Tangier Sound Charters" witnessed the sights and sounds of drags screaming and his clients whooping and hollering as they boated 6 big bulls just last night. Captain Chad of "Earning Stripes Sportfishing" is still cranking on a few cobia. However, the Spanish mackerel bite has taken

www.coastalfisherman.net the spotlight. Briskly trolled Clarkspoons have lured these treasured but toothy trophies into the cooler. While anglers are tussling with macks they have also come across a bycatch of scary looking ribbonfish that add some excitement to the day. What young anglers wouldn't enjoy cranking up what appears to be a monster from the deep laden with big eyes and even bigger teeth!

Tarpon have made their annual appearance of the lower barrier islands. While many fish have been observed rolling on the flats, bites have been hard to come by.

Fishing the Eastern Shore is just like the weather. Sometimes it's awesome and productive beyond expectations and other times it is as unpredictable as a thunder head rolling across the sound. The fact is, things will change in an instant and a new opportunity with arrive with a tide. So if things aren't going as planned, just wait a few minutes and change will reveal itself as we try to figure out this awesome place we call home. §



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Capt. Mike Halsey of Chesapeake Medical Systems ran his wife and friends down to Cape Charles to chase cobias. Over their three days site fishing they were able to hook 4 but reported they must have thrown baits at over 100 fish and spotted even more! This 46" man in the brown suit hit on a live eel. Fishing with Mike were Centreville, MD anglers Bryanna Halsey, Matt Pinder, Megan Pinder, Lindsay Newcomb and Lawson Newcomb.

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The charter boat "Surface Tension" based at the Lewes Harbor Marina had a lot of action on their trip last Friday. Capt. Keith Beebe got Mike and his crew on a nice mix of sea bass and flounder as well as this 43" cobia! Most fish were caught on jigs and the cobia hit on a Nomad Riptide.



14 year old Alex Osborne from Bear, DE got a citation last week, but this one was a good thing! He was fishing with his grandfather when he caught this 25" and 9.995 lb. sheepshead that qualified him for a Delaware State Citation. Pictured at Henlopen Bait & Tackle.

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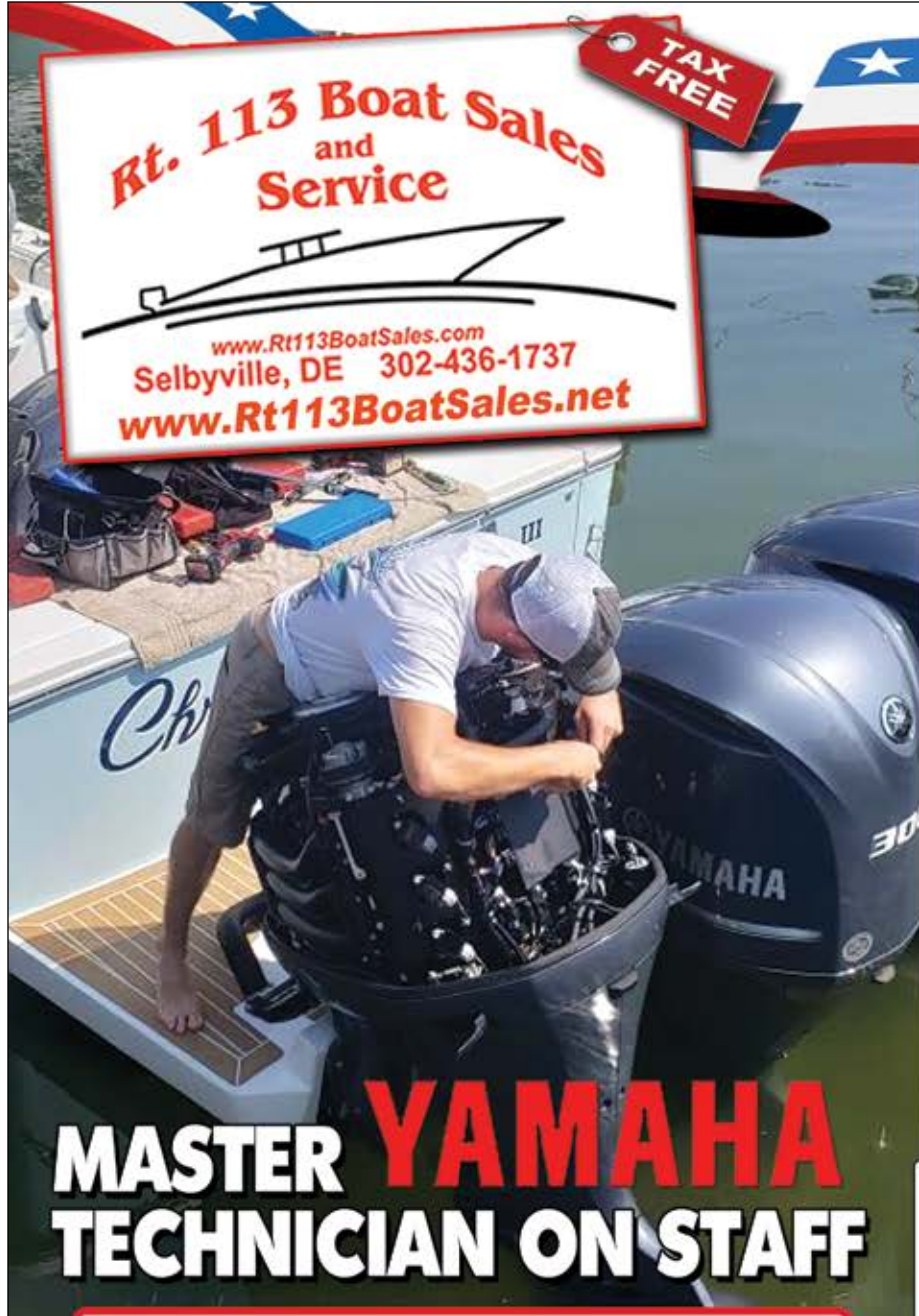
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Helen Hunsberger found herself a real doormat of a flounder in late July. She was fishing at an Ocean Structure using a combination of Gulp and squid and boated this 26.5" and 7.4 lb. flounder that not only earned her a Delaware State Citation, but is now the 'Heaviest' for the season reported from DE!

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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	June 5 Mike Botsaris S. OC Jetty 12.5 lbs.	July 18 Tommy Schlauch Jr. Fenwick Ditch 12 lbs. 3 Oz.	 Thresher Shark	May 30 Dan Cavey Fingers 373 lbs.	
 Black Drum	April 16 CW Wells Assateague Island 70 lbs.	May 22 Mike Strain Coral Beds 78 lbs.	 Bigeye Tuna	July 23 Crew - Wrecker Washington Canyon 276 lbs.	July 4 Crew "Reel Fast" Washington Canyon 220 lbs.
 Cobia	June 25 John Stackhouse Kelly's Reef 46.25 lbs.	July 15 Scott Brooks Off Bethany Beach 89.2 lbs.	 Bluefin Tuna	June 10 Corey Healy Baltimore Canyon 243 lbs.	
 Flounder	July 29 Mike Brockmeyer East Channel 7.85 lbs.	July 20 Jesse Norman Ocean Structure 10.4 lbs.	 Longfin Tuna		June 5 Chad Tingle Wilmington Canyon 49.5 lbs.
 Sea Bass	May 31 Justin Eddy Poor Man's 4.7 lbs.	May 26 Kase Andrews Ocean Structure 3.125 lbs.	 Yellowfin Tuna	June 30 Brian Mayer Washington Canyon 85.5 lbs.	June 10 John Savoca Baltimore Canyon 75 lbs.
 Sheepshead	June 27 JC Dennis OC Inlet 13.75 lbs.	July 4 Jason Whaley Ocean Structure 12 lbs.	 Dolphin ★ New	August 6 Alissa Bramble Poor Man's Canyon 31.2 lbs.	
 Striped Bass	May 20 Bud Martin Rt. 50 Bridge 17.19 lbs.		 Swordfish	June 30 Steve Stallings Poor Man's Canyon 288 lbs.	
 Tautog	April 22 Kelly Langion-Milano Artificial Reef 18 lbs.	April 22 Billy Thornatore Ocean Wreck 7.5 lbs.	 Blue Marlin	July 31 Mike Tenuto Wilmington Canyon 436 lbs.	
 Wahoo ★ New	August 7 Jake Melcher Baltimore Canyon 85 lbs.		 White Marlin	July 31 Mike Dahl Wilmington Canyon 76 lbs.	

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



I don't think that this group from Media, PA expected anything like this when they decided to fish the surf at Fenwick Island! Numen Bilal with his son Evren and friends Quinn Finnegan and Max Sontag spent 45 minutes fighting this southern ray on a spinning reel with 50 lb. braid after it swallowed their fresh whole bunker. After a few gasps and pictures it was released to swim another day.

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The "Gunther & Sons" was one of the early boats to the scales during the 15th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament bringing in 4 big fish. Angler Derek Yobst's 23-7/8 flounder that he caught at the OC Inlet set the bar as the biggest and held on to take 1st Place. Fellow anglers Blake Gunther and Chris Riddleberger also measured some nice fish over 20"s.



One of the last few boats to the scales during the 15th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament was "Fish in OC" with Kristen and Scott Lenox. Scott found the 2nd place tournament winning 22-7/8" flounder in the East Channel using live spot.



The "Linda Sea II" headed offshore 2 miles to the Kelly's Reef during the 15th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament. Kevin McNelis pulled in a 22-3/8 fish to secure 3rd Place and fellow anglers Patrick McGean and Danielle Bellaute both got flounders over 21".



Young angler Ashton Conley took the top honor for Jr. Angler in the 15th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament. He caught this 16-3/4" and 1.65" flounder on the "Oil Can" by the OC Airport using flounder belly.

15TH Annual
FLOUNDER TOURNAMENT RESULTS

260 Anglers Participated

1st PLACE
Derek Yobst
23 7/8" · 4.73 lbs. · \$3,610

2nd PLACE
Scott Lenox
22 7/8" · 4.62 lbs. · \$1,805

3rd PLACE
Jay Droney
22 3/8" · 4.34 lbs. · \$677

JUNIOR ANGLER - Ashton Conley · \$100

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The sheephead catch has really picked up nicely over the past couple of weeks. Andrew Zetzer of Bishopville, MD did well on this trip to the Ocean City South Jetty, boating 3 convicts using sand fleas.



We have a lot of citation sized fish in this issue which is awesome! One of the most unique was this 22" and 3.62 lb. sea trout that 12 year old William caught. He was fishing with his family on the charter boat "Pirate King II" with Capt. Jackie and mate Elie.

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

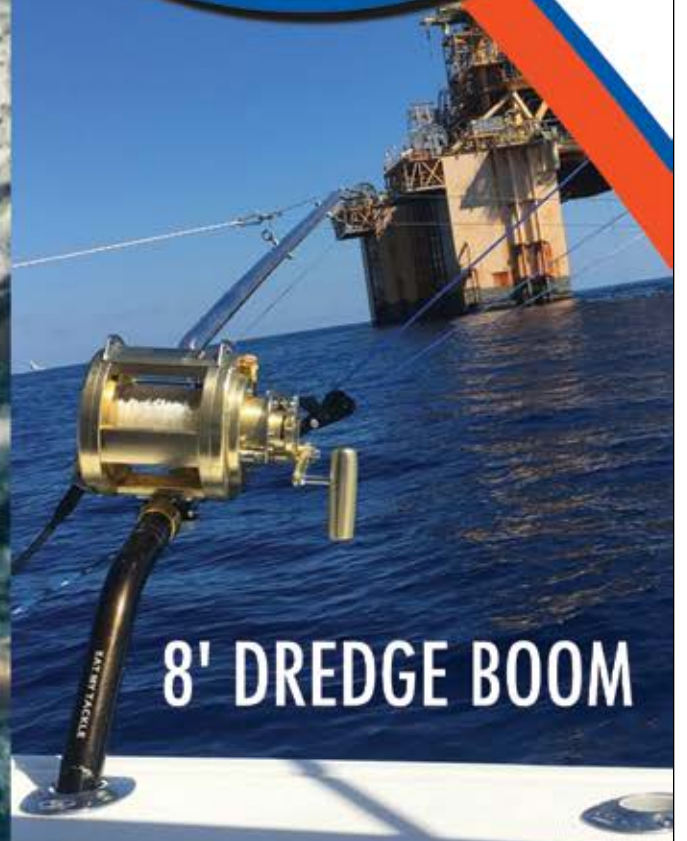
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In an otherwise slow marlin season, the 14th Annual OCMC Ladies Tournament, "Heels & Reels" saw a number of releases, especially for blue marlin. The "Buckshot" definitely bucked the trend and took top honors in the Billfish Release Division when anglers Kristi Justice & Chelsea Meetre caught 2 blue marlins (their firsts!) in the Baltimore Canyon last Saturday earning 300 points. This earned them and the crew of Signe Pringle, Lindsey Stanton, Shelby Zimmer and Heather Melson with Capt. Gaty Stamm and mates Kyle Pelono & Anfres Perez a cool \$27,585 in prize monies.



14TH ANNUAL OCMC LADIES' TOURNAMENT "Heels & Reels"

BILLFISH RELEASE		
1ST PLACE • "BUCKSHOT"	300 Pts.	• \$27,585
2ND PLACE • "SPRING MIX II" (A TEAM)	150 Pts.	• \$2,970
3RD PLACE • "TOP DOG" (TEAM HOOK OPTICS)	350 Pts.	• \$6,111

TUNA		
1ST PLACE • "JUST ONE MORE"	230 lbs.	• \$24,772
2ND PLACE • "TOP DOG" (TEAM HOOK OPTICS)	76 lbs.	• \$4,198
3RD PLACE • "ABSOLUTE PLEASURE" (A TEAM)	71 lbs.	• \$2,799

DOLPHIN		
1ST PLACE • "FOLLOWING SEAS"	31.2 lbs.	• \$19,822
2ND PLACE • "JUST ONE MORE"	25.6 lbs.	• \$8,848
3RD PLACE • "LOVIN' LIFE"	24.2 lbs.	• \$2,799

JUNIOR ANGLER AWARD

JILLIAN LEBLING 150 Pts. \$500

68 Boats Entered

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The "Spring Mix II" took several awards during the 14th Annual OCMC Ladies Tournament, "Heels & Reels". Jillian Lebling won both the Junior Angler Award for her Blue Marlin Release and put the team of Jen Vojna, Lilly Paquette, Christie Nicholson, Zoe Tuttle and Kristina Watkowski in 2nd place in the Billfish Release Category. They were fishing with Capt. Chris Watkowski and mate Jacob Bialk in the Norfolk Canyon in 180 fathoms.



The 31.2 lb. bull mahi that Alissa Bramble caught during the 14th Annual OCMC Ladies Tournament, "Heels & Reels", not only took first place in the Dolphin Division earning \$19, 822, it has also set the record for the Heaviest Mahi for the season! Alissa was fishing with Renee Finnegan, Victoria Sperry, Olivia Popovitch and Gab Popovitch with Capt. Charlie Vanderbeck on the "Following Seas" in the Poor Man's Canyon where they also boated 8 other mahi for the day!



Team "Hook Optics" anglers Chelsea Trimper, Taylor Geis, Jordan Mancione, Dana Liedholm and Kelly Bunting with Capt. Ryan Knapp and mate Josh Rose on the "Top Dog" took home two honors from the 14th Annual OCMC Ladies Tournament, "Heels & Reels". Chelsea kicked things off with a blue marlin release from the Wilmington Canyon that took 3rd Place in the Billfish Release division and Dana caught a 76 lb. yellowfin tuna on day 1 that held the top spot until the very last boat bumped it to 2nd. The two fish earned a combined payout of \$10,309.

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It was nice to see several good sized mahis brought to the scales during the 14th Annual OCMC Ladies Tournament, "Heels & Reels". Taking 3rd Place in the Dolphin Division were anglers Rachael Linus, Ally Picasso, Taylor Wrede, Trish Wrede and Christine Bonnetti for this 24.2 lb. fish they caught in the Baltimore Canyon. They were fishing on the "Lovin' Life" with Capt. Spencer Bradley, mate Alex Anthony and owner Billy Wrede and took home \$2,799 in prize monies.



Rounding out the top 3 for Heaviest Tuna during the 14th Annual OCMC Ladies Tournament, "Heels & Reels" was the crew of the "Absolute Pleasure". Jacqueline Pickering, Ashley Turbutt, Ella Petter and Caitlyn Upham were fishing in the Baltimore Canyon with Capt. Steve Moore on day 1 of the event when they caught this 71 lb. yellowfin tuna that held onto 3rd Place earning \$2,799 in awards.

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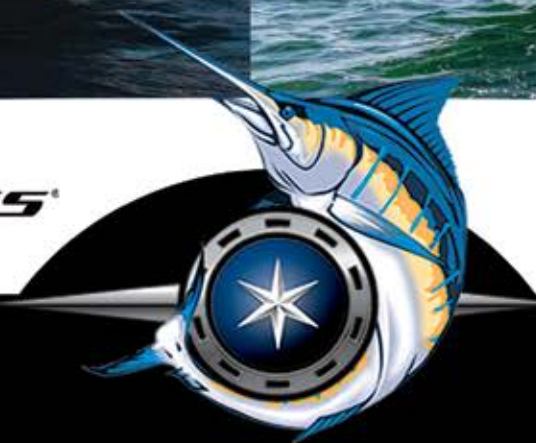
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