

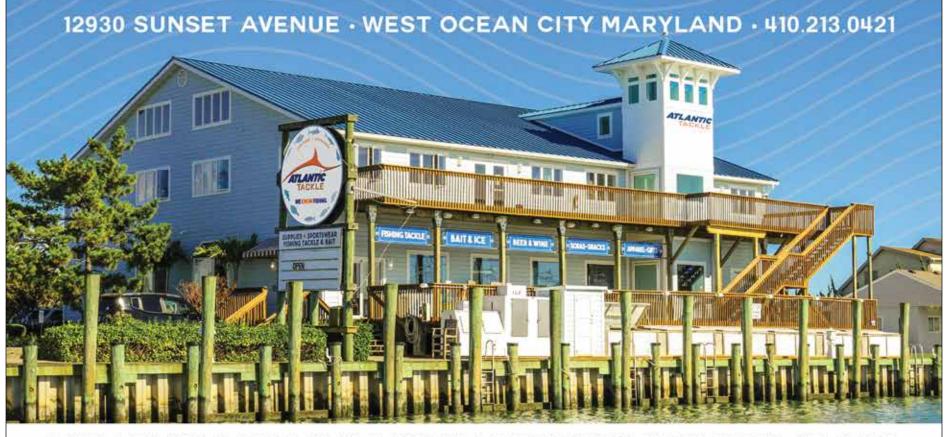
Anglers Linda Whoolery, Simona Eng, Chloe Hurley, Angie Brittingham, Erin Tobat and Eva Chin made a long run with Capt. Anthony Matarese and mates Mike Matarese & Wyatt Melonik during this year's Annual Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open. Bucking the strategy of most of the fleet that headed south, the "Reel Chaos" pushed east and a little north running 98 miles to the very edge of the tournament zone to troll outside of the Spencer Canyon. They had to deal with some tough weather, but it paid off when they went 4 for 5 on white marlin. They even had a blue on for a while before it pulled the hook. As the only boat with 4 releases for the event, they secured 1st Place in that Division and the top prize payout of \$101,835. Pictured at the Bahia Marina.



Mason Koehler, age 15, caught this hefty blueline tilefish while deep dropping squid with his family offshore over the weekend. The fish measured 27" in length and will qualify him for a MD citation award!



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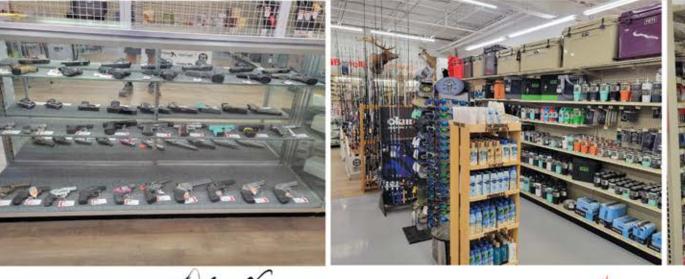
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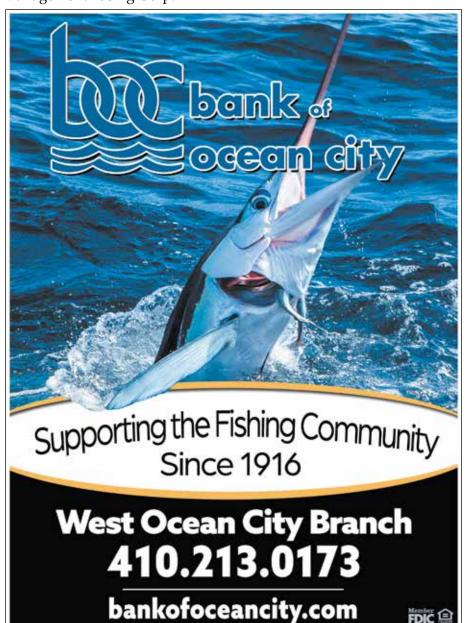
The charter boat "Spring Mix II" out of the Ocean City Fishing Center has had a good run on white marlin their last few trips. Capt. Chris Watkowski with mate Chase Porter got these angler onto 2 whites and 4 peanut mahi from the Baltimore Canyon.



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9 year old Eric Harrell of Sykesville, MD caught not only his first keeper flounder but his second as well! He was fishing with John Bilney and Jordan Lukiewski of Ellicott City, MD at the Jack Spot on the "Anger Management" using Gulp.



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## This Week Last Year

• The "Max Bet" took top honors in the Release Category during the Poor Girl's Open with two white marlin and two blue marlin releases while trolling in deep water over 1,000 fathoms east of the Baltimore Canyon.

• The "Knot Right" caught a 56.9 lb. wahoo just north of the 800/800 in the Washington Canyon to secure 1st Place in that division during the Poor Girls.

• Angler Eamonn "Irish" Carey was fishing inshore for flounder during the Paradise Grill Flounder Pounder and caught two small bluefin tuna on 20 lb. braid near the Delaware Lightship using a 6" Gulp bait. August is normally prime billfishing season in the canyons of the Mid-Atlantic. That is why we see marlin tournaments like the White Marlin Open, Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open and the MidAt lantic held over a 3 weekperiod during the month. This year however has proven to be a little challenging at the tournament scales with no qualifying white weighed at the 50th Annual White Marlin Open and only one blue marlin. This despite over 550 billfish releases over the 5 day event. Last week we saw anglers competing in the Annual Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open. This was a billfish release tournament with the top boat winning with 4 releases. Most had one or two for their day fishing.

All eyes remain on billfishing as we move toward the end of August. With two marlin focused tournaments already complete with mixed results and the 32nd MidAtlantic having started last Monday, interest is high to learn if the marlin are here and where! The good news is they are here, just maybe not in the numbers or size they have been in the past. As for tuna, the action remains similar to the past few weeks. Anglers are finding mainly yellowfins in the 35 to 55 lb. range with a couple over 60. We only had one bigeye report for last week and that was on the 16th. The good news however, is a number of boats had solid peanut mahi catches, and we have seen a decent amount of wahoo in the mix too.

## <u>Billfish</u>

As we reported last week, there where over 550 billfish released over the 5 days of the White Marlin Open. The weekend after the Open saw a drop in reports, probably as boats recovered from the tournament! The charter boat "Roll Groove" shared a white they caught in the Baltimore Canyon. While measurements where not shared, from the picture, that one could have been a million dollar contender a few days earlier! Later in

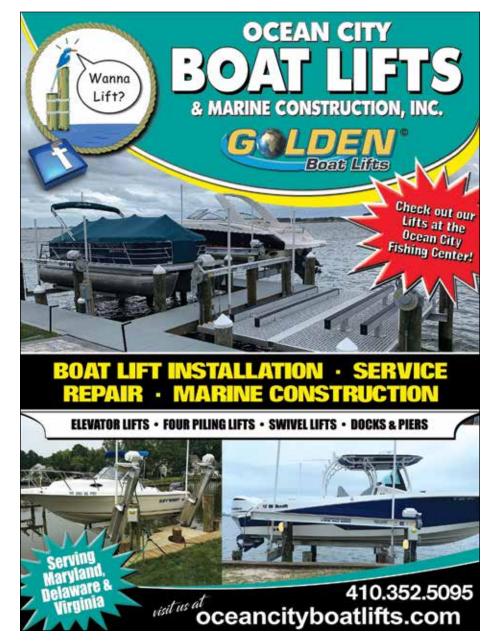
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whites being released in the Baltimore Canyon like the 2 from the "Spring Mix II". The "Boss Hogg" released one in the Poor Man's and boated 27 mahi. Most of our reports for Thursday through the weekend came from the anglers in the Annual Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open held at the Bahia Marina. This is a ladies billfish release tournament that also includes awards for tuna, mahi and wahoo. The Baltimore Canyon was the most frequent location with many being found in deeper water, 700 fathoms or more east of the canyon. The "Buck Shot" took 2nd Place at the event releasing two whites and a blue. These were caught early and were their only bites for the day. 3rd Place went to a crew on the "Southern C's" that fished Saturday. They released whites from the Baltimore as well. It's worth noting that this boat took 3 different crews out on all three days of the event, including last Friday with 10 - 15' waves! That was some tough ladies. The "Finatic" reported a first ever release of a white for Rose Parry. They were offshore of the Poor Man's in 700 fathoms. This vear's Junior Angler Award went to Anna Deckelman for a white marlin she released at the Rockpile while fishing on the "All In". She also deserves real recognition for donating her \$1,000 prize back to the tournament as a gift to the American Cancer Society.

the week we had reports of It is worth noting a few



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sailfish were caught during the event as well.

At this point, if you are keeping track, you are probably asking who took top honors for the event? Well, that would be the charter boat "Reel Chaos" from their trip on Saturday. Capt. Anthony Matarese Jr. took a different strategy from the fleet and headed 98 miles east and a little north to fish outside the Spencer Canyon. His team had to deal with some tough weather, but it paid off when they went 4 for 5 on white marlin. They even had a blue on for a while before it pulled the hook. As the only boat with 4 releases for the event, they secured 1st Place and a prize payout of \$101,835.

While there is a focus on the anglers, the real winner from this event is the American Cancer Society. Each year the event and the Harman family raise tens of thousands of dollars to help find a cure for cancer. This year saw a donation of \$115,000, bringing the total dollars raised by the event to almost \$2,000,000. You can see the full results and pictures in our coverage starting on page 62.

## <u>Tuna</u>

As mentioned at the start of the report, the majority of tuna caught last week were vellowfins. While catches were reported across the canyons and at inshore lumps, most crews returned with low single digits in the box. A notable exception was on the charter boat "Spring Mix II" on Monday of last week. Capt. Chris Watkowski was trolling outside the Baltimore and returned to the Ocean City Fishing Center with 7 chunky vellowfin from the same trip they nabbed 2 white marlin. Our only bigeye report was last Wednesday from the crew of the "Genesis" out of Sunset Marina. Angler Mike Wakefield from Baltimore, MD reeled in a 64" and 180 lb. eyeball that hit on a skirted ballyhoo in the Washington Canyon. That was also the only bigeye report we had since the WMO. They do seem to swim in schools and come and go in patches.

The biggest tuna in the Poor Girl's came from one of our favorite boat names, the "Too Many Martini's". While we perceive this as an oxymoron, the crew still landed a nice fish! The 68.5 lb. yellowfin was caught offshore of the Poor Man's on the troll along with a 55.5 pounder. 2nd Place went to the "Game Over" for a 58.7 lb. yellowfin from the Washington.

## **Dolphin and Speedsters**

Many peanut sized mahi were reported over the past week. Most where caught while trolling for tuna or marlin and were found across the canyons and inshore lumps, like the ones near Massey's Canyon. The "Action Jackson" out of the Indian River Marina caught 23 in the Baltimore including 2 gaffers, with the heaviest at 15 lbs. The "Bill Slayer", also out of the marina, reeled in over a dozen, as well as blueline and golden tilefish from the Poor Man's Canyon. The "Miss Darlene" trolled the Baltimore for tuna, but could not find a single one. They did however catch a dozen dolphin and a beautiful golden tilefish.

The top dolphin in the Poor Girl's was a 24.2 lb. mahi caught on the first day of the event in the Baltimore Canyon by the "Southern C's". They also got a 10.8 pounder securing 3rd Place as well.

Some years we don't see many wahoo, especially in tournaments. This year has been different, with at least 1 of or more speedsters hitting the scales in the last two tourneys. Early last week the "Sherri Lynn" reported a 57½" wahoo they caught on some lumps near Massey's Canyon that hit on a skirted

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Collin Wiercinski, George Andrews, Larry Cerep, Philip Lewis, Roland Arjukese and Stephen Dixon finished the White Marlin Open with a bang. They were fishing with Capt. Mark Malamphy on the charter boat "Finatic" with mates Brandon Malamphy & Sean Russell inside the Rockpile when Larry reeled in this hefty wahoo. They also released 2 whites during the event. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

Select Ballyhoo from Rick's Bait & Tackle. During the Poor Girl's, two impressive fish took the top 2 spots. 2nd Place went to the "Iacked Up" out of the Bahia Marina for their 51.8 lb. wahoo caught north of the Hot Dog. They also caught a 20 lb. false albacore that was only 8 ounces short of the Maryland State Record. 1st Place went to a boat with one of the most difficult names to spell, the "Mikks'n It Up"! Despite the spelling, Alexa Mikk got the job done, landing the winning 56.6 lb. speedster in 18 minutes after it hit on a purple and black Ilander.

As I write this report on Monday, the MidAtlantic Tournament has reported a preliminary count of 181 boats and an estimated \$5.7M payout. The weather for now looks better earlier in the week, however we all know how that changes!

So until next week, I will see you at the scales! §

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The Old Grounds were a hot spot last week for big flounder. Angler Lisa Mutter caught this 6.2 lb. flounder there last week using a Gulp Swimming Mullet. She weighed it at Rick's Bait and Tackle.



Morgan Mericle had a nice surprise catch off of the Rt. 50 Bridge one night last week. He reeled up this keeper 24" red drum using what appears to be a large 6" swimbait.



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Last week in Ocean City brought a welcome touch of cooler weather, coupled with a few passing storms. The strong winds we have been dealing with for most of the summer returned for the later part of the week making trips to the wrecks and reefs a little more difficult, or for some not practical! Still, The flounder bite remains very strong with some huge fish being brought in on a daily basis. Sea bass can still be found in deeper water like near the Rockpile and wrecks over 100 feet. The back bays are producing some decent fluke, however between the heavy boat traffic of the tournaments as well as the heat and low oxygen, the fish are less active and harder to get to bite your lure. Finding areas that are less traveled and have better moving water are the key to finding fish willing to take the hook.

## Nearshore & Reefs

The nearshore reefs have been producing some really nice catches of flounder lately both on rough bottom as well as the nearshore wrecks. Capts. Eric Shoaff & Walt Hammond on the "Judith M" reported their half day trips are producing several big fluke on the deeper wrecks as well as a few sea bass thrown in to complete the angler's days. The ten and eight hour trips have been producing better catches of sea bass as they can venture out to deeper water. It's good to see the sea bass are still available in the deeper water, and Capt. Eric shared that they have not had to deal with many undersized fish.

Captain Chris on the "Angler" reported with schools starting back up, the rails have been a lot lighter giving anglers room to move around. As the water begins to cool, sea bass should begin to return closer to inshore waters and become more available. This week the "Angler's" big fish was a flounder over six pounds, however the sea bass bite was picky and took a little more work to get the crew on the meat. Blake Gunther and Derek Yobst were out on the reefs again this past week and returned to the dock with a 4 man limit of fluke as well as several triggerfish, spades, sea bass, and even a few tog. That is quite the variety of fish in one

day. So what time is dinner? Kevin McNelis had a 3 man limit of flatfish with the biggest being just over 5 pounds. Kevin stated that all the fish they brought home were over 20 inches. "Double Trouble Charters" was out again last week returning with coolers full of fluke, as well as some huge sea bass for this time of the year. Captain D.J. Churchill reports the best flounder fishing he has seen in years. Lydia Mein hailing from Baltimore got a trophy fish measuring 25 inches and weighing just over six pounds off the near shore wrecks while fishing on the "Ocean Princess". Scott Lenox pulled in a few nice sheepshead this past week while fishing with Blake Gunther. I have received numerous reports of sheepshead on many of the nearshore wrecks and snags as well as a large group along the south jetty wall of the Ocean City inlet. Small jigs tipped with crab or sand fleas are the best method to target these hard to catch fish. Sheepshead are notorious bait stealers. You must be paying close attention to your line and rod to not miss the bite. This is not a fish that you can put the rod in the rod

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holder and expect that they will hook themselves. David Moore wanted a change of scenery from his usual surf fishing and went offshore to target some sheepies. He was rewarded with several big fish up to 24 inches. David also reported catching about a dozen tog up to 15 inches.

## **Back Bay & Inlet Fishing**

The back bays are very heavy with boat traffic these last few weeks of August and have sent the fish deep and made them very wary of fishing lines and hooks. Dropping the line weight to a smaller size as well as finding areas not so heavily worked are the key to putting fish in the cooler. The "Bay Bee" was out this past week working the Ocean City Bays and although fishing was tougher than in past weeks, they did manage to pull in some nice fish for their clients. Targeting the back bays of Assateague Island, as well as the less traveled channels in the north bay made the difference in the amount of bites they were able to get. The "Bay Bee" had several families as well as a bunch of youngsters on board this past week, making the trips very enjoyable for the crew watching the kids and novis anglers with many of them catching their first fish ever. The "Tortuga" based at Bahia Marina had several good trips in the OC Bay this past



week with anglers showing off the big flounder. They reported although the water was dirty from past storms, the fish didn't seem to mind and really bit the hook for the anglers. The evening trips were the most productive with the majority of the anglers returning with fish over 20 inches. That's pretty impressive for the back bays this late in the season. The pot holes behind Assateague Island were the hot spot for this past week with Gulp and a squid/ minnow combo being the best baits. Many anglers told me you had to let the fish take the bait a little longer before setting the hook. A count between 5 and 10 seconds before setting the hook worked the best. The Rt. 50 Bridge is still a great place for action with anglers catching bluefish as well as rockfish, however I did not receive any reports of keeper rocks this past week. Morgan Mericle did manage an in the slot 24" red drum from the bridge one evening using a 6" swimbait. Cut bait and live spot were

the best bait for stripers when fishing the bridge.

## Surf Fishing, Clamming & Crabs

Surf fishing has been slow with small spot and kingfish making up the main catches. A few keeper flounder have come off the beach at Assateague including one caught by Sean McNelis. Dustin Fleck reported catching over 40 fluke last week with 5 keepers. His biggest fish was 21 inches. Clamming on the island is getting tough as the neat shore areas have been 'racked out'. Venturing away from the wading areas of the island to chest deep water is producing the best results. Crabbing in the back bays is on fire with most pots yielding about 10 keepers per pot. Trot lining and smaller traps are also producing well. Bunker is the best bait, but chicken can be used if the bunker cannot be found.

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





9 year old Jace from Middletown, DE was king of the flounder on this trip sharing his two flatfish over 22". He was fishing with Gulp at the Old Grounds on the "Watermelon Crawl" with his uncle Ben Fabryka and grandmother Gree.



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Jerry Petrucci got a nice surprise while wreck fishing off the Delaware Coast last week. He caught this 8.4 lb. sheepshead! Pictured and weighed at Rick's Bait and Tackle.

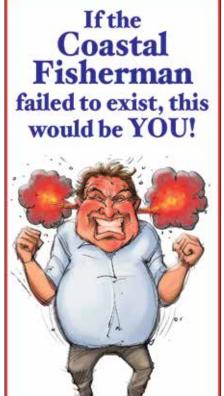
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Master angler Rich Daiker was working to get back into the swing of things last week after some time off the water. He jumped right back in, catching this 26" flounder using live bunker on the south side of the Rt. 50 Bridge.



The "Line Dancer" was at it again, this time working the East Channel with mullet and bunker. Lance Biesecker, Frank Biesecker and Mike Dzurnak got 4 keepers for the yeti cooler in the picture with the largest at 19<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>"!



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Capt. Charlie Donohue of LuckyOne Outdoors with PJ Clauser slayed some fish on this trip to an offshore reef. They boated 11 sea bass and 5 flounder using clam and Gulp for bait. The largest of the flatfish were a pair of 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inchers.



It is great to see the sea bass still biting this late in the season and keeper sized ones still hitting the coolers. Capt. Chris Mizurak on the headboat "Angler" took this crew from the Pub Club of South Baltimore on their annual Ron Zeman Memorial Trip catching knotheads and flounder over a natural bottom.





Young Brantley from Ocean View, DE got a triple hookup of croaker while fishing the Indian River Bay on "The Jean Machine"! He was using a modified Sabiki Rig with Fishbites Bloodworm and EZ Crab, and had to use some skill to land the three on 5 lb. test.



Shoot vertical photos & always Smile!

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It was big smiles for Dave Onorato, his son Steve and his wife Kelsey. They had spent the day on the "Angie Baby" drifting the Thorofare using white Gulp. While they had to deal with lots of throwbacks, they still got these three keeper flounder in the box, the largest at 18".

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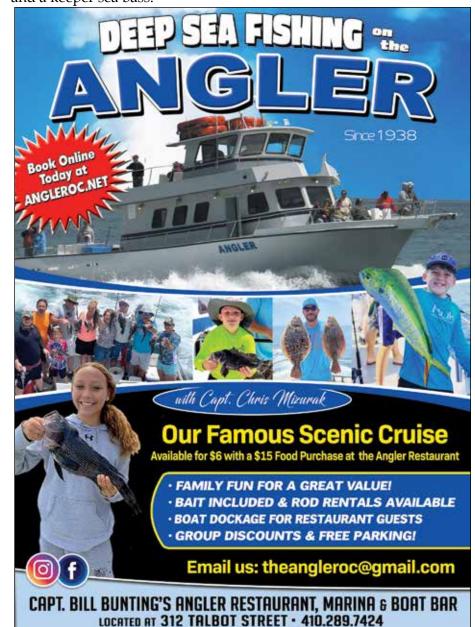


Capt. JD Eddy on the charter boat "Green Reaper" put himself on the boat's seasonal leader board with this 25" and 6.5 lb. flounder caught inshore at a natural reef. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.





Capt. Chris Mizurak on the deep sea fishing vessel "Angler" reported that on this trip last week to a natural bottom, he had weather all around him. Somehow they managed to stay dry and found the sea bass were biting as were flounder. Jackson Aeo landed this almost 6 lb. flounder and a keeper sea bass.







While the fishing was tough, there still were a notable amount of white marlin released during this year's Poor Girls Open, as well as several blue marlins and sailfish. Many of these billfish were the angler's first, including this white caught by Rose Kolodich-Parry! She was fishing on the charter boat "Finatic" in 700 fathoms on the Poor Man's Canyon when the white hit first thing. It was the only bite for the day. Rounding out the crew were Capt. Mark Malamphy and mate Sean Russell (pictured) along with fellow anglers Jean Taylor, Lisa Stephenson, Beth Hannon, Susan Reynolds and Tina Marcinkus



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Capts. Eric Shoaff and Walt Hammond on the headboat "Judith M" reported several successful trips recently to both natural bottom sites and reefs. Anglers had a lot of action reeling in a mix of triggerfish (left), spanish mackerel (right), flounder and sea bass. Most of the knotheads were undersized, but a few keepers were found.



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It was good to see anglers Brook and Andrew Duvall back on the docks at the Ocean City Fishing Center. They were a long time charter group on the legendary "Last Call" with the Pettolina family. This year they headed out with Capt. Chris Watkowski and mates Chase Porter & Charlie Coates on the "Spring Mix II". They trolled in 700 fathoms of the Baltimore Canyon boating 7 yellowfin tuna and releasing 2 white marlin.

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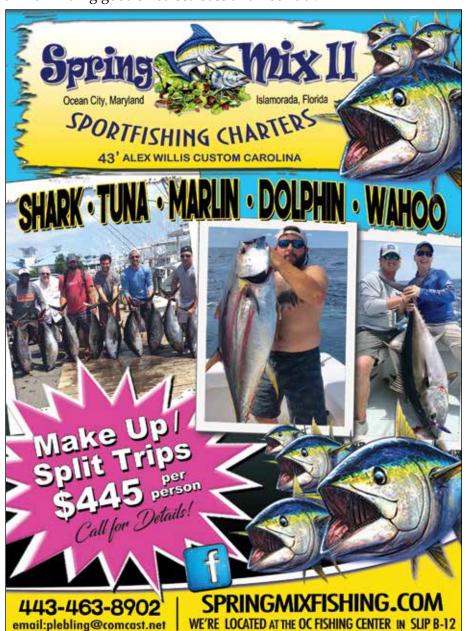
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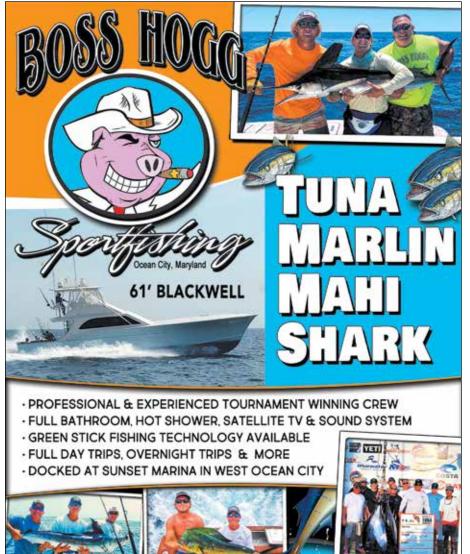
Capt. Monty Hawkins on the headboat "Morning Star" dodged the weather and had to move around a bit to several sites to get his customers on the fish last week. Fortunately everyone had enough for dinner finding good sized sea bass and flounder.







It looks like anglers Mike Gombert, Sue Gombert, Shannon Garvin, Keith Garvin, Christie White and Michael Mandeville will have taco meat for a while. They were fishing in the Poor Man's Canyon on the charter boat "Boss Hogg" with Capt. Alex Bean and mate Jack Hannum where they caught 27 mahi and Michael released a white marlin.



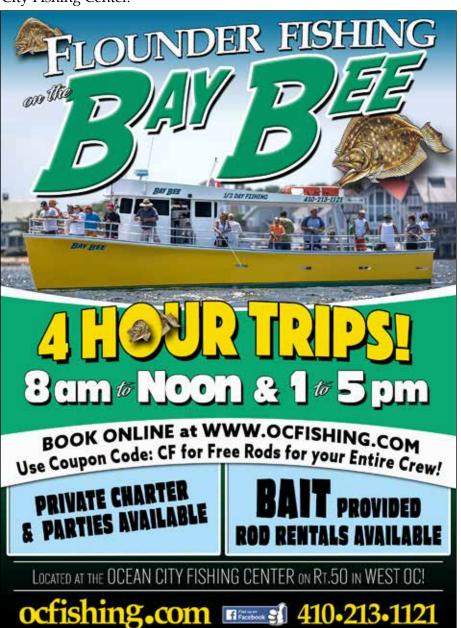
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The flounder fishing boat "Bay Bee" has been finding some nice late summer keeper flounder from the Ocean City Bays. Their 1/2 day trips are a great way to get on the water and catch some fish as well as take in the views of Ocean City and Assateague Island. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

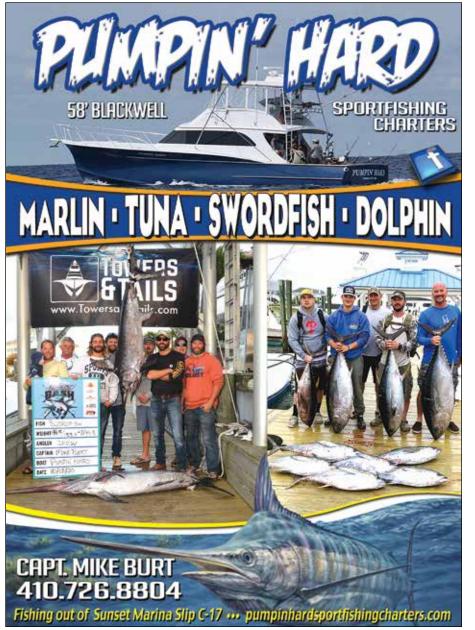


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The Evans family decided to try offshore fishing and headed out with Capt. Mike Burt on the charter boat "Pumpin' Hard" for their first trip! They trolled in the Baltimore Canyon and got 8 blueline tilefish in the box and a couple of peanut mahi. Pictured at Sunset Marina.





The headboat "Tortuga" based at the Bahia Marina found clear water and great weather for this trip in the Ocean City Bay with lots of keeper flounder coming over the rails.



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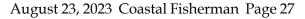
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This crew from Millsboro, DE on the "Miss Amelia" put a hurt on some flounder! The headed out from the Indian River Inlet to an ocean structure and got their 6 person limit of 24 keeper flounder in only 3 hours.



Capt. Dale Lisi on the charter boat "Foolish Pleasure" reported he had a nice string of trips to the canyons last week. This group slayed the dolphin returning to Bahia Marina with 28 caught on the troll!

EST	IMATE	D MAR	LIN WEI	GHT	CHART
v	hite Marl	in		Blue N	larlin
LENGTH	GIRTH	POUNDS	LENGTH	GIRT	H POUND
60	24	43.20	78	36	126.40
<u>60</u> 60	26 28	50.70 58.80	78 78	38	140.80
60	28.25	59.90	79	36	127.98
61	24	43.90	79	38	142.60
61 61	26	51.50 55.60	79 79	40	158.00
61	28	59.80	80	38	144.40
61	29	64.10	80	40	160.00
61 62	29.25 24	65.20 44.60	80	42	176.40
62	26	52.40	81	40	162.00
62	27	56.50	81	41	170.20
62 62	28	60.80 65.20	81	42	178.61
62	30.25	70.90	82	40	164.00
63	24	45.40	82	42	180.81
63 63	26	53.20 57.40	82 82	44	198.44 216.89
63	28	61.70	84	40	168.00
63	28.75	65.10	84	48	241.90 262.50
63 64	30	70.90 46.10	84	60	378.00
64	26	54.10	86	40	172.00
64	27	58.30	86	46	227.47
64 64	28 28.5	62.70 65.00	86	50	268.75
64	29.75	70.80	88	48	253.44
65	24	46.80	88	50	275.00
65 65	26 27.25	60.30	88	54	320.76
65	28	63.70	90	48	259.20
65 65	28.37 29	65.40 68.30	90	54	328.10 405.00
65	29.37	70.10	90	66	490.10
66	24	47.50	96	48	276.50
66 66	25 26	51.60 55.80	96 96	54	349.90
66	28.25	65.80	96	66	522.70
66	29.25	70.60	98	48	282.24
66 66	30.25	75.50 79.30	<u>98</u> 98	50	306.25 331.24
67	24	48.20	98	54	357.21
67	24.5	50.30	<u>98</u> 102	58	412.09
67 67	25 27	52.30 61.10	102	48	293.80
67	28	65.70	102	60	459.00
67	30	75.40	102	66	555.40
67 68	31 22	80.50	102	70	624.75
68	23	45.00	104	54	379.08
68 68	25.5 26.75	55.30 60.80	104	60 66	463.00
68	27.75	65.50	104	70	637.00
68	28.75	70.30	108	50	337.50
<u>68</u> 68	30 32	76.50 87.00	108	54	393.70 486.00
69	22	41.70	108	66	588.10
69	24.25	50.70	108	70	661.50
<u>69</u> 69	25.25	55.00 60.60	114	50	356.30
69	27.5	65.20	114	60	513.00
69	28.5	70.10	114	66	620.70
69 69	29.5 30	75.10 77.60	114	70	698.30 375.00
69	32	88.30	120	54	437.40
70	22	42.40	120	60	540.00
70 70	24 26.25	50.40 60.30	120	66	653.40 735.00
70	27.25	65.00	126	50	393.80
70	28	68.60	126	54	459.30
70 70	29 30	73.60 78.80	126	60	567.00
70	32	89.60	126	70	771.80
70	22	43.00	132	60	594.00
71	23	46.90	132	65	697.13
71	25	55.50	144	65	760.50
71	26	60.00			of lower jaw to fork
71 71	27 28	64.70 69.60		Formula: Le	ngth x Girth Squared
71	29	74.60		This of the	
71	30	79.90			
71	32	90.90			LIFT

	Blue Mar				
LENGTH 78	GIRTH 36	POUNDS 126.40			
78	38	140.80			
78 79	40 36	156.00			
79	38	142.60			
79	40	158.00			
79 80	42 38	174.00			
80	40	160.00			
80	42	176.40			
81	40	162.00			
81	41 42	170.20			
81	43	187.21			
82	40	164.00 180.81			
82	42	198.44			
82	46	216.89			
84	40	168.00 241.90			
84	50	262.50			
84	60 40	378.00			
86	40	227.47			
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96	54 60	349.90 432.00			
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98 102	58 48	412.09 293.80			
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102	60 66	459.00 555.40			
102	70	624.75			
104	48	299.52			
104	54 60	379.08 463.00			
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104	70 50	637.00 337.50			
108	54	393.70			
108	60	486.00			
108	66 70	588.10 661.50			
114	50	356.30			
114	54 60	415.50 513.00			
114	66	620.70			
114	70	698.30			
120	50 54	375.00 437.40			
120	60	540.00			
120	66 70	653.40 735.00			
126	50	393.80			
126	54	459.30			
126	60 66	567.00 686.10			
126	70	771.80			
132 132	60 65	594.00 697.13			
144	60	648.00			
144	65	760.50			
Length: Tip of lower jaw to fork of tail Formula: Length x Girth Squared + 800					
LIFT					

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saw the start of the much anticipated Paradise Grill Flounder Pounder Tournament and it's \$100,000 top prize. With 390 boats fishing the tournament, all the action was absorbed into the event with the near shore Coral Grounds packed with anglers all searching for that money making fish. Finding a wreck that had not been worked over a hundred times became rough as the week came to a close. All season I have talked about how this year's fluke population has been so strong and how many big fish have been caught. The first day of the weigh in for the tournament proved my point with a stud 7.8 pound fish on top of the leader board. The action was so strong that the spread between 1st and 15th place was only 2 pounds. It's pretty good fishing when the smallest fish in the money on the first day of a 5 day tournament is 6 pounds. Day 2 however saw most of the positions change, especially when a once in a lifetime fish just shy of ten pounds was weighed! More on that tourney in a little bit.

The end of the week, especially Friday, saw windy weather making trips off shore a bit gnarly. The back bays continued to remain fishable, however the heat we have seen lately has been causing the water oxygen levels to drop, driving the fish into deeper water.

## Nearshore Wrecks & Coral

The nearshore wrecks and coral had been very productive, but with the pressure the number of boats fishing the tournament put on the fish as the week wore on, fish of any kind

This past week in Delaware were harder to find. Some found a little however Kevin Sweeney success. was fishing on the "Thelma Dale IV" and pulled in a few doormat fluke early in the week from the Star Site. Capt. Adam reported nice catches of sea bass and flounder last week. Several fish were well over 20 inches and anglers showed their pleasure by the smiles back at the docks. Christopher Donahue fished with Captain Rodger on the "Judy V" out of Indian River Marina and was quickly put on the fish. The group caught several big flounder as well as a few keeper sea bass. Despite rougher seas later in the week and a few anglers getting sea sick, the trips remained very productive for flounder, with big fish coming over the rails and several anglers getting their limits of the delicious flat fish. Michelle Gehman and Barry Edwards also had great trips on the "Capt. Bob II", bringing home 10 keeper sea bass and a few flounder from inshore ocean structures. Kevin and Cheryl Szyman were also on the boat and returned with 4 big fish for dinner. Captain Rodger reports the conditions got rougher later in the week, but anglers fished hard and still managed some trophy fish. Cathay and Bill joined "Bad Wind Charters" for an inshore charter, and although fishing started off a bit slow, the group managed several nice keepers over 5 pounds to bring home. They reported trying a few Bass Pots for mahi but struck out. I have received reports that the water to the north is clearing up to a nice shade of blue and a few mahi have come off the Bass Pots near the NJ line. Hopefully the

clean water will come further south and bring more mahi with it. Duane Bowman was just one shy of a limit this past week fishing the Old Grounds with Gulp. The crew stated that although there were many undersized fish, some nice ones could be found if you put the time in. Frankie Paul fished with Rick Strauss and came back with some big sea bass and got to work on his savage tan in the process. Ted Poseus trolled the humps for spanish mackerel this past week and caught one of the biggest cutlass fish I have ever seen. The fish looked more like a wahoo than it did a ribbonfish. The ribbonfish are still all over

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the Coral Grounds. "Bottom Line Sportfishing" found the mahi ready to bite and returned to Lewes Harbour Marina with a plethora of peanuts. The crew even got a few larger fish that required a gaff. Braden Pomoni was at the Old Grounds and got his limit of fluke using Gulp baits. Chase Tyler and Gavin Burton were there as well and got a six man limit in less than 3 hrs. You can't ask for a better day than that! Matt Snook from Pa. used Gulp bait to hook a 7.8lb flounder measuring 27". The fish was weighed at Hook'Em & Cook'Em Bait & Tackle. Drew Mongeluzo caught two beautiful fish at the Old Grounds measuring 21" and 22". The preferred bait? You guessed it, Gulp! Charles Corrar caught his first citation flounder off an ocean structure weighing 7.4 lbs. Jayde Tyson and



Alex and Athena Artese headed to Massey's Landing for some fishing. Young Athena bested her dad that day with this  $21\frac{3}{4}$ " and 4.47 lb. flounder she caught using Gulp.

Kaufman Cody brought home a limit of fluke from Site Ten. Alex Artese said his daughter got her first flounder measuring 21<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" and 4.47 lbs. The young Athena Artese used a ball jig and Gulp to land the big fish at Massey's Landing. Great job young lady! Lisa Mutter fished the Old Grounds using Gulp and weighed a 6.2 lb, 24 inch fish at Rick's Bait and Tackle. Also weighed in at Rick's was an 8.4 lb. sheepshead caught while wreck fishing inshore by Jerry Petrucci.

As promised, here are the final results of the Paradise Grill Flounder Pounder!

1st Place worth \$100,000 was Me Boat at 9.9lbs.

2nd Place was Shooter Dog at 9.8lbs.

3rd Place was Grizzly at 8.7lbs.

4th Place was Mac Attack at 8.31bs.

5th Place was Mojo at 7.8lbs. 6th Place was DBD at 7.7 lbs.

## **Back Bays & Inlet Fishing**

The back bays are doing well with some big fish being hooked. Deeper water due to the excessive heat is the ticket to finding fish ready to bite. Steve Patts bounced around the Lewes Canal and found a nice citation fish measuring 25.25 inches. EJ Turner also fished the canal and got a doormat fish close to 27 inches. Mike Smith fished Indian River bay using a bucktail and strip baits along the sand bars bringing home a few big fluke for dinner. Steve Dev fished the 8s out of DE bay last week and returned with a nice flounder. Anthony Vega fished the Cape pier and pulled in a huge stingray using cut bait. Holly Hubert got a big 25" 5.8 lb fluke using squid and shiner combo.

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



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RUSTY REEL 36' Topaz Sportfish Capt. Steve McGeehan 717-476-4035



28' Sportsman 282 Capt. Larry Coyle 302-463-3778



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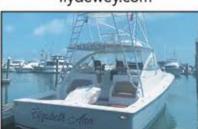
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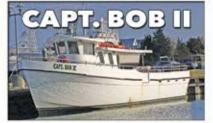


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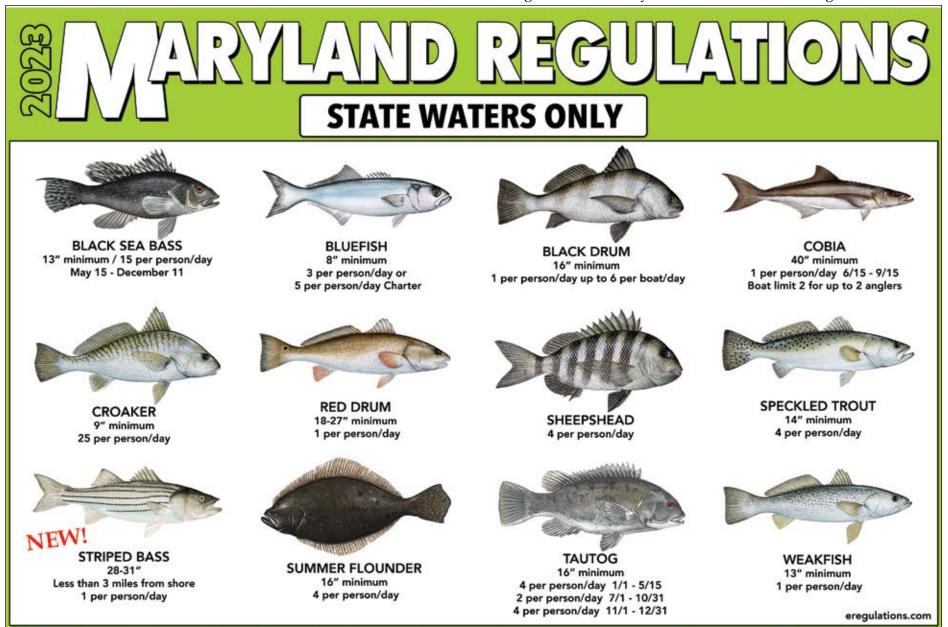
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Anglers Eileen Thomas, Barb Gelineak, Stacey Juran, Tiffany Barrett, Christie Blair and Brittany Bowen had an unusual catch during this years Poor Girl's Open. The were fishing on the "Game Changer" with Capt. Kurt Howell and mate Ricky Adkins in 20 fathoms around a lobster pot when they hooked this uncommon tripletail fish



John Foreman caught some exotic fish last week at the Bass Grounds. He found warm 83° water and fished with some smaller gear, reeling in this juvenile moonfish, some baby jacks and a lizard fish. Interestingly he caught moonfish last year as well at the end of August!



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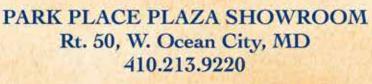


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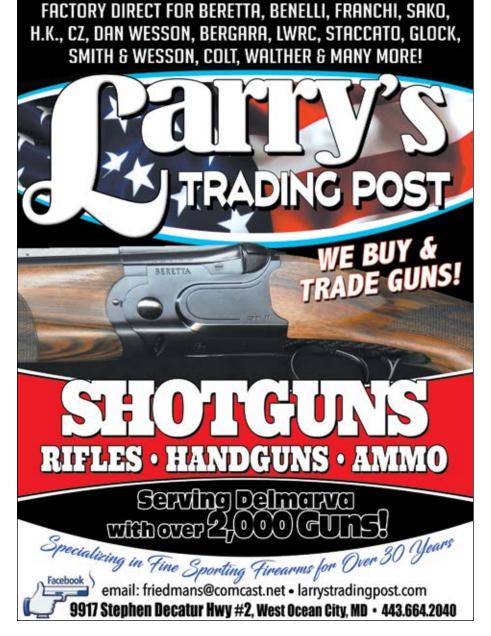
Congratulations to all the boats and crews who fished the Poor Girls Open tournament and the MidAtlantic. These back-toback tournaments are fun but a tough few weeks.

On a daily basis, especially this time of the season, I observe a poor or failing electrical connection of some type. Just today, while troubleshooting a radar power supply, a new glass AGC type fuse was installed into the fuse block and still the circuit did not have power. We cleaned and tightened the fuse block clips and then had some intermittent power that went out when the fuse block was wiggled.

Again, we wire brushed and

cleaned the supply wiring, cleaned the load wiring and finally was able to get electricity to flow through the fuse block consistently. While the fuse block did not look too bad, in reality, it had a buildup of corrosion on the mating surfaces, limiting the ability of the electrical current to flow. The customer says, "It worked last year! What happened?, The boat was on land and I did not even use it."

Keeping electricity flowing on a boat is always a challenge for many reasons, primarily since salt water and electricity seem to attract each other and will not let go. In our coastal area, within miles of the ocean, salt air



causes corrosion on most metal surfaces, let alone our boats' electrical systems – and in this case, the fuse block



behind the helm. How do we combat this corrosion? Spray, wrap, grease, coat, and paint. All of these may be part of a maintenance plan to combat corrosion. A walk down the dock or the isles of a marine store will allow you to see the many products targeted to help reduce corrosion, www.coastalfisherman.net particularly electrical corrosion.

Like talking politics, discussing these products with fellow boaters may be a long and opinionated discussion, popular products include Boeshield T-9, Corrosion Block, CorrosionX, CRC Heavy Duty Corrosion Inhibitor, CRC QD, LPS 1, CRC 6-56, CRC Premium Electronics Grease, Tef-Gel, WD-40 and many more.

While I would like to tell you the best product to use, I cannot... there is no specific product that will do everything for every electrical situation. The above products have their place; you need to determine which is best for your application.

We will review the products and when to use which type of product.

If an existing electrical connection is problematic, in this case a connection is a joint, junction, terminal, plug etc. where electricity is designed to flow or conduct through the connection should be powered off, disconnected, and cleaned. Upon examination you may even find the connection is damaged and needs to be repaired. The best way to clean oxidation, corrosion, and salt etc. is to use a brush; nylon, wire, toothbrush, or even sandpaper or steel





depending on the surface and accessibility. During this cleaning, I do not usually use any chemical spray etc., except an electrical cleaner, checking to be sure it is safe for the surrounding material such as rubber or plastic. A spray electrical cleaner can help flush away and dissolve debris, grease, oil, and dirt and even left over wire brush pieces. Now that you have a clean connection or even a new connection, how can you keep it corrosion free? That is the hard part, especially depending on the type of connector and where it is. Some of the above corrosion fighting products

wool may be a good idea result in a thick film, and some are even leaving a waxy heavy coating meant to coat and seal connections and can even be used on circuit boards to help prevent corrosion. Some of the waxy products though can attract dust, dirt and debris and can drip or weep, so they might not be the best for exterior components.

> Some of these products leave a thin transparent film, good for circuit boards and connectors where a heavy build-up is not desired. Often the heavy sprays are hard to remove when it comes time to handle or work on the parts, so if it is something you use or touch often, a lightweight

thin protection may be the best. Be sure to check the product compatibility with nearby rubber and plastic, some products can quickly degrade these materials.

Another popular product is dielectric grease - a viscous non-conductive waterproof substance used to protect electrical connections from corrosion and dirt. Its use can be controversial since there seems to be some confusion on how and where to use this grease.

Dielectric grease is made from a silicone base and a thickener, it typically has a slightly translucent grayish or milky clear color.

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Silicone is non-conductive (an insulator) of electricity. People often use this product on connections such as plugs and connectors to shield and protect the connection. Though this grease should not be used inside switches or devices where the conductive surfaces transfer electricity, in some applications arcing can occur (inside a battery switch, circuit breaker, relay, switch etc.) and the electrical arcing can result in the creation of silicon carbide, causing the switch to fail. A light film of dielectric grease could be used on gaskets and seals of electrical connectors, but it should be used sparingly or not at all on the actual mating surfaces of electrical connections, since it does not conduct electricity. If you have a bad connection do not apply dielectric grease, it will not improve a bad connection.

Be sure to check with manufacturer's the recommendations on both the corrosion prevention product and the electrical/ electronic product. They often have evaluated these products much more extensively than we have and know what works the best. §



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Robin Goodman from Lancaster, PA found success in the south Ocean City Bay landing these 2 keeper flounder on a Deadly Double rig with Gulp. They were caught on the beginning of the outgoing tide with the largest at 20"

JUST REDUCED, Trailer Included



Capt. Dave Collins on the charter boat "Capt. Ike II" took several 8 hour inshore trips last week before the wind kicked in. Most saw their boat limit or near limit of sea bass. This trip got theirs at a natural bottom near the Delaware Lightship.

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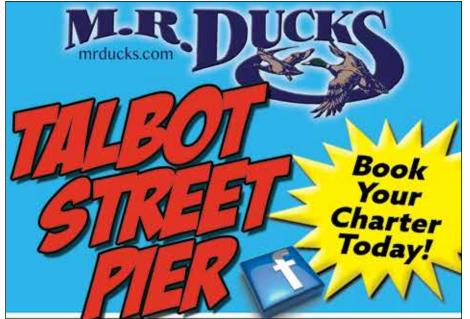
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Capt. Jon Fazekas on the charter boat "Bottom Line" out of Lewes, DE got this group in on the recent mahi action. Caught on the troll, most were peanut dolphin with one gaffer.



The charter boat "Ocean City Girl" took this group from Massachusetts out on one of the calmer days last week. They hooked a white marlin first thing in the morning, but it jumped off. They did however return to the Ocean City Fishing Center with some beautiful golden tilefish.



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#### **Grilled Marlin with Tropical Fruit Salsa**

Ingredients: 4 marlin steaks 4 garlic cloves, minced 4 tablespoons olive oil Juice of 1/2 lime Juice of 1 lime

1 1/2 tbsp. soy sauce 1 green onion, chopped 1/2 mango, chopped 1/4 teaspoon salt 1/2 red peppers or 1/2 green pepper, chopped

1/4 red onion, chopped

1-2 tsp. fresh parsley, minced





#### Directions:

Rub fish with garlic and leave garlic on fish. In pan or large ziploc, combine olive oil, juice of 1/2 lime, soy sauce, and green onion. Add fish and marinate about 1 hour.

In medium bowl, combine juice of 1 lime, mango, onion, salt, sweet pepper, and parsley. Chill while fish is marinating.

Grill marlin over medium heat about 7-8 minutes per side. Top with fruit salsa and serve.

#### **Baked Flounder Nuggets**

Ingredients:

Fish Nuggets:

pound flounder fillets, 1 boneless and skinless

1 teaspoon old bay seasoning

2 eggs beaten

1 tablespoon lemon pepper seasoning

1/2 cup panko bread crumbs Italian seasoned

1/2 cup cornflake crumbs

1 teaspoon garlic powder

 $1/4 \operatorname{cup} \operatorname{flour}$ 

Caper Dill Mayo:

1 dill pickle small

1 teaspoon capers drained

1/4 cup mayonnaise

1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

1/4 teaspoon dried parsley

Directions:

Fish Nuggets:

Preheat oven to 425°F.

Beat eggs and old bay seasoning and place in a small bowl.

In a separate bowl, combine both crumbs, garlic powder, and lemon pepper seasoning.

Dab fish dry with a paper towel and cut into bite sized pieces, about 1 to 2".

Dredge the fish in flour. Dip each nugget in egg and then into the crumb mixture coating



all sides.

Place on a parchment-lined baking sheet sprayed with cooking spray.

Bake 10 minutes. Broil 2 minutes or until lightly browned if desired.

Cook until fish flakes easily. Do not overcook.

Caper Dill Mayo

Using a knife, carefully remove and discard the peeling from the pickle, then mince the soft inner flesh.

Add the capers to the minced pickle, and using a fork, crush them together against the bottom of the bowl.

Add the mayo, garlic powder, and dried parsley to the pickle/ caper mixture and blend well.

Serve with baked fish nuggets.

#### **Baked Triggerfish** with Lemon, Butter & Asparagus

Ingredients:

4 triggerfish fillets

2 lemon thinly sliced

2 cloves garlic minced

2 tbsp lemon juice

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup unsalted butter

4 tbsp parsley roughly chopped

Kosher salt to taste

Black pepper to taste

2 tbsp capers optional

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 325°F.

Line baking tray with aluminum foil. Place triggerish fillets on foil and sprinkle with salt.

www.coastalfisherman.net Heat butter in a small saucepan over medium heat. Melt butter and add lemon juice and black pepper. Whisk to combine.



Coat triggerish fillets in butter mixture. Add lemon slices and capers on top, and tent in foil.

Bake in oven for 10-15 minutes, until fish is flaky.

#### **Blackened Flounder Tacos**

Ingredients:

Tacos:

- 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> pounds flounder fillets
- 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoons smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 12 tortillas
- Slaw:
- 1/2 small red cabbage
- 1/2 small green cabbage
- 1/2 medium sized onion chopped
- 1/2 cup cilantro

Juice of 1 lime



Avocado Cilantro Sauce:

1/2 cup plain greek yogurt

1 ripe avocado pitted and skinned

1/4 cup cilantro

Juice of 1 lime

1 small jalapeno seeded and diced

Salt to taste

Directions:

In a small bowl combine the seasonings for the flounder. Sprinkle the mixture over both sides of the fish, rubbing the spices in on each side.

Combine all the ingredients for the slaw, cover and place in the fridge.

Combine all the ingredients for the avocado cilantro sauce in a food processor. Blend until creamy. Pour into a bowl, cover, and place in the fridge.

In a large non-stick pan, heat 2 tablespoon vegetable oil over medium high heat.

Once the oil is heated, cook the flounder in batches until it's all cooked. Each piece should cook for no more than 5 minutes per side.

Put together your fish tacos by placing assembling as follows: tortilla, fish, slaw, sauce.

#### **One Pan Blackened Mahi** & Roasted Vegetables

Ingredients:

12 ounces mahi thawed and patted dry

12-15 spears broccoli

1 large white sweet potato, about 1 1/2 cups diced \*see note

3 tablespoons avocado oil divided

1 tablespoon butter

1/2 teaspoon salt

Lemon wedges

For the Blackened Seasoning:

1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper

1/2 teaspoon dried thyme

1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika

1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

1/4 teaspoon onion powder

1/2 teaspoon salt

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1/4 teaspoon black pepper Directions: Preheat the oven to 425. Scrub the skin of the sweet 1/2'' pieces, leaving the skin

potato and microwave it until just starting to get tender. About 2 to  $2 \frac{1}{2}$  minutes. When cool enough to handle, dice into



Page 42 Coastal Fisherman August 23, 2023 on. Set aside. potato.

Trim the broccoli into even size pieces. Cut away any large leaves and trim stalks to about 2 inches long. If the stalks are thick, cut them in half down the length so they cook more evenly. Wash if needed and set aside.

Mix the cayenne, thyme, paprika, garlic powder, onion powder, salt and pepper together in a small bowl. Pat the fish fillets dry well with paper towels and sprinkle both sides of the fish evenly with the seasoning.

In a 12-inch cast iron or oven proof skillet, heat 2 tablespoons of avocado oil over medium high 2 to 3 minutes. Add the fish and allow it to sit 2 to 3 minutes on the first side before turning. Cook 1 minute on the second side and move the fish to a plate. It will not be cooked through and that's okay.

Add the butter and remaining tablespoon of avocado oil to the hot pan, reduce heat to medium and add the broccoli and sweet potato. Toss to coat and cook until just starting to pick up some color off the bottom of the pan-about 4 minutes.

Add the fish back into the skillet and transfer it all to the oven. Bake 10 minutes.

To serve, add a bit more butter if desired, and a sprinkle of salt. Squeeze over lemon and serve warm.

Notes:

You can use regular potatoes here if you choose. Just precook them in the microwave until just tender before adding them to the skillet. You can also pre cook your potatoes, leave them whole and store in your fridge to dice for this recipe when you're ready to cook.

#### Marinated Seared Ahi Tuna

Ingredients:

Marinade:

2 Tbsp regular strength soy sauce, or gluten-free tamari sauce



1 Tbsp Asian toasted sesame oil, found in the Asian aisle

2 tsp garlic powder

2 tsp granulated sugar

1 tsp kosher salt

1 tsp freshly cracked black pepper

2 Tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice

Ahi Tuna:

2 1/2 lbs. fresh ahi tuna steaks, about 1 1/2 - 1 2/3 inches thick

3 Tbsp canola or vegetable oil, for searing

Optional: freshly chopped cilantro, green scallions, sesame seeds for garnish.

Optional: Sriracha mayo for drizzling

Directions:

In a bowl, whisk together the

www.coastalfisherman.net first 7 ingredients to make the marinade. Towel dry tuna steaks and place in a glass or ceramic dish. Pour marinade over the fish, turning to coat well throughout. Cover tightly and chill several hours, up to overnight; turn fish over at least once in the middle of marinade time.

Heat 3 Tbsp oil in a large heavy skillet – use aluminum or stainless steel; not nonstick, as it won't sear – until oil is smoking. Sear ahi steaks 1 1/2 minutes per side on high heat, taking care to flip carefully with a flat, steel spatula. (If your tuna is less than 1 1/2 inches thick, sear for only 1 minute per side.)

Transfer fish to a large cutting board and let rest/cool 10 minutes. Use a very sharp knife (serrated works well) to slice thinly across the grain.

Serve chilled or at room temp. Sprinkle with sesame seeds and cilantro or green onions, if desired. Drizzle with Sriracha mayo if desired. §



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It is August and the marlin are here! Capt. Danny Prettyman and crew on the charter boat "Roll Groove" based at Sunset Marina caught and released this white marlin the Sunday after the White Marlin Open outside the Baltimore Canyon. Might have been a contender!



Virtual Elimir THE AQUA CL ommercia

Josh Mercer of South Bethany, DE caught a doormat of a flounder at the Fenwick Shoals. The 8 lb. and 11 oz. fish hit on a 6" Nuclear Chicken Gulp Swimming Mullet and qualifies for a Delaware Citation. Pictured at Fenwick Bait & Tackle.





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Cish of the Year As REPORTED TO THE COASTAL FISHERMAN - MUST BE OF LEGAL LIMIT AND REPORTED WITH PHOTO					
Species	2023	2022	Species	2023	2022
Bluefish	April 19 Dave Moore Assateague Island	April 26 Morgan Mericle South OC Jetty	Thresher Shark		May 20 Mike Eid "HotLine" Fingers
Black Drum	April 3 Jeremy Zinn 145th Street, OC	March 29 Jay Phillips Assateague Island	Bigeye Tuna	May 5 Jeff Rosenkilde "Full Service" Baltimore Canyon	June 12 Richie Widmayer "HotLine" Baltimore Canyon
Cobia	July 4 Gabriella Kendus Faithful Steward	June 11 Numen Bilal Fenwick Island Beach	Bluefin Tuna	May 29 The Crew "Marli" Baltimore Canyon	May 17 Andrew Dietz "Take Em" SE Poor Man's
Summer Flounder	March 27 Dakota Bittner Thorofare	April 3 Scott Lenox Thorofare	Longfin Tuna		June 5 Chad Tingle "Sea Bear" Wilmington Canyon
Sea Bass	May 15 Mike DePalma Sr. Great Eastern Reef	May 15 Jeremy Michalski Jack Spot	Yellowfin Tuna	May 6 Chris Kroh "Kilroy" Poorman's Canyon	May 17 James Haren "Take Em" SE Poor Man's
Sheepshead	May 5 Anthony Carrieri Ocean City Jetty	June 4 Blake Gunther OC Inlet	Dolphin	May 6 Brad Hubbard "Talkin' Trash" Poorman's Canyon	May 29 Adam Davidson "HotLine" East of Poor Man's
Striped Bass	April 15 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	April 20 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	Swordfish	June 16 Crew "Wrecker" Poorman's Canyon	June 4 The Crew "Espadon" Poor Man's Canyon
Tautog	January 31 Josh Schwemiein Ocean Structure	March 27 Michael Guigley Stinky Beach	Blue Marlin	June 1 Steve Sylvester "Talkin' Trash" Norfolk Canyon	June 13 The Crew "Rhonda's Osprey" Poor Man's Canyon
Wahoo	June 9 Josh Short Poorman's Canyon	June 30 Tim McCartney "Chasin Tides" Hot Dog	White Marlin	June 2 Joe Huk "RESTLESS LADY II" Baltimore Canyon	June 6 Kevin Gibb "WRECKER" Baltimore Canyon

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

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Three generations of Rankin anglers fished with Capt. Chris Evans of Millersville PA on the "Sherri Lynn" for the boat's first offshore trip. They made the most of their single hook-up, boating this 57½" wahoo while trolling the lumps near the Massey's Canyon. Art Rankin of Millsboro DE and his son Rich Rankin of Peach Bottom PA with grandson Cole Rankin of Buck, PA caught the fish on a skirted Select ballyhoo from Rick's Bait and Tackle. They experienced several other knockdowns that didn't come tight on the trip.



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I've heard the definition of "fishing" described as; "A long string with a jerk on one end waiting for a jerk on the other end". As a fisherman myself I should probably take exception to that description but, well, I guess we've all been called worse.

When I was a kid I worked at a local marina that had a busy fuel dock. One of our regular customers was a fellow who used to come in with his boat and had lots and lots (and lots!) of money. He was also a fishing fanatic who, because of his financial situation, was able to pursue his passion around the globe. I was always amazed at his stories of giant bluefin tuna in the Bahamas and off Nova Scotia, grander black Marlin off the Great Barrier Reef, white sharks off South Africa, and all the different fish he caught here in Ocean City.

I also remember this fellow as being very patient and quite nice to "this" kid who hung on his every word

and probably pestered him more than I should have in my quest to hear more of his stories and perhaps gain a little insight on how I too could catch fish like that. In retrospect, I guess I should have pestered him more about how to make the kind of money he'd acquired rather than worry about his knowledge of fishing, but that's beside the point.

So with all due respect to someone's warped definition of fishing, I would never consider this fellow as a "jerk" at the end of any line, but I will go so far as to say that he was a "fool" - a "fishing fool" that is because from what I witnessed of his behavior he absolutely could not get enough of it. From my observations there was never a time he wasn't going to, coming from, preparing for, or talking about his latest fishing trip! He was so obsessed with fishing that at the end of a long day offshore he'd fish for spot off the dock while fueling his boat. Not that he needed the spot for bait, he turned them

all loose - he just couldn't stop fishing! Sound like anyone you know? A friend? A family member? You?

My point? Well, here was a guy who, at the time, was a top-dog fisherman by all accounts. He had the time, resources, and ability to fish for anything, anywhere, and anytime he wanted, and although big fish in exotic places were his passion, he still took great joy in something as simple as catching little spot from a dock. And the thing was, he didn't belittle that or any type of fishing, he just liked "fishing" that much.

Maybe the fact that you're reading this paper means that you're infected with a dose of fishing fever yourself. Maybe not as much as some, maybe more than others, but perhaps you know very well what it's like to have your life pushed around by the constant quest to fish for whatever-whenever. Twelve months of the year you're constantly being consumed by thoughts of what's being

www.coastalfisherman.net caught where and what you need to do to get in on that action. Your vacation plans always include some kind of fishing, anytime you're at a gathering of friends or family you will seek out any of them who might also be an angler and probably spend the entire time with them talking about fishing. You probably have a "What's their problem?" attitude towards people you know who choose not to fish. And any day during the fishing season when the weather is nice and the bite is "on", you'll either be fishing or very upset with yourself for not being out there fishing. Fishing, fishing, fishing, it rules our lives!

Since my full time occupation is taking people fishing, and we mostly target pretty big fish, while we're out on the boat I often ask my clients what type of fishing (if any) they do back wherever it is they're from. I shouldn't be surprised anymore, as I've heard it so many times, but I still am a bit stunned when someone will say something like, "Oh yea, we fish all the time back home, but it's nothing like this, we just go for bass, bluegill, and little things like that. It's not real fishing like what you do, we



just fool around down at the river or lake.

When I hear comments like that I immediately think of the rich guy fishing for spot at the fuel dock. I don't think he'd consider catching bass or bluegill in a pond "not real fishing". For those with a real passion for it - fishing is fishing. Sure we might have preferences to fish certain ways and for specific species, but we can still get a charge out of fishing for whatever we have available to us at the time whether that's bluefish or blue marlin.

In a few weeks I'll be heading out to a family gathering in Ohio. It's anything but a fishing destination and certainly not a fishing trip, but there's a lake there and I'm already a bit psyched about doing a little casting into some freshwater for a change! Catfish, carp, sunnies, whatever, a fish is a fish and I'm sure that if I'm hooked up to something with scales and I close my eyes I won't be able to tell much difference between the jerk coming from a fish in a farm pond from a jerk from something here in my hometown waters! Big jerk, little jerk - a jerk is a jerk right?

Anyway, I guess what I'm trying to say here is that no matter how passionate we might be about whatever kind of fishing we like to do best, no one should consider what they do to be any "better" or "worse" than any other fishing option. Whether you're a little kid catching spot from a dock, or big kid catching them from the stern of your million dollar sportfisherman, а fish on the line is a fish on the line, and someone who is really crazy about fishing should be able to sap a little pleasure out of whatever it is that's "jerking" at the other end! §

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Anglers Kinsley Hazel, Ashton Lewis, Katherine Baldino, Christin Scott, Camille Walls and Amy Jo Absher formed team 'Resting Fish Face' to compete in this year's Poor Girl's Open! They were trolling in the Baltimore Canyon on the charter boat "Bill Slayer" with Capt. Chris Ragni and mate Niko Dias releasing a white marlin (Kinsley's first!) and boating 3 mahi.



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Angler Mason Wakefield from Baltimore, MD reported to us one of the last bigeye tuna caught from the early August run. He fishing on the "Genesys" in the Washington Canyon with Capt. Mike Reynolds and fellow anglers PJ Wakefield, Justin Amig, Chuck McCord and Ray Patterson when the 64" and 180 lb. eyeball took a skirted ballyhoo. Pictured at Sunset Marina.





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Capts. Eric Shoaff and Walt Hammond on the headboat "Judith M" found a few nice weather days last week. Anglers found a wide mix of fish including flounder, triggers, sea bass and some toothy cutlass fish, like this big one.





Brad Taylor caught this 50" red drum in the lower Chesapeake Bay using cut kingfish while fishing with "Sea Hawk Sportfishing" out of Pokomoke, MD



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The Outer Wall in the Delaware Bay has been a hot spot recently for sheepshead. Ian Wilson, Jason Wilson and Scott Garlock head out there and had success using sans fleas to catch 2 convicts and a triggerfish. Pictured at Lewes Harbor Marina.



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FISHING GEAR

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Maggie Machulski got into the fishing game with a solid catch! This 23" and 4.3 lb. flounder was the first fish she has ever caught. She was fishing at the Old Grounds on the "Julia Marie" out of the Indian River using a bucktail with Gulp.





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Capt. John Prather of the charter boat "Ocean City Guide Service" had several successful flounder trips recently. This family got 7 keepers wreck fishing just off of Ocean City with the largest at 23". They get extra credit for the 'Googan' hat! Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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(AS REPORTED TO	THE COASTAL FISHER	HAN - TIES GO TO FIR	ST FISH REPORTED. H	OOK & LINE ONLY)	
Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
Bluefish	May 19 Rich Daiker OC Jetty 14.5 lbs.	June 8 Dexter Long Indian River Inlet 12 lbs.	Thresher Shark		
Black Drum	April 4 Tom Berry Assateague 19 lbs.	May 19 Eric Feinauer Delaware Bay 53 lbs.	Bigeye Tuna	August 11 Brian Stewart Washington Canyon 265 lbs.	July 1 Crew "Reel Passion" Washington Canyon 234 lbs.
Cobia	July 8 Nick Smallwood Little Gull 39 lbs.		Bluefin Tuna	May 29 Crew "Marli" Baltimore Canyon 216 lbs.	July 31 Eric Widland 19 Fathom Lump 89 lbs.
Summer Flounder	Capt. Dave Caffrey Reef Structure 8.25 lbs.	June 26 Mlke Lewis Old Grounds 9.6 lbs.	Longfin Tuna		
Sea Bass	May 20 Wayne Small Ocean Structure 5 lbs.	May 22 Richard Krauss Ocean Structure 4.3 lbs.	Yellowfin Tuna	August 9 Ed Quick Poorman's Canyon 162.5 lbs.	July 30 Crew "Fish Whistle" Norfolk Canyon 132 lbs.
Sheepshead	June 24 Rob English Ocean City Jetty 14 lbs.	June 5 Paul Mathews Outer Wall 13.78 lbs.	Dolphin	August 1 Jack Hannum Poorman's Canyon 65 lbs.	
Striped Bass	June 1 Buddy Martin Rt. 50 Bridge 12 lbs.	May 22 Chic Stearrett Bethany Beach 18.7 lbs.	Swordfish	June 16 Crew "Wrecker" Poor Man's Canyon 100 lbs.	
Tautog		May 6 James Milano Ocean Structure 22.9 lbs.	Blue Marlin	August 11 John Ols Poor Man's Canyon 640.5 lbs.	
Wahoo	August 8 John Harris Dump Site 57 lbs.		White Marlin		

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

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Capt. Eric Shoaff had an interesting trip last Thursday on the headboat "Judith M" out of the Bahia Marina. He reported they headed out about 25 miles and fished a wreck 75′ down. Prior to this trip, anglers had to deal with a lot of shorts, on this trip the bite was slow but the quality was good. Some knotheads were up to 17″ like this big one.

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The Brown Boys and Walt Gazdzik from Ocean View, DE with Lee Pridie from Boyertown, PA could not find a tuna to save their lives in the Baltimore Canyon on this trip, so they switched it up. They ended the day with a cooler full of mahi and some tilefish, including this golden for Lee.

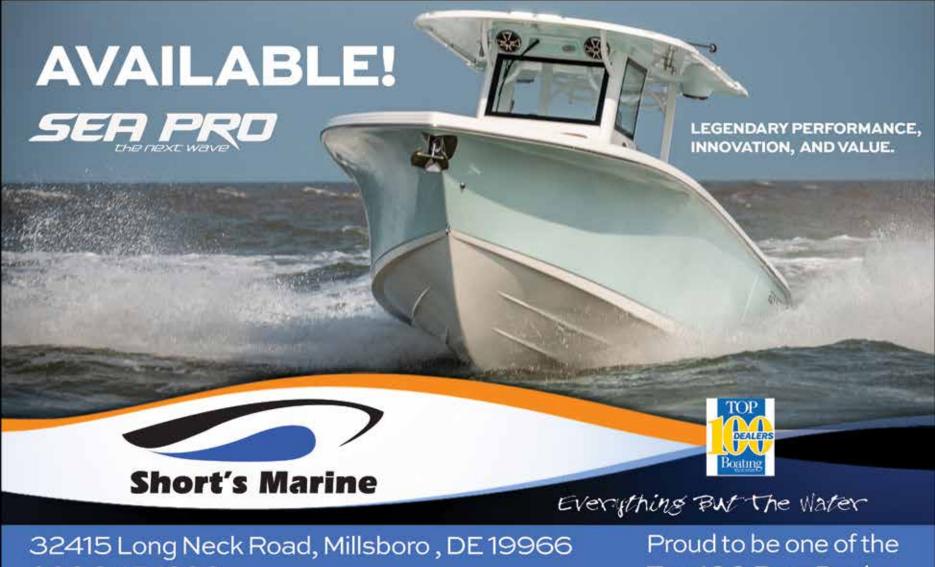


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Andy Wisk and friends had a solid day fishing with Capt. Chris Ragni on the charter boat "Bill Slayer"! They wanted to put some meat on the deck and that is what they did. Starting in the Poor Man's Canyon they got started targeting mahi. Even though the bite was slow they managed over a dozen including a few gaffers. Mate Niko Dias also remarked the tile fishing was excellent with a mix of goldens and blueline in a short amount of time.



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While there are many winners during the Annual Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open, the real winner is the fight against cancer. Every year part of the proceeds are donated to the American Cancer Society (ACS) as is a substantial contribution from the Harman Family. This year Shawn Harman was recognized by the ACS with the Making Strides Against Cancer, Spirit of Strides Award. He is pictured here with Sue Carpenter, Susan Braniecki, Judy Schoellkoef and Mary Bells and this year's donation of \$115,000.



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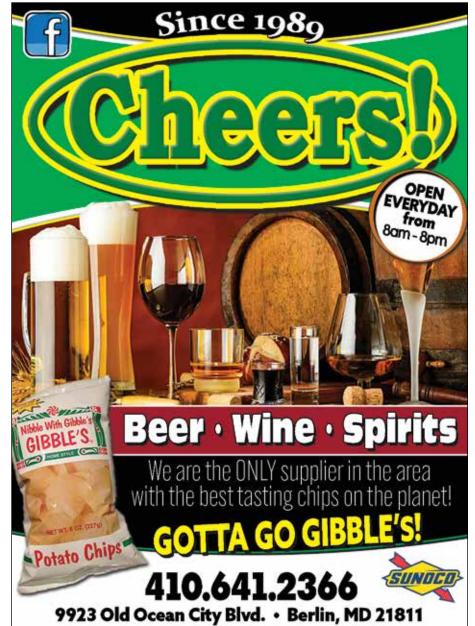
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Anglers Signe Pringle, Jen Mergenthaker, Kate Dorsey and Christina Als on the "Buckshot" were one of only a few boats to release more than 2 billfish during the Annual Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open. They had spent the day in the Baltimore Canyon with Capt. Gary Stamm and mates Kyle Pelino & Jon Henry where they went 2 for 2 on white marlin and 1 for 1 on blue marlin to secure 2nd Place in the Billfish Release Division earning a prize of \$22,761.



Anglers Ashlyn Marchesani, Jessica Braendel, Corinne Lew, and Krissy Kogok on the "Too Many Martinis" sure did make tuna fishing look fun during the Annual Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open! They were fishing offshore of the Poor Man's Canyon in deep water with Capt. Chris Marchesani and mate Austin Rowe when they caught these two 68.5 & 55.5 lb. yellowfins on day 1 taking 1st and 2nd Place in the category for the day. They had some challengers, but their 68.5 pounder held on to 1st Place earning the team \$9,787 in awards.



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With no minimum for mahi set during the Annual Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open, some pretty small dolphin hit the leaderboard early on. They were however destroyed by the 24.2 lb. mahi caught by this crew on the "Southern C's". Capt. Travis Ralph had anglers Heather Melton, Heather McVicker, Beth Evans Truitt and Holly Baker Wingate in the Baltimore Canyon with mates Eddi Twyford and James McDougall working the pit. For the day they released 2 white marlin and caught 3 dolphin. Two of those took 1st and 3rd Place in the Category earning a combined \$13,702 in awards.



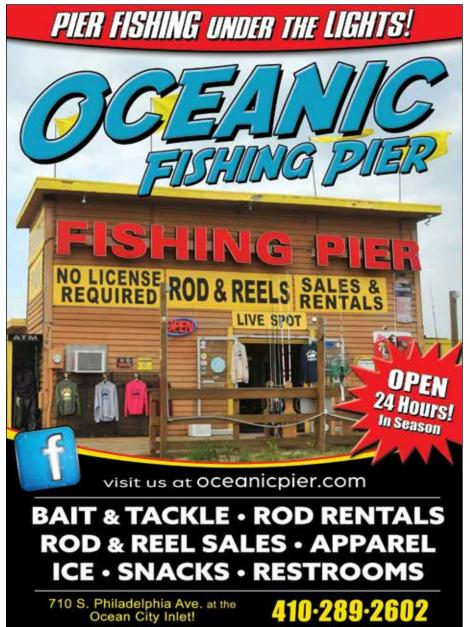
It looks like the ladies from the "Christine Marie" had been sworn in to Protect the Tata's during the Annual Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open! Anglers Lisa Lenderman, Lisa Caldwell, Kristi Palermo, Chrissy Summers, Lynette Catha and Haley Summers with Capt. Brian Behe and mates Parker Marshall & Jimmy Hakill slipped into the scales after a day in the Baltimore Canyon. They went 1 for 3 on white marlin and 1 for 1 on a blue marlin. Based on time caught, that earned them 3rd Place in the Release Category and \$15,174 in award monies.

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	MD	DE **	VA		MD	DE **	MD
Atlantic Spadefish	24"		8 lbs. or 22"	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"	35 lbs.
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	80 lbs. or 46"	Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"	30"
Black Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	5 lbs.	White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"	16 lbs. or 36"	SHARK:			
Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size	Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72″
Cobia	44″	45 Lbs. or 48"	55 lbs. or 50"	Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72″
Croaker	18″	3 lbs. or 19"	3 lbs. or 20"	Thresher*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Dolphin	45″	15 lbs. or 41"	25 lbs.	Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Flounder	24″	7 lbs. or 25"	6 lbs. or 26"	Swordfish	47"	Any Size	100 lbs.
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	30 lbs.		14248		6.239.40767.2
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14″	1 lb. or 13"	1.5 lb. or 16"				
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	20 lbs.	TUNA:			
Red Drum*	36"	45″	· •	Longfin Albacore	e 36"	30 lb. or 32"	40 lbs.
Sailfish*	Any Size	i i	- <u>-</u> -	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"	32″
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	10 lbs. or 24"	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	4 lbs. or 26"	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"	100 lbs. or 60"
Speckled Trout	24″		5 lbs. or 24"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Striped Bass	40"	44"	44"	* Only released fish	are eligible i	in Maryland progra	m
Tautog	24″	7 lbs. or 25"	9 lbs. or 23″	* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program ** DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release *** Use curved-fork-length measurements eregulations.com			



The squad on the "Mikks'n It Up" moved up the leaderboard this year during the Annual Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open. After winning 3rd Place in the Wahoo Category last year, they slammed into 1st Place this year with a 56.6 lb. speedster that Alexa Mikk caught at the NE corner of the Hot Dog earning \$10,368 in prize money. She was supported by Capt. Darrin Mikk with mates Steven & Kevin Mikk and fellow anglers Michele Mikk, Hanna Robinson, Julie Voorhees, Sherry Tate and Debbie Fowbie.





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Only one Junior Angler reported a billfish release during the Annual Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open. That lucky girl was 16 year old Anna Deckelman! She was fishing on the "All In" with Capt. Dave Midgett and mate Zane Rutt near the Rockpile where she released a white marlin earning her the Junior Angler Award and a \$1,000 prize that she donated back to the tournament for cancer research! Completing the team were Jamie Bowman, Meagan Logue, Jessica Adams and Kelly Reillo.



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Wahoo were definitely in play during the Annual Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open! The first speedster to the scale came from the crew of the "Jacked Up". Anglers Jamie Arcos, Annette Metcalfe, Heather Metcalfe, Sandy Cohn, Megan Groff and Mindy Leidig were fishing for wahoo north of the Hot Dog with Capt. Dean Metcalfe and mate Jeff Landis. Mindy caught the 51.8 lbs. fish that held 1st place at the end of day 1, however slipping to 2nd overall earning \$6,912. The crew also caught a 22 lb. false albacore, only 8 oz. off the Maryland State Record.



Part of the fun and festivities of the Annual Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open is a Best Dressed Contest for the anglers. Teams put together outfits and they are voted on by the crowds at the event. This year's top spot went to team 'Hakuna Ma Tatas' on the "All In" with their underseas theme.



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The end of summer is on the horizon and our thoughts are drawn to school bells and the end of vacations. But for some of us the approach of the change of seasons is the focus of our angling aspirations.

The best news from this week has been the start of the red drum spawn. This happens every year during the last half of August from the 72a buoy, to the target ships, to the cell reef in the lower Chesapeake. We have been concentrating on the lower Chesapeake from 42a up to the areas of Pungoteague Creek. An assortment of cut and live baits of kingfish, spot and hardhead (croaker) fished on a 8/0 circle hook with a fishfinder has rung the dinner bell for some giant, citation sized channel bass. The activity spikes near sunset as the Lord paints a backdrop that lets us know that heaven is indeed real. You can catch bait right in the same areas on small T&B rigs tipped with bloodworm. Bottom structure like shoals and sloughs in the 18-30 foot range seem to be the desired setting for a spot tailed battle that will certainly get the adrenaline pumping. Along with the reds we've had a helping of cobia as we wade through the endless tide of blues and sharks. Be ready anytime you crank a ray to the boat because he may have the man in the brown suit in tow.

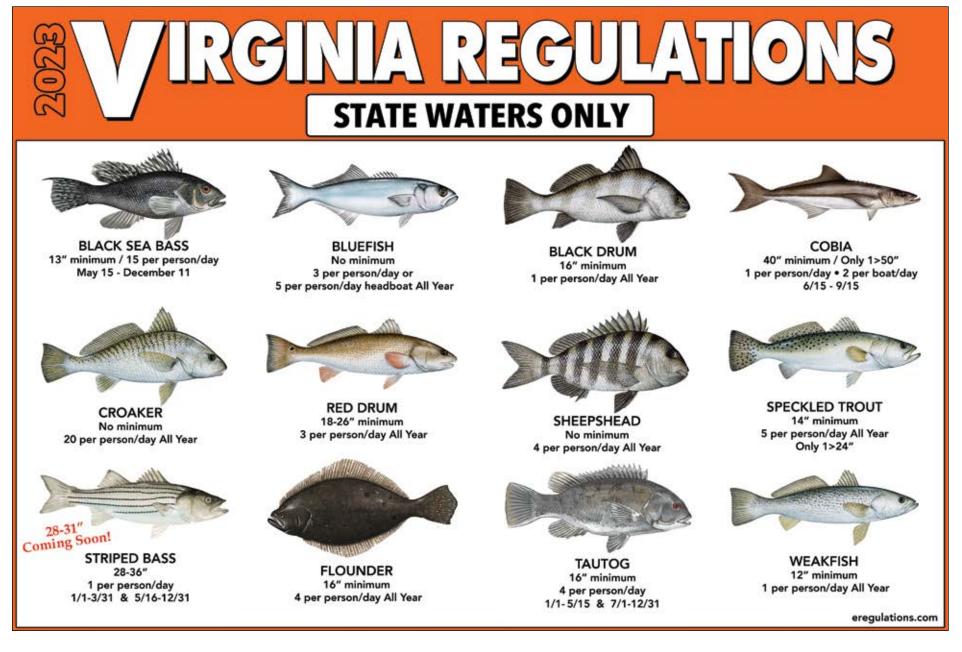
The Chesapeake has also given us a array of other options as well. Spanish mackerel and blues have been pulled from the water and put on the table with trolled spoons ( Clark, Drone, Spanky's) towed behind planers from puppy hole all the way down to the CBBT. Sheepshead still hold the title for most sought after bottom dweller and continue to lurk around the reefs of the lower bay. Capt. Ray Johns of Crisfield Charters had a great week catching striped brawlers, which gave big nonsheepish grins to his clients who were doing the cranking.

The Atlantic has continued to offer decent offshore fishing for tuna and mahi. The fish have been taken by way of trolling as well as chunking butters and squid. Flounder have been jigged up off our near shore reefs , like the blackfish banks site on 2 oz. Spro's with Gulp or strips of cut bait. Triggers and spades have offered great pullage on shallower wrecks on suspended chunks of clam below slip bobbers.

The inshore seaside report is still dominated by clear water flounder that seem to be most active on the last of the flood.

www.coastalfisherman.net Double teaser rigs in white, chartreuse, pink, and orange have helped load the box with delicious delicacies. Gulp and a silverside or minnow seal the deal. There has also been a few small croakers around Chincoteague near queen sound. Small hook's tipped with bloodworm or squid on bottom rigs will put a smile on any croaker cranking kid. The surf also has provided good panfish action with spot and kingfish being pulled through the suds.

This week I had the opportunity take several charters to which included firefighters, law enforcement, medical professionals and community service professionals. Every one of these awesome folks help make our little spit of land the greatest in the world. The lord blessed us with a bunch a big reds, a few cobia, and most of all great times that will stay with us as memories forever. It's truly amazing to see the happiness that a screaming red can bring to a person that has spent their life making this the most wonderful place we call home! §





Paul & Tracy Schur made a run down south to fish for some big drum. They headed out with our Virginia Fishing Report writer Matt Abell on his "Sea Hawk Sportfishing" and caught this big red in the lower Chesapeake Bay using cut spot.



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Another successful night on the Rt. 50 Bridge for Shaun Flaherty. As usual he was targeting stripers with a Roy Rig. This one was 34" and released!

## O DEAN CITY INUET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. AUGUST 23	High 12:38 am High 01:19 pm	Low 06:43 am Low 07:39 pm
THUR. AUGUST 24 1st Quarter Moon	High 01:24 am High 02:19 pm	Low 07:32 am Low 08:39 pm
FRI. AUGUST 25	High 02:22 am High 03:27 pm	Low 08:27 am Low 09:44 pm
SAT. AUGUST 26	High 03:28 am High 04:36 pm	Low 09:27 am Low 10:51 pm
SUN. AUGUST 27	High 04:34 am High 05:39 pm	Low 10:33 am Low 11:53 pm
MON. AUGUST 28	High 05:38 am High 06:37 pm	Low 11:39 am Low
TUE. AUGUST 29	High 06:38 am High 07:32 pm	Low 12:49 am Low 12:41 pm
WED. AUGUST 30 Full Moon	High 07:38 am High 08:25 pm	Low 01:39 am Low 01:38 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.



Wow that's a lot of dolphin! This crew on the charter boat "Foolish Pleasure" based at the Bahia Marina headed out with Capt. Dale Lisi and did some damage boating 29 peanut mahi.



While Charles Corrar may have caught flounder before, none of them were Delaware Citation sized until this one! He caught this 7.4 lb. flatfish offshore at an ocean structure. Check out DE, MD & VA citation regs in our paper to see if yours qualifies. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.

Makes no difference if your catch is big or small, it's <u>ALWAYS</u> a big deal when you make it a Cover Print!

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