

# COASTAL FISHERMAN

Priceless

www.coastalfisherman.net



VOLUME 47 • • • NUMBER 3 • • • MAY 18, 2022

It was a bachelor party in the fog for Owen Diehl last Saturday! He and fellow Chambersburg, PA anglers Kyle Diehl, Peter Rotz, Brian Wingert and Wesley Bittinger went out with Capt. John Prather on the charter boat "Ocean City Guide Service" and caught these 7 keeper flounder near the old Castaway's, now Sun Outdoors Ocean City RV & Camping Park in the south bay. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.





Dan McGeady shared this nice tog he caught back in March! Note the nice weather and he is wearing just a sweatshirt, so much difference than our May weather. This blackfish tips the scales at 15 lbs and was caught using white crab while Dan was fishing on the "No Limit" with Capt. Jon Azato out of the Indian River Marina.

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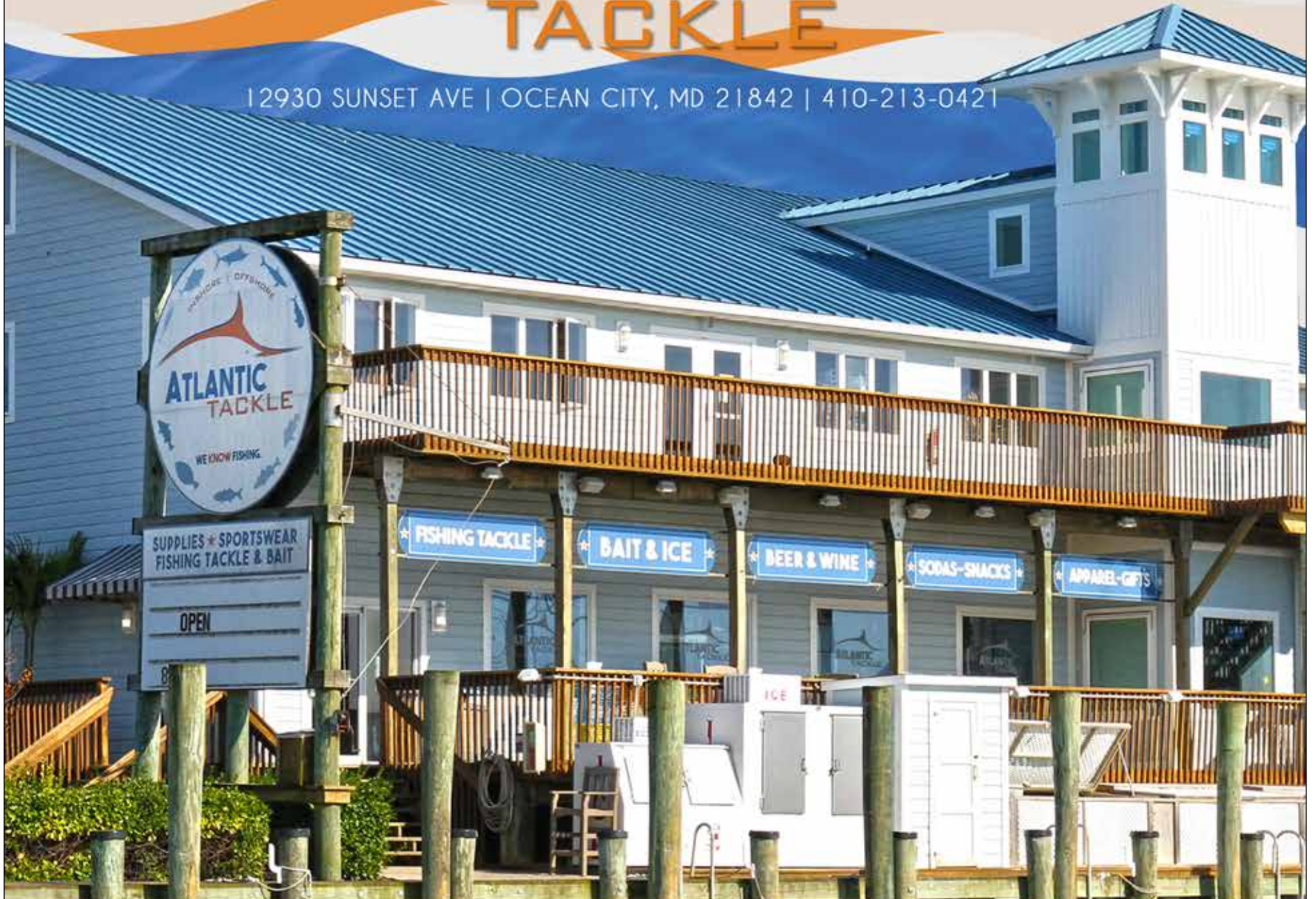


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Ocean City local and avid fisherman Dean Miller wandered down to New Smyrna Beach, FL to ply his skills! The weather however kept them inshore, but they were able to score this red drum using live spot. Dean seems pretty happy with the catch!

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Capt. Bruce of "Bad Wind" charter and lures fished the surf on May 8th just before the storms blew in. He fooled this big striper with one of his own Bad Wind rigs which are available at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.



Dagsboro, DE native and Millville, DE based Banks Wines & Spirits co-owner Kami Banks Kane sauntered down to the Grand Cayman islands in the Caribbean and caught this barracuda fishing on the "Get Bent"! Banks is also a pickup location for the Coastal Fisherman!

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**OCEAN CITY INLET**  
**TIDES & MOON PHASES**

<b>WED. MAY 18</b>	High 10:16 am High 10:57 pm	Low 04:16 am Low 04:03 pm
<b>THUR. MAY 19</b>	High 11:11 am High 11:55 pm	Low 05:13 am Low 04:59 pm
<b>FRI. MAY 20</b>	High ----- High 12:10 pm	Low 06:13 am Low 06:01 pm
<b>SAT. MAY 21</b>	High 12:57 am High 01:17 pm	Low 07:15 am Low 07:08 pm
<b>SUN. MAY 22</b> Third Qtr. Moon	High 02:05 am High 02:32 pm	Low 08:16 am Low 08:17 pm
<b>MON. MAY 23</b>	High 03:15 am High 03:48 pm	Low 09:13 am Low 09:26 pm
<b>TUE. MAY 24</b>	High 04:18 am High 04:53 pm	Low 10:08 am Low 10:32 pm
<b>WED. MAY 25</b>	High 05:11 am High 05:47 pm	Low 10:59 am Low 11:34 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.*





The tuna are out there, just where?

Captains fishing for sea bass this past weekend reported water in the mid 50°s in the Poor Man's Canyon in 500 to 600 fathoms. Capt. Willie Zimmerman on the "Ro Sham Bo" shared that he sees some warm water pushing in behind the Poor Man's and is planning a trip this Wednesday to try his luck. That may be a 100 mile trip, so we wish him good luck! Capt. Mark Malamphy on the "Finatic" feels the water is right for sharking and is planning an overnight trip on May 21/22 targeting threshers and mako's prior to the latter's ban being implemented in the U.S. from the ICCAT agreements earlier this year.

So again we wait to see what Mother Nature has in store for us and man-made conundrums of course, like fuel prices. Be safe and let us know your plans for the canyons this season! §

**Upcoming Tournaments**

- The Lewes Harbour Marina hosts the Joe Morris Memorial Flounder Tournament to benefit the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. This one day event on May 20th is focused on fishing in the Lewes Harbor. Details at LewesHarborMarina.com.

-Old Inlet Bait & Tackle hosts their Cast for a Cure Team Surf Fishing Tournament on May 21st to benefit the Tunnell Cancer Center Special Needs Fund. More at OldInlet.com.

- The first offshore tournament of the season is the 13th Annual Frankie Pettolina Memorial Day Tournament. This two day event is May 28th & 29th. Details at OCMarlinClub.com.

**This Week Last Year**

- Offshore waters remained cold. Despite a bluefin tuna catch the week before, no tunas were reported this week. Several sharks were released including a large female mako from the "Ro Sham Bo" and a dusky from the "Finatic".
- The inshore bite was very strong, especially for flounder.
- Opening day for sea bass was on a Saturday with good weather resulting in a crazy day with loads of fish hitting the docks.
- Several black drums over 60 pounds were caught off of Assateague Island including a 78 lb. fish caught by Greg Forenschak on the Virginia side.

The obvious news for the past week was the weather. I wish I could say that a spring nor'easter that sits on the coast for days is unprecedented, but it sadly is not. It was almost 60 years to the date since the big Ash Wednesday storm of 1962. That early March Nor'easter sat on the coast for days as well and was also associated with a full moon cycle making the tides even higher. The record tide for that event was 9 ½ feet, two feet higher than the 1933 storm that carved the Ocean City Inlet! Fortunately for us, much has advanced since then in beach management and replenishment, otherwise this storm could have been a repeat of the '62 one that caused \$200 million in damage or almost \$2 billion in today's dollars.

For all the energy and erosion that this storm brought, inshore fishing returned quite fast. We can assume the fish were hungry! Anglers got out on the inlets, bridges, bays and beaches as soon as last Thursday and found spots of clear water for good flounder action as well as an abundance of bluefish in the surf. Rockfish were also in the suds with some nice keepers and trophy size releases as were a few remaining black drum. Nearshore, the final days of the tog season saw good action. Despite the fog on Sunday limiting the number of boats heading out for opening day of the sea bass season, those that did get out reported good fishing. Many reported getting their limits of the knotheads with not having to deal with a lot of throwbacks, even with the new 13" minimum in DE, MD and VA. With the weather looking fair over the next week we expect even more from inshore.

The story in the canyons however painted a different picture. It is unclear if the storms pushed the warm water we saw coming north a few weeks ago back south, but it is clear that the water offshore is cold. We also consider what is going on in the Carolina's Outer Banks for insights and precursors for our conditions. As of late they are not seeing bluefin or bigeye tunas in their fishery but are experiencing a better than normal mahi catch.





The Mother's Day Nor'Easter of 2022 will be one for the record books. Like the big one in March of 1962, this storm languished on the coast for almost 5 days causing serious beach erosion especially in Delaware. Coastal Fisherman mascot Marlin ponders the damage to the dune in South Bethany, DE.

## PICK UP YOUR COASTAL FISHERMAN AT THESE LOCATIONS

### OCEAN CITY

Talbot Street Pier  
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 Reel Inn - 17th St.  
 Bahia Marina - 22nd St.  
 Minit Market - 31st St.  
 Anthony's Beer, Wine & Deli - 33rd St.  
 Dough Roller - 41st St.  
 64th Street Market - 64th St.  
 Advanced Marina - 66th St.  
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 Rommel's Ace Hardware - 68th St.  
 Dough Roller - 69th St.  
 Exxon Wine Rack - 86th St.  
 Acme - 92nd St.  
 Liquid Assets - 94th St.  
 7-11 - 119th St.  
 Wawa - 120th St.  
 Montego Bay Market - 130th St.  
 Primos Hoagies - 134 St.  
 7-Eleven - 139th St.

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### WEST OCEAN CITY

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 Sunset Grille  
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 Pure Lure Fishing Gear  
 Harbor Marine  
 Food Lion - Rt. 611  
 Optical Galleria - Rt. 611  
 Southside Deli - Rt. 611

### BERLIN

Frontier Town - Country Store Rt. 611  
 Cheers - Berlin  
 Food Lion - Berlin  
 Crabs To Go - Rt. 50  
 Walmart - Rt. 50 (both entrances)  
 Food Lion - Ocean Pines

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 North Bay Marina  
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 Rt.113 Boat Sales

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Lewes Harbour Marina - Lewes  
 Lewes Ice House Bait & Tackle - Rehoboth  
 ACME - Rt. 1 Rehoboth  
 Fisherman's Wharf - Lewes  
 Wawa - Rehoboth (near Fresh Market)  
 Wawa - Rehoboth (Northside near Walmart)

### BETHANY, OCEAN VIEW & MILLVILLE

Hook 'em & Cook 'em Outfitters - Rt.1  
 G&E Supermarket  
 G&E Hardware - Cedar Neck Rd.  
 Hocker's Deli - Rt. 26  
 Gull's Way Campground  
 Tuckahoe Campground  
 Hocker's Supermarket - Rt. 26  
 Wawa - Rt. 26  
 Bethany Auto & Marine - Rt. 26  
 Downtown Bethany by Bandstand  
 Bob's Marine

### LONG NECK

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Ocean City local Tracey Heltziner is a former cover girl from the Coastal Fisherman for her fishing with Capt. Chris Mizurak on the headboat "Angler"! She and her partner in crime Dean Miller took a road trip to New Smyrna Beach, FL to try their luck down south. The offshore weather did not cooperate there either, but they were able to get some inshore action catching red drum using live spot.

FACTORY DIRECT for Beretta, Benelli, Franchi, Sako, H.K., CZ, Dan Wesson, Bergara, LWRC, STI, Glock, Smith & Wesson, Colt, Walther & Many More!

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The surf off of Assateague Island was one of the places to be after the storm blew through! Scott Phillips (right) snagged some nice bluefish on the Maryland side last Friday and CJ Poorbaugh (left) landed this striper from the Virginia side on Sunday.

A promotional poster for the PBR Challenger Series. At the top center is a black silhouette of a bull with long horns, with the text "Bull on the Beach" in a stylized font. Below this is a large, stylized logo for "PBR CHALLENGER SERIES". The logo consists of a red triangle with "PBR" in white, a blue banner with "CHALLENGER" in white, and a smaller red triangle with "SERIES" in white. Below the logo are two cowboys in traditional attire. The cowboy on the left is wearing a brown hat and a blue denim shirt with a white vest. The cowboy on the right is wearing a black hat and a blue denim shirt with a black vest. In the foreground, two large, realistic-looking bulls are shown, one on the left and one on the right. At the bottom center, the text reads "JUNE 3, 4 &amp; 5TH Ocean City, MD". Below that, it says "More information and Tickets at TICKETMASTER.COM".





Mike Andrews from Dover, DE joined Rich King and Ralph Rispoli for some surf fishing at the Cape Henlopen State Park last Saturday. They hooked up some nice bluefish in the fog!



Friday the 13th was a lucky charm for Nate Spencer of Laurel, DE last week! He was trying out his new Century Weapon Jr. rod with a Shimano Stella reel in the Lewes Canal when he tricked this 21" flounder.

# 2022 MARYLAND & DELAWARE CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES

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

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





Tog season wrapped up last Sunday until July 1st. Some lucky anglers got out before the blow to get the last few fish of the spring season. James Peterson reeled in this 16+ lb. female while fishing with Capt. Kane Bounds on the charter boat "Fish Bound" out of the Talbot Street Pier. She was spawning so back in the drink she went!

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# OCEAN CITY

## FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Well, as we know, this past week was not the week to be anywhere near the beaches of Ocean City or any town along the eastern seaboard. Massive storms struck the coast with a vengeance. Springfest was once again canceled due to high winds and flooded roads. The Ocean City Inlet resembled a washing machine for most of last week instead of its normal calm! This made many, if not most anglers sit on their couches tending to rods or watching TV instead of fishing. A few reports of anglers braving the weather did come in but very few of those had anything to report. Victor Bunting, owner of the Ocean Princess, told me he was doing rod maintenance preparation for the opening of sea bass season on the 15 of May.

### Sea Bass, Tog & Flounder

Flounder season was off to a good start prior to the storm's arrival with more fish being caught every day. The deeper main channels along the Thorofare were the most productive, with the area behind Assateague Island being a close second. Clean squid strips with a frozen shiner or minnow was the preferred bait. The water is still very cold for this time of the year so the bites have been very

subtle. The fish will grab the baits loosely in their mouths but not aggressively taking the bait as in the summertime. Using a 3 count when a bite is felt or a slight drop back was the best working method. Gulp baits have been working okay but using a scented spray or juice on them made their effectiveness close to that of squid. In the spring a longer leader, or dropping back to a lighter leader will increase your chance of fooling these early season fish. The key here is to make sure your drag is set for the line you're using. If you are using a 20 lb. mono leader, then your drag should be set to about 4-5 lbs. of drag. Most anglers would not think of going to a 10 lb. leader for flounder, but my question is, how many 10 lb. flounder have you caught? Even at a drag setting of 3-4 for a 10 lb. leader the fish doesn't have anywhere to go. It will not spool your reel, so take your time, leave the drag alone and you will bring that fish in. The lighter leader will also get you about double the bites than a traditional heavy leader. Sea bass season opened this week as tog is set to close. For sea bass a simple top and bottom rig works the best for getting numbers of fish, while a jig or bucktail will be targeted by the larger

fish. The opening day for sea bass is widely anticipated and numerous boats will be out the first few weeks. Targeting the lone or deeper wrecks will often allow you to be less crowded and have a better chance of scoring some nice fish. The African Queen site as well as the Bass Grounds are two of the more popular spots and should be avoided due to overcrowding. The Jack Spot and Great Eastern reef are usually fantastic spots, but fuel prices at the docks will cost quite a bit more to run there. These spots are approximately 30 miles outside of Ocean City. Fresh clam is always the preferred bait with salted clam and squid being second. Sand fleas and fish bites are used by many who don't want the mess of squid or clam all over their boat. As I stated earlier, jigs are very popular this time of year for targeting the bigger trophy fish. As with all fishing the lightest jig or weight you can use will always work the best. Depending on the water current you can get away with jigs as light as 4 ozs. If the current is drifting you too fast and the lure is not reaching the bottom, then a weight of up to 10 ozs. may be necessary. Once the lure makes contact with the wreck start jiggling it up while reeling

to about 20 ft. off the wreck and then drop back down and repeat the cycle. You will mainly be targeting these fish on wrecks and rubble piles, such as cable piles, and should expect to get hung up. Releasing the tension as the snag is felt and softly bouncing the rod tip will quite often dislodge the hook from the wreck. This is unless you're fishing a cable pile, in which case you will probably be tying a new rig on! Despite the risk to your lure, cable piles like those on the African Queen can be fantastic structures for holding sea bass.

### Rockfish, Bluefish & Black Drum

Rockfish had really begun to pick up prior to the storm with many over slot and trophy sized fish coming on to the beach and boats. Chuck Stevenson had a great day this past week on Assateague beach pulling in two 38" and 39" stripers. The fish were caught on sand fleas and Fish Gum. The reports from the island beach saw most fish were being caught on the southern end near the Virginia line. The basic rig for surf fishing for these large rockfish as well as black drum are a nice long leader of mono or fluorocarbon with a 7/0 or 8/0 circle hook attached at the end. A sliding sinker rig is used where the small swivel attaches the main line and leader. This sliding sinker allows the fish to take the bait without feeling the weight and line. As the fish swims off with the bait all you



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have to do is engage the reel and hold on. The preferred bait for both of these fish is either large surf clams or crab. The clam or crab is secured onto the hook using sewing thread or rubber bands.

### Crabs & Clams

Clamming is still very slow. With the colder water the clams are very deep and not easy to rake up. As the water warms over the next couple of weeks we should see the clams return closer to the surface. Crabbing this week was a bust with most anglers pulling their pots prior to the storm. Still, Bob Brown reported that he caught several jumbos in his pots this week. Tommy Fowler of West OC reports he had a nice pot pull this past week despite the weather. Crab numbers for Maryland are around 6-8 keepers per pot with at least half being jumbos over 7.5".

Until hopefully calmer seas next week...

Tight lines and fins up



Another foggy but successful opening day for sea bass with Capt. Monty Hawkins and his anglers on the headboat "Morning Star" coming back to the dock with their boat limit. They even got a tog that hit on a flounder bait!

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Saturday saw pretty constant action at the Cape Henlopen State Park. Anglers were finding keeper bluefish from the pier and the adjacent beach. Several people got their limits with most fish 20 to 24 inches hitting on spoons and finger mullet.



Mason Halsey scored this 42" trophy rockfish on the first day of the Chesapeake Bay Trophy Rockfish season May 1st! He was fishing on the "Party of Six" with father Mike Halsey from Chesapeake Medical Systems using a white bucktail off of Bloody Point.

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Dominick Giuliano from Lutherville, MD caught this nice tog near Martha's Landing using green crab with Capt. Jason Mumford on the "Lucky Break".

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Despite the rainy weather this large group of lady anglers met at the Lewes Harbor Marina for a Women's Fishing Seminar last Saturday. Featured speakers included Pam Taylor from the Tuna & Tiara's Tournament, Capt. Jamar Mar Campbell with "Jay Sea II" Sportfishing, Capt. Chris Ragni from the "Billslayer" and Niki & Bob from Hook Optics. The anglers reviewed safety protocols, rigging tactics, fishing techniques, discussed rods and reels and learned more info on the growing number of tournaments focusing on women anglers.

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# FACTS ABOUT... SEA BASS

## WHAT DO BLACK SEA BASS LOOK LIKE?

As their name suggests, sea bass are black in color, but can also have a gray body. During spawning season, the dominant male-sea-bass develop a hump on their head and have vibrant-blue color shades. Sea bass have stout-bodies, flat-heads, pointed-snouts, and large-mouths. Juvenile sea bass are brown in color and have a horizontal-stripe running along their body.

## WHERE DO BLACK SEA BASS LIVE?

Adult black sea bass can be found in the Atlantic Ocean, from the Gulf of Maine to the Florida Keys. Many sea bass swim in small schools and migrate north to spend the summer months in New England waters. Locally on Cape Cod, there are large populations at Vineyard and Nantucket Sounds, Buzzards Bay, and the Elizabeth Islands. In recent years, black sea bass have pushed north into the Gulf of Maine as the ocean temperatures have increased. Younger-sea-bass tend to live in backwaters or estuaries to feed and avoid being eaten by predators. Since sea bass occupy much of the same habitat as striped bass, they are often caught accidentally. Sea bass spend their days around wrecks, piers, jetties, shoals, reefs, and rockpiles.

## WHAT DO BLACK SEA BASS EAT?

Even though sea bass do not have big, sharp, and pointy-teeth to crush their food like other predatory fish, they do have small and harmless teeth. Adult sea bass are aggressive bottom feeders and are not picky; their menu consists of a wide variety of crustaceans, fishes, mollusks, and worms.

## HOW BIG DO BLACK SEA BASS GROW TO?

Some adult black sea bass grow up to 2-feet in length and 9-pounds in weight. However, most do not grow over 4-pounds.

## WHAT DO BLACK SEA BASS TASTE LIKE?

Even though their filets are on the smaller side, many people consider sea bass to be the best eating northeast inshore fish. Their meat is tender, translucent, breaks into small flakes, and is mild in flavor. Sea bass are not an oily fish and they can be cooked in a variety of ways. However, they can be tedious to fillet because of their rib cage bones.

## WHAT IS THE SCIENTIFIC NAME FOR BLACK SEA BASS?

The scientific name for black sea bass is *centropomus striata*. They're members of the Serranidae family, which also includes grouper, the often-solitary, structure-loving reef fishes of temperate and tropical waters.

## WHY DO BLACK SEA BASS CHANGE SEXES?

All sea bass are born females, but when they become 2-to-5 years old, and 9-to-13 inches in length, some change sexes, and become males. It is unclear why the sex change occurs, but there is some scientific research suggesting the lack of males in a local spawning group may be the cause. The change happens during the fall and winter after sea bass finish spawning.

## WHY DO SEA BASS MAKE A GRUNTING NOISE?

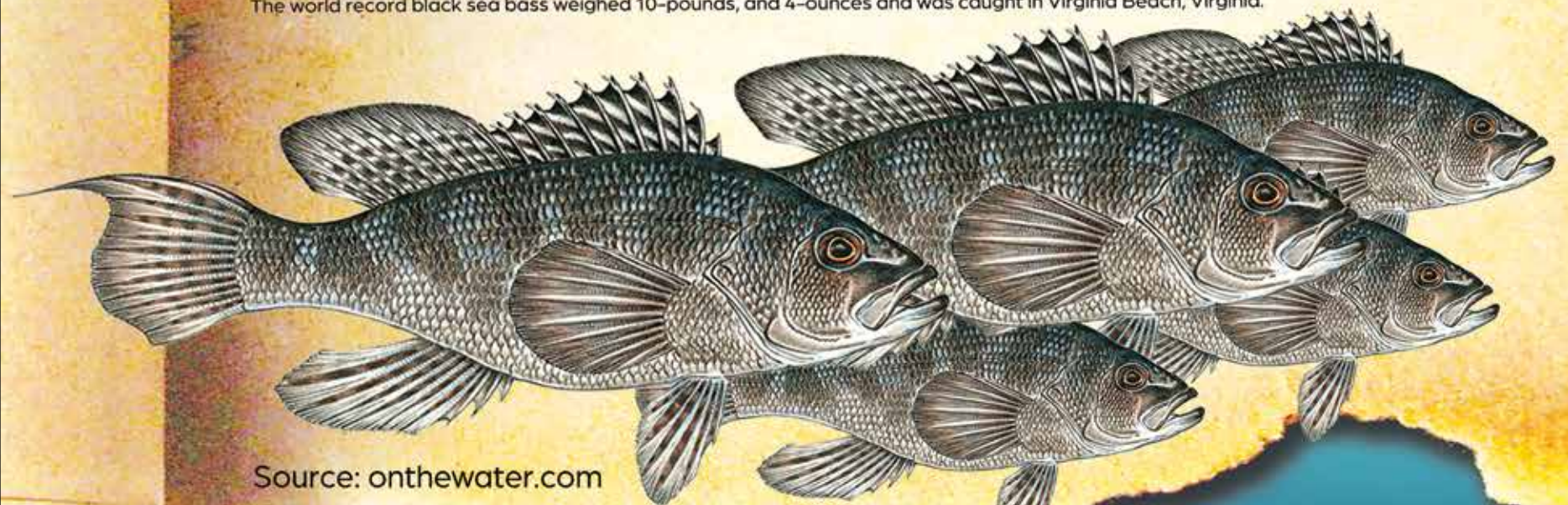
Sea bass have a large swim bladder, which can produce small thumps and grunting noises. The vibrations are produced to escape predators, but they are also associated with competitive feeding.

## WHEN DO BLACK SEA BASS SPAWN?

In New England, black sea bass females produce up to 500,000 eggs during the spring spawning season. The eggs float in the water for several days before turning into larvae.

## WHAT IS THE BLACK SEA BASS WORLD RECORD?

The world record black sea bass weighed 10-pounds, and 4-ounces and was caught in Virginia Beach, Virginia.






















Source: onthewater.com



# FIRST 2022

## *Fish of the Year*

(AS REPORTED TO THE COASTAL FISHERMAN - MUST BE REPORTED WITH PICTURE WITHIN 48 HOURS OF CATCH)

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

To report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200 or email to [coastalfisherman@comcast.net](mailto:coastalfisherman@comcast.net)





Buddy Martin and his son Cody from Waleyville, MD are regular fixtures fishing from the Rt. 50 Bridge at night! Buddy set a personal best with this 41" striper that took his 1 1/2 oz. jig head with a 6" tail on the outgoing tide. After a quick measure and picture this one was released.



Chase Thomas managed to catch a 21" founder on his 8th birthday fishing with his brother Ryan just before the fog rolled back in Saturday around 2:45PM. The flounder was caught at the Thorofare on a chartreuse top & bottom rig tipped with 3" white Gulp.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



An advantage that headboats have is radar! That piece of equipment was key for sea bass opening day. Capt. Chris Mizurak on the "angler" shared that the sea bass didn't seem to mind, this large one certainly did not!



Eddie Arroyo from New Jersey braved the brutal winds to get in on some flounder action with Capt. Jason Mumford on the charter boat "Lucky Break". The biggest that day was 21" caught in the southern Ocean City Bay on the falling tide using white Ottertail curl tails and minnow combo.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Nick Clemente on the charter boat "Get Sum" was one of the first boats to head out after the Mother's Day Nor'easter. He did manage to find some clean water in the north Ocean City Bay to put anglers Jeff, Kevin and Randy Garner with Kevin and Rick Hess onto these 5 keeper flounder using his signature white Gulp Swimming Mulletts! Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

Ocean City, Maryland

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Avid fisherman Norman Katrabos was on the front cover of our 1st issue this year with tog! He went out again before the blow on the "Capt. Bob II" with Capt. Bert Adams and scored these blackfish using green crab at Site 10.



In the 'you never know what you're going to catch' category, we present this monkfish that Mike Frezza caught while tog fishing on the charter boat "No Limits". This poor man's lobster fell for a Magictail Bucktail Tog Jig tipped with white crab at an Ocean Structure. Mike did find his tog, a 13 lb. fish that was released.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



I think young Colin O'Brian's face sums up the weather for the past week! He and father Tony from Fredericksburg, VA braved the rain last Saturday to find 3 keeper flounder while fishing with Capt. Jason Mumford on the "Lucky Break". Colin caught the largest at 4.25 lbs. on the incoming tide using minnows and Ottertails.



Capt. Kane Bounds on the charter boat "Fish Bound" knows how to get his anglers on some fish! This trip on the 6th, right before the storms came through, put Alex Corizio on this nice 11 lb. male tog.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



The flounder action in Chincoteague, VA doesn't seem impacted by the storms that rolled through! Anglers Jake, Jimmy, CJ and Brandon (not that one!) from Hartford County, MD slammed these 9 keepers last Friday fishing with Capt. Tim Walch on the charter "Chincoteague Island Adventures".

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# FISHING CHARTERS



We can all be jealous of the nice weather angler Bill Pissarro had on May 6th while fishing with Capt. Kane Bounds on the charter boat "Fish Bound". This 11 lb. blackfish was weighted and released to swim another day.

The Choi family certainly was happy after a day sea bass fishing with Capt. Dave Caffrey of "On The Run" charters! In addition to their limit of 90 sea bass, they also caught 3 tog over 10 lbs. each using great eastern crab. Way to leverage an opening day and a closing one!

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# FISHING CHARTERS



The last few days of the tog season after the storm was productive. Bill Prochino was fishing with Capt. Kane Bounds on the "Fish Bound" when he caught this 14 pounder. The fish was also caught by the boat the prior week! As she was spawning Bill released her again!



It was a family affair for "Ro Sham Bo" crew Capt. Willie Zimmerman and mates Daniel Ames & Evan Evans on opening day for sea bass. Anglers Andrew Mercer, Donnie Zimmerman, Bill Zimmerman, Jonny Evans, Mike Riley and Brandon Riley hit them hard at the subway cars in the Jack Spot.

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Don King from Salisbury, MD and Gary Thomas stopped by our new offices at 12703 Sunset Ave. to show off the 33" striped bass Don caught near the Assateague Island Bridge. The keeper rock fell for an artificial white grub lure. They also boated a 17" flounder and a bluefish for an inshore grand slam!



Looks like Shawn Hastings from Frankford, DE found the mother of all sea trout! He caught this 5 lb. citation class fish from the south side of the Indian River Inlet using a flounder rig with a minnow!

**UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!**

**13th ANNUAL FRANKY PETTOLINA MEMORIAL DAY TOURNAMENT**  
 To benefit the Catherine & Charles Kratz Memorial Foundation and Scholarship Fund  
 Registration: May 27, 6:30 - 8:00pm  
 Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 28 & 29  
 Weigh-Ins: May 28 & 29 4:30-7:00pm at Sunset Marina

# TOURNAMENT SERIES 2022 SCHEDULE

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**7th ANNUAL OCMC vs OCLTC SHOOT-OUT**  
 Angler Meeting: July 21, 7:00pm  
 Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 22, 23, 24  
 No Weigh-Ins

**Check for Updates on our WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA**

<p><b>43rd ANNUAL SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT</b>                  Registration: June 24, 6:30-8:00pm                  Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 25 &amp; 26                  Weigh-Ins: June 25 &amp; 26, 3:00-6:30pm at Sunset Marina</p>	<p><b>40th ANNUAL CANYON KICK OFF *</b>                  Registration: June 30, 6:30-8:00pm                  FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS                  Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 1, 2 &amp; 3                  Weigh-Ins: July 1-3, 5:00-7:30pm at Sunset Marina</p>	<p><b>18th ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC *</b>                  To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation                  Registration: July 15, 6:00-8:00pm                  Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 16 &amp; 17                  Weigh-Ins: July 16, 3:00-6:30pm and July 17, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina</p>	
<p><b>14th ANNUAL OCMC LADIES' TOURNAMENT "HEELS &amp; REELS"*</b>                  To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund                  Registration: August 4, 6:00-8:00pm                  Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 5 &amp; 6                  Weigh-Ins: August 5 &amp; 6 5:30-7:30pm at Atlantic Tackle</p>	<p><b>64th ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT *</b>                  Registration: September 1, 6:30-8:00pm                  Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 2, 3 &amp; 4                  Weigh-Ins: September 2, 3 &amp; 4 6:00-8:00pm at Sunset Marina</p>	<p><b>44th ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ &amp; SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP</b>                  Registration: Sept. 7, 6:00-8:00pm                  Fishing Days: (2 or 3) Sept. 8, 9 &amp; 10                  No Weigh-Ins</p>	

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# FROM THE VAULT

## "FISH STORIES" by Capt. Franky Pettolina

*Editors note - I came across this old article from Franky this week. It was originally published in Sept. of 2017 and with the weather we have been having it resonated with me! It also had some nice info on tournaments of the past. Hope you enjoy it.*

Have I ever told y'all that I hate the wind? I know that I have told you that marlin have been frustrating me. Getting skunked? Yup! I have definitely mentioned that a time or two this season. Also pretty sure I have complained about my Dad and my partner in crime, Mr. Evans not wanting to pick up the breakfast tab on our lay days. But wind... have I mentioned that? Well I hate wind. At least when there is an excess of it.

You see, this abundance of wind has made it tough to go out and get frustrated by the marlin. And the only thing worse than a fisherman getting frustrated by a marlin is a fisherman not being able to go out and get frustrated by them. Boy, we fishermen are kind of silly I guess.

This wind is bad enough that it made the Tournament Directors for the Ocean City Marlin Club's 59th Annual White Marlin Tournament cancel the event. This is the second year in a row that the event has been canceled

due to crappy weather. That trend needs to stop. However, it did get me thinking about tournaments that didn't happen. It seems like there is a tournament every week all summer long these days. It wasn't always like that however, and the tournaments we know today haven't always been here. Except for the White Marlin Open and the Marlin Club White Marlin Tournament. Those have pretty much always been here.

So where was I? Oh yeah, tournaments that didn't happen. Lets talk about that. Actually, lets talk about tournaments that used to happen but went away for one reason or another. Where should I begin...

Ok, I will start with the Marlin Club Overnight Broadbill Swordfish Tournament. This one ended before my time in Ocean City began. When I first started fishing out of Ocean City in the early 80s the swordfish fishery was already in full decline from too much fishing pressure, mostly by commercial longliners. In the 70s that was not the case. The nighttime fishing was good enough to host a tournament for swordies and there were great results. The most frequent story I have heard about that tourney over the years

is when it was won by Buster Day and his daughter Susan on their boat the "Seven Days" which was captained by Big Al Fields. Big Al is still running boats here in Ocean City and is definitely a legend in this sport. Unfortunately for the Overnight Broadbill Tournament, when the fish go away the interest goes away, and when the interest goes away the tournament goes away.

Another tournament that went away was the Ocean City Blue Marlin Tournament. This one happened back in the late 80s/early 90s. Don't confuse this with the Branch Kreppel Memorial Blue Marlin Tournament that was hosted by Sunset Marina a few years back (which also, sadly, never got the participation we all hoped it would get and went away). The Ocean City Blue Marlin Tournament was organized by a gentleman named Clay Katski and was an all-release format. I was around while this tourney was going on, but I never fished it. If memory serves me correctly, Capt. Mitch Pierson won it on a boat called the "Whopper" one year and it was also won by Capt. Jimbo Farlow (a legend in his own right) running Dan Deer's "True Grit" another year. I think Clay won

his own tournament once too! Timing was one of the downfalls of this event. A couple years of slow fishing took the interest away and the tournament faded off into the sunset.

We have two great ladies tournaments in Ocean City nowadays with the Heels and Reels and the Capt. Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open, but these are not the only ladies events to ever exist in our town. The first ladies-only event in Ocean City was the Harbour Island Ladies Invitational. This tournament was started by Liz and Jim Edmonds who owned a boat called the "Midnight Hour". I participated in this tournament several times as a crew member when my Mom fished it as an angler. As the name implies, it was hosted out of Harbour Island Marina and it featured a unique Calcutta Auction where you could bid up a boat's added entry levels and actually even buy them as your own bet if the boat didn't want to pay the highest bid. It was a fun competition and lasted for many years.

Another ladies-only tournament lasted only one year. The Ladies Billfish Open. Truth be told, the Ladies Open was started to be direct competition to the Invitational, and when the spray settled, the Invitational survived and the Open did not. Maybe it would have been better to just get along?

Yet another tournament that flourished for a few years but

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failed to last in the long run was the Marlin Club Marina Shootout. The format of this tournament pitted teams from each of the marinas in town against one another with a trophy and bragging rights at stake. The winning marina would keep the trophy to display for a year and host the event the following year. There was a great deal of camaraderie and good natured ribbing amongst the teams in the early years of this tournament. To this day, I am not quite sure what caused the downfall of this tournament, but by the end several marinas couldn't field a team and it was finally decided to put the Shootout to bed.

The last two tournaments I will talk about both seemed like good ideas at the time, but neither one took off. At all. Both of them were duds. And I helped start them. I guess you can't win them all. The Ocean City Marlin Club Tuna Chunking Tournament and the Bahia Marina Tuna Mania Chunking Round-Up. I am pretty sure the second one failed because of the name alone. Capt. Steve Harman and I were both riding high on the success

of the Mako Mania and the Poor Girls Tournaments when we wrote the rules for the chunking event. Steve asked me what we should call it. My suggestion was Tuna Mania or the Tuna Round-Up. I guess he liked them both. Chunking for tunas was, and still is, a very popular method of fishing. People love to chunk. You know what though? People do not love to enter tuna chunking tournaments. I don't think either one of those tournaments made it past its second year.

Anyways, here I am thinking about tournaments that didn't happen, and hating the wind. I think it may stop enough for me to go fishing in a few days. Hopefully the marlin are there and not too frustrating!

In closing this week I would like to give a big thank you to Dale Timmons for helping me get some of my tournament history straight for this column. If it weren't for Dale this paper wouldn't be here today for me to write in or for any of y'all to read. And I never would have met my all time fishing hero Ben Sykes.

Thanks for everything Dale! §

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May 20 • Lewes Harbour Marina • 302-645-6227
- Cast for a Cure Team Surf Fishing Tournament  
May 21 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974
- 13th Annual Memorial Day Tournament  
May 28 & 29 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

## JUNE

- 1st Annual Blues for D.U.  
June 3 - 5 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438
- 2nd Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament  
June 17 - 18 • Ocean City, MD • 410-212-7159
- South Jersey MidAtlantic Tuna Tournament  
June 22 - 26 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400
- 7th Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament  
June 24-26 • Indian River Marina • 302-227-3071
- 43rd Annual Small Boat Tournament  
June 25-26 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613
- 4th Annual Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam  
Kayak Fishing Tournament  
June 25-26 • Ocean City, MD • 410-868-5488

## JULY

- 40th Annual Canyon Kick Off  
July 1-3 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613
- MidAtlantic Cup  
July 4 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177
- South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown  
July 6-9 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177
- 35th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament  
July 8-10 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1613
- Jimmy Johnson's Quest for the Ring  
July 10-16 • Atlantic City • www.FishHardEvents.com

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Josh Kuczinski from Centreville, MD shares the huge 13 lb. snakefish he caught in the Nanticoke River while fishing with Capt. Cody on the "Working Class Outdoorsman". Big fish and tasty too!



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You have to admit, many tog look like they were happy to be caught! This 14 pound female was caught and release by William Krug in early May while he was fishing with Capt. Kane Bounds on the charter boat "Fish Bound" out of the Talbot Street Pier.

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Many anglers were anxious to get back on the water once the weather cleared. This was especially true for Capt. Tom Perry and Bobby Pastorius. They took out Tom's new "Tiki Toon" pontoon boat on Saturday and Bobby caught this nice 21" flounder. Mascot Bumper seems amused!



Saturday saw a lot of action with bluefish off of the ocean beaches and the Delaware Bay. Gary Johnston and Jonathan Davis pulled in their limit from the suds!

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Sunday was a good day at our new office at 12703 Sunset Avenue. A couple people stopped by to share their catches and stories. One was David Williams from Waleyville, MD! David has been fishing the waters of Assateague Island even before they built the bridge in the early 1960's! He had done his homework with the Coastal Fisherman and noted that black drum were still being caught well into May, so off to the beach he went. He caught this 27" one at the top of the high tide at 9:15AM using a combo of sand fleas and both Fishbites, sand fleas and crab. We should ask him to share his fried drum with breadcrumbs recipe with Chef Christine!

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**Preparing with Spares**

I am writing this column while working during the all charity Custom Shootout fishing tournament hosted at the Beach Resort & Boat Harbor in the Abacos, Bahamas. Many of the boats here have brought not just food or drink with them, but also most are well stocked with spare parts and supplies. These tournament boats travel to destinations that are isolated from your typical marine supply store and most boats desire to be self-sufficient.

Whether traveling to far flung destinations around the world or just a run down to Chincoteague VA in your center console, being prepared is important any time when on the water.

**Pack it up!**

When heading out for an extended trip or even a quick trip to an isolated area, most crew prepare the boat with the important fishing supplies and food provisions for the voyage and destination. What about the spare parts or regularly consumed parts that may be needed to maintain the boat while away? What if something critical breaks-do you bring a spare? What spare parts should you bring? What parts can I get at my destinations? How can I ship parts to my destination and how fast and how much will it cost? Do you have room to bring all of this with you?

One boater I met always carried lots of spare parts and tools, though admitting he was not mechanically inclined

but if he ever needed service away from home, he figured it would be easier to find a mechanic than it would be to find the right parts AND a mechanic.

Carrying a good cross selection of spare parts can allow you to make temporary or permanent repairs while away from your home port.

Besides food, drink and safety supplies, what should you carry onboard?



**Fuel system**

Without good fuel, your boat is not going anywhere. Most importantly is new, clean, and dry spare fuel filters, these should be top of the list for any boat. Be sure to find out where your fuel filters are located, how many you have and understand the procedure needed to change the filters. Any engine specific special fittings, valves or fuel system parts should be carried in your spare kit.



**Oil and lubricants**

Leaving home port with all fluid levels topped off should be standard practice. Though long runs or a malfunction

could cause a dip in oil and or fluid levels causing your engine to slow or stop operating. Find out the correct type of oil and fluids your engine and equipment requires and how to add these fluids to maintain the proper levels.

**Pumps**

Both bilge pumps and engine cooling pumps are particularly important to keep your boat running and floating. Many engine seawater cooling pumps incorporate a flexible rubber impeller. Over time these can dry-rot, take a set or fail due to overheating. Even a spare rubber impeller can become useless depending on its age and how it has been stored.

Engine seawater pumps are often difficult to remove and replace, research what is needed to perform this job and be sure you carry the correct parts and special tools in the event you or a hired service person needs to change this



while you are away from home.

Bilge pumps can fail electrically or mechanically, something as simple as an errant plastic wire tie can jam a bilge pump and cause the motor to fail. Years of submersion in salt water can take a toll on the best bilge pumps and the associated wiring.

Bilge pumps come in many sizes, types, and voltages, it is easiest to replace a failed pump and or pump float switch with the same exact model you currently have. This allows the mount, wiring and hoses to remain in the same place and often a swap can be quick and simple since everything new matches with the old equipment.

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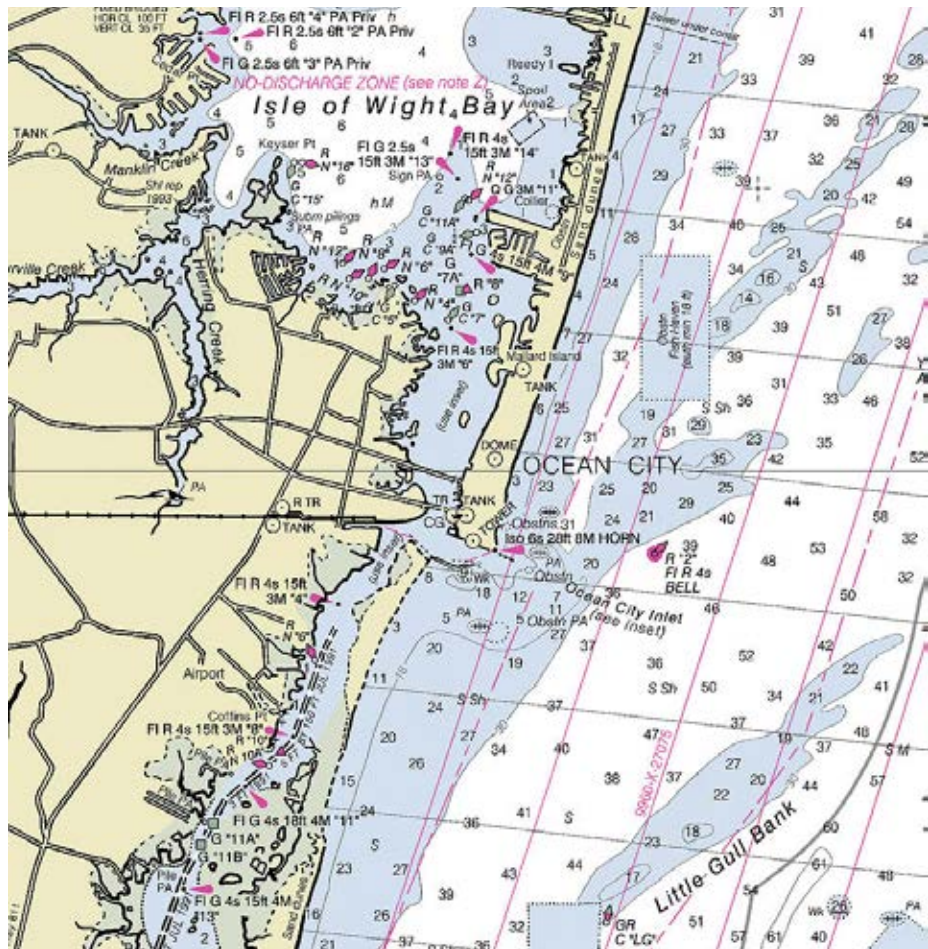
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navigation charts may not be “cool” but they do not need electricity to work!

Navigating at night can be difficult for the captain but also your visibility to other boaters is just as important. It is a good idea to carry additional battery powered lighting that could be used at night, whether the specialty marine navigation flashlights or any light producing source will help other boaters see you and could even be used to signal help in an emergency. Be sure to check the spare batteries, they do not seem to last as long in storage as they once did.

**Electrical**

Circuit breakers and fuses -with so many styles, shapes, and capacity of how do you decide what to bring? Review your boat’s electrical system and confirm the location, type, and sizes of the fuses and breakers and purchase a



handful. In a pinch your spares, even if not exact, may get you going until you can locate the proper hardware. It is also a clever idea to carry some electric wire, it can be used for many things, though wiring a temporary bilge pump, electronics feed or navigation light might be a quick fix in an emergency.

While there is not enough room for all the spares you would like to carry, carefully selecting the spare parts and tools that match your boat and a little bit of ingenuity is the best way to be prepared.

Until next time - Stay Grounded!

**Navigation and Lighting**  
While most captains pride themselves on their marine electronics, it is a good idea to have some sort of back-up plan if something goes wrong. It seems many

boaters use something like the Navionics application on their smartphone and that could save the day if your main source of electronic navigation has a problem. Of course, carrying paper

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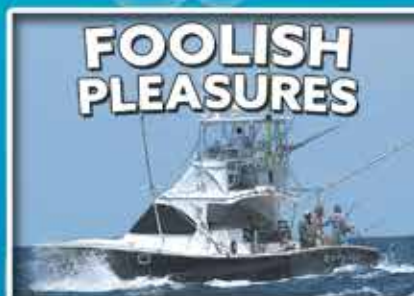
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# THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



## Rockfish Tacos with Rustic Homemade Salsa

Ingredients:

4 oz rockfish, sliced into 4, 1 oz pieces

4 corn tortillas

1 avocado, sliced

1 cup shredded cabbage

Rustic Salsa:

Makes 6 servings

1 - 16 oz can fire roasted tomatoes

¼ cup cilantro leaves

¼ yellow or red onion

1 garlic clove

1 lime, juiced

1 jalapeño, stem removed and sliced

¼ tsp cumin

¼ tsp chili powder

¼ tsp sea salt

Directions:

For the tacos:

Preheat a grill pan or large skillet over high heat with a generous splash of olive oil.



Add fish and sear on both sides, approximately 1-2 minutes. Remove from heat.

Assemble taco fillings by adding homemade salsa, cabbage, and avocado slices, placing each piece

of fish on top.

Garnish with extra lime wedges and salsa to serve.

For the salsa:

Pulse all ingredients quickly in a blender, to your desired consistency. Store any extras in a sealed glass jar for up to 1 week.

## Lemon Herb Baked Rockfish

Ingredients:

1 whole (approx. 3 lb.) rockfish

3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil, divided

2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

1 tablespoon fresh thyme, finely chopped

¼ teaspoon sweet paprika

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

Lemon slices and thyme sprigs for garnish

Directions:

Preheat the oven and prep the pan. Preheat the oven to 425°F, adjust a rack to the top third of the oven, and line a sheet pan with foil.



Prep the fish. Your fish should already be gutted and cleaned. If it's not already scaled, use a fish scaler brush or the back of a knife by rubbing it in the opposite direction of the scales. This might be a bit messy, as the scales tend to "pop" off, but it's quite easy. Rinse the fish and then pat it dry with paper towels.

Season the fish. Place the fish on

the foil-lined sheet pan. Drizzle about 1 tablespoon of the oil on the fish and gently rub it in. Generously sprinkle with salt and pepper. Carefully turn the fish over and repeat this process. Then season the inside cavity with salt and pepper.

Score the fish if desired. Use the tip of a very sharp knife to cut three slits, about two inches apart, diagonally across the top of the fish. The slits should only cut through the skin – try not to cut into the flesh.

Add the lemon and herbs. In a small bowl, mix the lemon juice with the remaining tablespoon of oil, thyme and paprika. Drizzle this all over the top of the fish.

Bake the fish. Place the sheet pan in the preheated 425°F oven and bake just until the fish is cooked through, about 15 minutes. (You can test this by checking the internal temperature which should be about 140°F, and/or use a sharp knife or fork to peek into the flesh near the center. The flesh should flake easily and be opaque. (If it's slightly translucent near the center, that's okay.)

Broil the fish if necessary. If the skin doesn't become crisp and golden by the time it's cooked, remove it from the oven, turn on the broiler and adjust a rack so the fish will be a couple of inches below it. Place the fish beneath the broiler just until it's golden brown and sizzling. Watch it carefully as it could just take seconds.

Serve! Serve the finished fish immediately.

## Spicy Crab Cakes with Mango Puree

Ingredients:

1 pound lump crabmeat, well drained and picked over

1/4 cup mayonnaise

3 tablespoons minced chives

2 teaspoons fresh lime juice

1/2 teaspoon honey

4 teaspoons Asian red chili sauce

Salt and freshly ground pepper

1 ripe mango, peeled and cut into chunks


1/4 cup plus 3 tablespoons vegetable oil

All purpose flour for dredging

3 large eggs, beaten

2 cups panko (Japanese bread

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crumbs) or other dry bread crumbs  
1 cup packed micro greens or mesclun

**Directions:**

In a large bowl, combine the crabmeat with the mayonnaise, chives, lime juice, honey and 1 tablespoon of the chili sauce; season with salt and pepper. Stir well to break up some of the crabmeat. Form the mixture into 8 crab cakes, packing them firmly. Put the crab cakes on a baking sheet and refrigerate until firm, about 25 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a blender, puree the mango with 1 tablespoon of the oil and the remaining 1 teaspoon of chili sauce until smooth. Scrape the mango puree into a small bowl and season with salt and pepper.

Put a handful of flour into a medium, shallow bowl. Put the eggs in another shallow bowl and the panko in a third bowl. Take a crab cake in your hand and carefully dust it all over with flour, shaking off any excess. Dip

the crab cake in the beaten egg and then coat it well with the panko. Repeat with the remaining crab cakes.

In a medium skillet, heat 3 tablespoons of the vegetable oil until shimmering. Add 4 of the crab cakes to the skillet and cook them over moderately high heat until they are browned and crisp, about 3 minutes per side. Drain the crab cakes on a wire rack set over a baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining 3 tablespoons of vegetable oil and 4 crab cakes.

Drizzle 4 plates with the mango puree and set 2 crab cakes on each plate. Mound the micro greens alongside and serve right away.

**Make Ahead:**

The formed crab cakes and the mango puree can be refrigerated overnight. Bring the mango puree to room temperature before serving.

**Suggested Pairing:**

A flavorful Finger Lakes Riesling from New York will complement the sweetness of the crabmeat and mango puree in this recipe.

125°F (51° C) for medium-rare. Adjust the bake time based on if you like your steak more rare or more well-done (you monster).

Heat the canola oil in a pan over high heat until smoking. Do not use olive oil, as its smoke point is significantly lower than that of canola oil and will smoke before reaching the desired cooking temperature.

Sear the steak for 30 seconds on the first side, then flip.

Add the butter, garlic, rosemary, and thyme and swirl around the pan.

Transfer the garlic and herbs on top of the steak and baste the steak with the butter using a large spoon.

Baste for about 30 seconds, then flip and baste the other side for about 15 seconds.

Turn the steak on its side and cook to render off any excess fat.

Rest the steak on a cutting board or wire rack for about 10 minutes. Slicing the steak before the resting period has finished will result in a lot of the juices leaking out, which may not be desirable.

Slice the steak into ½ -inch (1 cm) strips, then fan out the slices and serve.

**Simple Oven Baked Sea Bass**

**Ingredients:**

- 1lb sea bass (cleaned and scaled)
- 3 garlic cloves, minced or crushed
- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon italian seasoning or 1 tablespoon fresh parsley leaves



2 teaspoons fresh coarse ground black pepper

1 teaspoon salt

2 lemon wedges

1/3 cup white wine vinegar (optional) or 1/3 cup white wine (optional)

**Directions:**

Preheat oven to 450F°.

In a cup, mix garlic, olive oil, salt, and black pepper.

**Garlic Butter Steak**



**Ingredients:**

1 ribeye steak, 2 inch (5 cm) thick, preferably USDA Prime

Salt to taste

Pepper to taste

3 tablespoons canola oil

3 tablespoons butter

3 cloves garlic, peeled and smashed

2 sprigs fresh rosemary

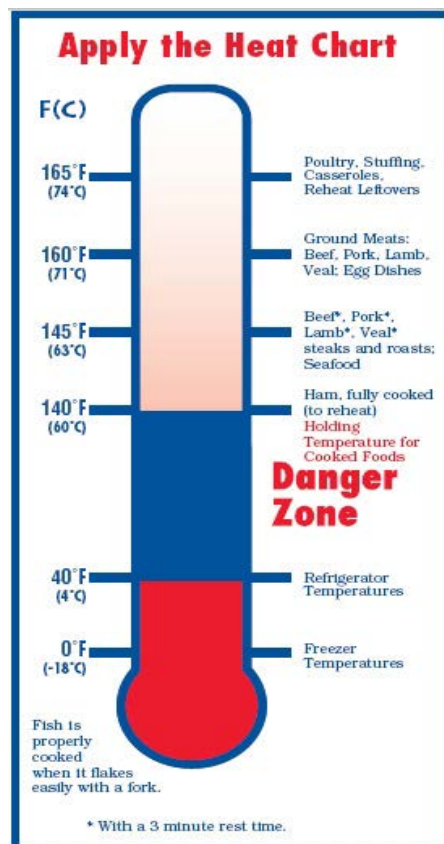
3 sprigs fresh thyme

**Directions:**

Preheat oven to 200°F (95°C).

Generously season all sides of the steak with salt and pepper.

Transfer to a wire rack on top of a baking sheet, then bake for about 45 minutes to an hour until the internal temperature reads about



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Place fish in a shallow glass or ceramic baking dish.

Rub fish with oil mixture.

(Optional) Pour wine over fish.

Bake fish, uncovered, for 15 minutes; then sprinkle with parsley or Italian seasoning and continue to bake for 5 more minutes (or until the thickest part of the fish flakes easily).

Drizzle remaining pan juices over fish and garnish with lemon wedges.



### Delmarva Chicken

Ingredients:

2-3 lbs of chicken (I use leg quarters, or thighs and legs as I like those, also have done it with half chickens)

1 1/2 cups of apple cider vinegar

1 cup of olive oil

Add water to cover the chicken

2-3 tsp of poultry seasoning

2 tsp salt

3 tsp black pepper

1 1/2 tsp garlic powder

Directions:

Put chicken pieces into a large

bowl suitable for marinating in.

Add all of your spices, then the liquid ingredients.

As the above states, you will add the cider and oil, then use water to cover the chicken parts (just barely over the top of the chicken).

Please feel free to adjust the ingredients to your personal taste.

Marinate the chicken for at least an hour, but marinate overnight for best results.

Prepare your smoker or grill - 275-300 degrees which makes the skin on the chicken nice and crispy by the end of your cook. Slow cooking

yields the best chicken!

When your fire is up to temp, pull the chicken out of the marinade.

Place the chicken on the smoker or grill. 3 pounds of chicken thighs and legs take about 90 minutes to come to 175 degrees internal temp.

Chicken breast is done at 165 degrees, so please make sure you have a good meat thermometer to check for doneness.

After determining temp is correct and done, I pull the chicken off and set it out to rest for 15 minutes or so. After that, serve and eat!

### Baked Flounder with Parmesan Crumbs

Ingredients:

4 flounder fillets (1 1/2 to 2 pounds total)

Salt and freshly ground black or white pepper to taste

4 tablespoons unsalted butter

1/2 cup finely crumbled fresh bread crumbs

3/4 cup finely grated Parmesan cheese (3 ounces)

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil (optional)

Freshly grated lemon zest or freshly squeezed lemon (optional)

Thinly sliced fresh basil leaves

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 425F.

Pat the fish dry. Place the fillets in a large baking dish or roasting pan and season with salt and pepper to taste. Set aside.

In a small skillet over low heat or in a microwave-safe bowl, melt the butter. Add the bread crumbs, cheese and oil and, using your fingers, mix until evenly combined. Sprinkle the mixture evenly over the fillets.

Bake the fillets until they are cooked through and the topping is golden, about 15 minutes. Let stand for 5 minutes. If desired, sprinkle with lemon zest or juice and basil. Serve hot.

NOTES:

You may substitute any lean white fish, such as cod, haddock or orange roughy. Even tilapia works!

Cooking for 1? Halve the recipe, getting two portions as the end result. Save the second portion for lunch the next day. Warm on a crusty hard roll with melted sharp cheddar and juicy tomatoes.

Stay Saucy my friends! §

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John Miller from Boiling Springs, PA depicts an image that really captures the experience of the last two weeks! He fished the south side of the Indian River Inlet just after the storms blew through and scored this 21" flounder on a buck tail. You can't see them, but he is geared up with spikes on his shoes for those treacherous rocks a the Inlet! Photo from Old Inlet Bait & Tackle.



Unlike John Miller to the left, Gunnar Zorn had beautiful weather while visiting Cudjoe Key, FL! He was fishing with Capt. Al Rittmeyer on the "American Shoal" when he caught this 24" mutton snapper and a mixed bag of yellowtail snappers, porgies and mangrove snappers. That's a lot of snapper!

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

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- INCLUDE IN THE EMAIL:**
- Angler's full name and town
  - Names & towns of others in photo
  - Weight and/or length of fish
  - Bait/lure used
  - Location of catch
  - Name of boat, if any
- Please do not compress the photo and do not run it through any photo software.*

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

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



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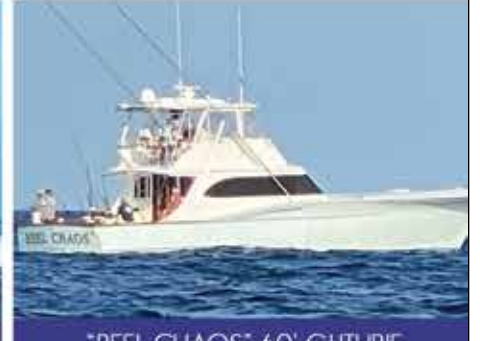
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# People starting Surf Fishing just need to learn to read the Delaware Beaches by Rich King

People starting surf fishing just need to learn to read the Delaware beaches.

The most intimidating thing about surf fishing, besides realizing you are standing on the edge of the Atlantic ocean, trying to not look like and idiot, is catching fish.

Finding fish is the second hardest part of surf fishing, especially in Delaware. We have a unique shore break, unlike New Jersey and Assateague Island.

Delaware's waves break close to shore and stir up food for fish. The fish feed close. Unlike the other states' beaches that have more defined troughs and sand bars (structure) with a much flatter and wider surf area. Just like it looks on a Delaware beach during a storm or with heavy winds. That wider storm wash is more like the other



states beaches. At a dead low tide after these storms is the best time to read the beaches to find more fishing spots.

In Delaware the fish are mostly close to shore. When you walk into the surf and suddenly drop off that small sand ledge,

that's where the fish feed. After storms it is the area you sink up to your knees in shells, sand, and rocks. Stirred sand is a buffet for fish.

Since our waves normally break close to shore, creating small subtle structure, finding a cut is the key to finding fish. Cuts are the area where the water left by the incoming waves drains back into the sea. You can see these cuts when they produce a plume of sand shaped like a mushroom as the water drains out. The stirred up sand creates that pattern. Learn to not cast too far, you are overthrowing your fish.

Another easy way to find these cuts is look at the beach's profile. When the beaches are under normal conditions. The edge of the beach looks scalloped, Those dips or drops between the humps of sand are the cut, the sand hump is the sand bar. These are small here, but we have some that are really defined. You will have to find those on your own.

The weak spot in the waves is also a good indicator of a cut or structure. The wave loses momentum due to the draining water and doesn't totally break. Sometimes structure indicators are very subtle due to calm surf. Four inches in height difference of a sand bar or the scallop edge

is structure. GPS your spots. Back in the day we would hang lures on the fences to mark spots, or remember dune profiles, and phone poles.

You learn to find this structure, however subtle, by reading the waves, beach, and currents. Rip currents are one of our favorites for Delaware. These really carve up the cut area of the beach where they form and create moving structure. Stirring up food and usually hold fish. Just don't wade into rip currents and you don't need to anyway.

Surf fishing a cut is simple. Cast a line on each side and out in front of the cut. If there are fish you will catch and know where to concentrate surf fishing. Cuts and rip currents have stronger currents be prepared to use more weight to hold in faster water. The more exaggerated cuts will be stirred up and your pyramid weight will sink quickly in the sand. Check your line often or you will play hell trying to break free. In Florida surf anglers call the cuts, run outs.

If you are casting lures, cast across the cuts, as many as possible. Starting just above the top of a cut on the far side. This puts your lure in play for more

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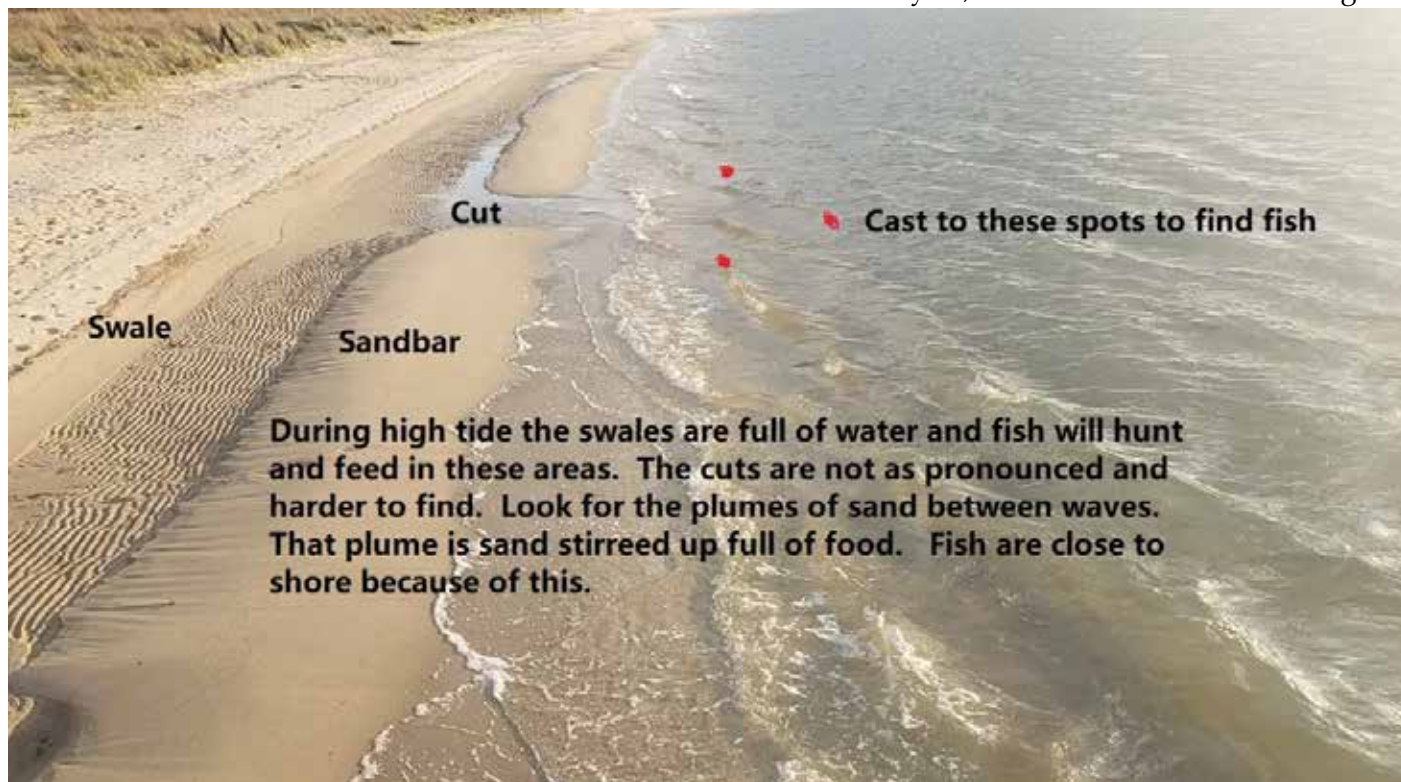


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fish. Casting straight out makes less of a window for a bite, but a rip current pushes water and food out far. Casting out along large rip currents is a good place to look for fish.

Casting along the beach allows more exposure to fish and you can pull across a couple of cuts. Just hard to do on crowded weekends. That's why we fish Tuesdays to Thursdays in summer. Casting about thirty degrees along the beach is the best to hit a few cuts.

If you can get out after storms you can find these cuts easier and mark them on your phone's GPS. This makes it easier to find the good cuts when the conditions are subtle. The cuts rarely move or change location. However the cuts will change in structure or shape as the tide shifts. You can mark them and be sure to find them again in the dark. This is key if you decide to go out before sunrise, or walk and cast at night.

Learn to read a beach it will help you find more fish or at least the areas that will hold fish. Keep an eye out for rip currents, these are great for surf fishing. During rip current



storm surges and wind. Fish usually move from cut to cut looking for food, or foraging. Sometimes fish sit on a cut full of food and then move on, that part is hard to predict. You don't have to always move around surf fishing looking for new cuts. Sometimes sitting still is best and just takes time for fish to drop by. Pay attention to the water all the time. You never know what you will see, it's a big pond.

While surf fishing we all pay

watched, unattended lines, get nailed and cut, again like dominoes down the beach. Then we would get ready with spoons and start casting. While casting once in a while a line would blow by you in the wind, wafting like a spider line. Cut by a gator bluefish while the oblivious owner is busy playing cornhole. That was entertaining during that huge

bluefish run for a couple years. Sucked for the fish though, wearing all that gear until it rusts off or they tangle up and die. Anyway .... learn to read a beach .. hope this helped.

Fish On!  
Rich King



warnings we go looking for large rips.

If you use the Deldot traffic cam (web cam) on the north tower of the Indian River inlet you can watch the cuts work from above and check surf fishing conditions. The beach web cams are good for that as well. There are some nice cuts on Rehoboth Beach you can observe on the web cams.

Structure created by storms will remain for a couple of weeks most of the time. That all depends on the frequency of

attention to our neighbors catching. If you really pay attention, you can see fish move down the beach. Look for that bait slick in front of the beach. That is literally the fish "highway".

Watching the black drum in spring a few years ago at Beach Plum Island state park and the gator blue fish runs. Anglers were lined up, while rods get nailed like dominos down the beach. Watching and waiting for yours to get hit next.

The gator run one year we

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 <b>BLACK SEA BASS</b> 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - December 11	 <b>BLUEFISH</b> No minimum size 3 per day / 5 per day Charter	 <b>BLACK DRUM</b> 16" minimum 3 per person/day	 <b>COBIA</b> 37" Minimum • 1 per person or vessel
 <b>CROAKER</b> 8" Minimum • No Limit	 <b>RED DRUM</b> 20-27" minimum 5 per person/day	 <b>SHEEPSHEAD</b> No limit	 <b>SPECKLED TROUT</b> 12" minimum No creel limit
 <b>STRIPED BASS</b> 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	 <b>SUMMER FLOUNDER</b> 16" minimum 4 per person/day	 <b>TAUTOG</b> 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31	 <b>WEAKFISH</b> 13" minimum 1 per person/day

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# Chum Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson



As we sat on the bench overlooking the marina, the old captain took a drink from his can of Coca-Cola, then nodded over to my boat tied up in a nearby slip and asked, "Do you paint your own boat?"

Confused by the relevance of his question, or if I had even heard it right, I asked, "Excuse me?"

"That boat you've got over there, do you paint it yourself or pay someone to do it for you?"

"Oh yes sir I do, I can't afford to pay someone else to do it. Actually, I imagine even if I could afford it, I'd probably still do it myself, not that it's something I particularly look forward to doing each

year, but the sanding and painting and everything else I do sort of forces me to crawl around and inspect her up close and personal."

Staring at the ground in front of us, the old charter boat captain took another drink and started slowly nodding his head as if in both approval and contemplation. "Yep, if you're going to make it in this business you better know how to do most everything yourself, otherwise that boat of yours will make you broke in no time."

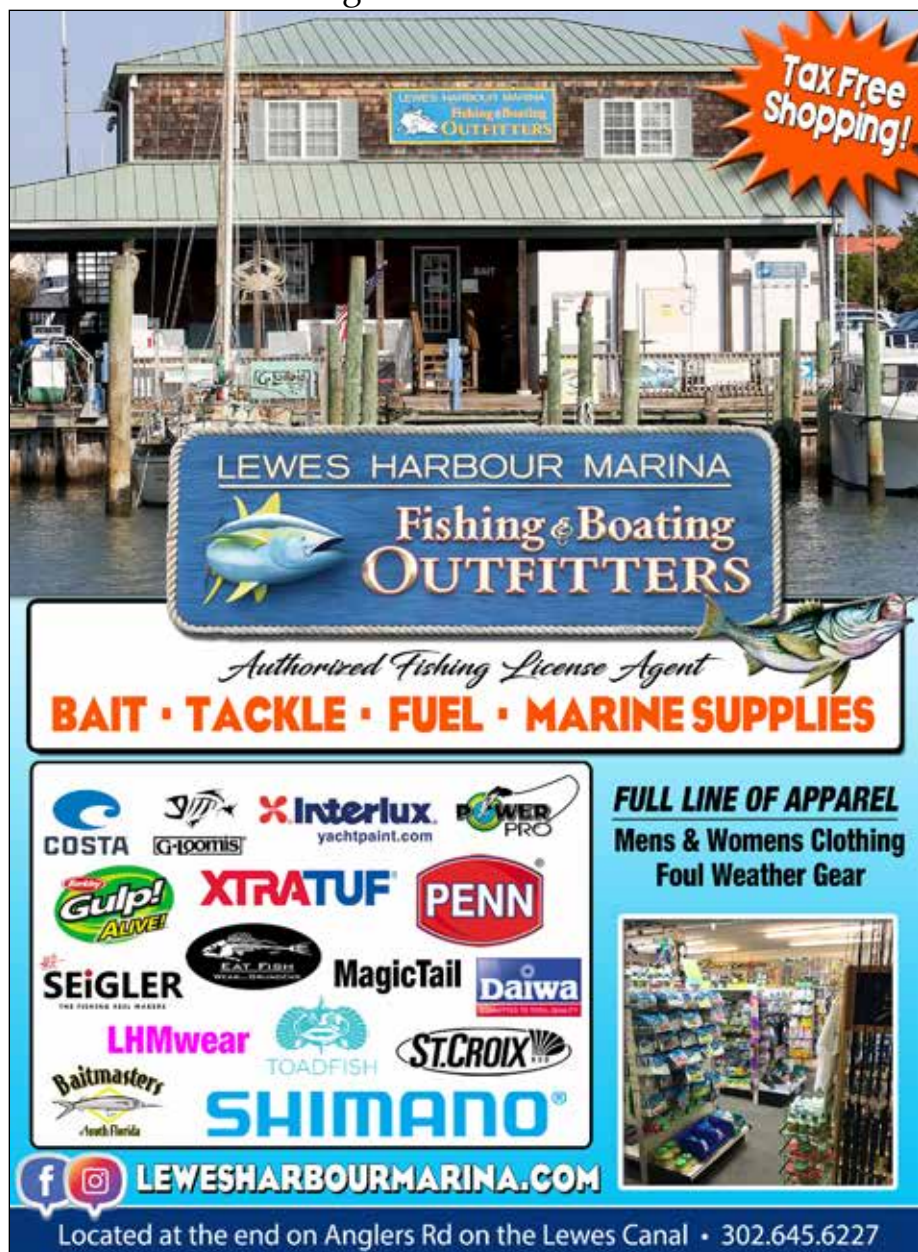
"Back in the day" this guy was one of the top-dog captains who had quite a reputation for catching a lot

of fish, running a lot of trips, and really knowing his stuff about boats. My chance encounter with him that day at the marina was the first time we had met and it kicked off a friendship that lasted until his death about 20-years later. The guy really did know a lot about boats and fishing, and although much of it was more relevant to what was going on when he was in the charter business back in the 50s, 60s, and 70s, I had so much respect for his experience and willingness to share it that I always looked forward to hearing more. The one point he was always very adamant about was knowing and being able to work on your own boat. He told me, "Anybody can go out there and catch a fish, but I've seen guys get towed home because the clutch cable came off the transmission, or a wire came loose from the battery! If you're going to rely on your boat to make your living it's gotta get you out and back every day of the season, and let me tell ya - there ain't no mechanics or service stations out on the water! So you'd better be able to fend for yourself, otherwise something that could be a simple fix will turn into a major repair, not to mention the cost of the downtime."

We had that first, of what would become many, conversations over 30 years ago, more than a decade after he had run his last charter, but his words still come back to me every time I'm busting my knuckles

with a wrench in my hand, breathing sanding dust, or crawling around the bilge. After navigating through the last 35-years of charter fishing I can definitely concur with the point my old friend was trying to impart to me. Actually, it's pretty much of a no-brainer that the more time you spend working on your boat the better you'll come to know her inside and out allowing routine grunt work to become a little more bearable as you contemplate not just the money saved but also the knowledge and experience being gained that could provide big dividends later if you run into problems while out on the water. I can't imagine how much my "maintenance and repair" expenses would be each year if I had to pay someone to do it all for me, but suffice to say I wouldn't be turning a profit driving my own boat.

For instance, when you've installed the bilge pump yourself, you'll know what to do if you have a problem with it because you'll know exactly how it's mounted in place, where the wiring is run, and the location of all connections, fuses, and splices. And after a while if the pump fails you'll learn where you went wrong and be able to adjust and do it better the next time (better connectors, run the wires differently, relocate the pump or switch, etc.). When you replace your freshwater washdown pump you'll learn a lot about how your vessel's plumbing is run and be better equipped to troubleshoot and repair any glitches that might pop up in the system later on. When you change your own motor oil you'll learn



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My boat is pretty basic without a lot of frills and accessories but I've still had plenty of issues over the years that could have ruined a fishing day or ended up in the need for a tow home if I wasn't able to fix it myself. While at sea I've had to replace the engine's water pump impeller (and in one case then entire pump), repair a hydraulic steering line, repairing a ruptured coolant hose, repair a leaking transmission line, and fix battery cable connectors. Other tasks that would not have stopped us from getting home on our own but that were important at the time include: repairing electronic equipment, running lights, tackle and equipment, and more than

just a few times the under-rated but all important "head", which is never a fun job but something on a boat that if not working properly can make a trip very uncomfortable for everyone aboard.

So getting back to the old captain's question, "Do you paint your own boat?" Everyone knows that when you paint something - anything, you get to know what you're working on very well, every crack and crevice, every smooth inch and every flaw. When painting a boat you really get to know her inside and out, and while I thought that I fully understood the meaning of my friends question that day on the bench, it took a many more years on the water to really grasp that he wasn't literally referring to the benefit of "painting" one's own boat

as some boats don't need to be painted. But what he was he was getting at was the importance of having the knowledge and ability to properly maintain a boat so that it will allow it to take care of you day after day mile after mile.

When you call the guy to replace the float switch on your bilge pump you're not learning about your boat anymore than when he changes your oil, replaces your water pump, adds fluid to you power trim unit, puts a new macerator in your head or a new zinc

on your shaft. And the need to know this stuff isn't limited to just those in the for-hire industry. Anyone who runs a boat of any size or description is going to be safer and better off all the way around if they have a good working knowledge of their vessel. And these days with so much instructional information available on YouTube and other online sources there is no reason for any boater to be cruising around in the dark about things they should know.

So how about it skipper - do you paint your own boat? \$

*Chuck Bartholme*

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Black sea bass season officially kicked off last Sunday! Many boats braved the fog and headed out with most having great success. Our First Fish for sea bass for 2022 goes to Capt. Jeremy Michalski (left)! He and Capt. Jordon Lukiewski from Ellicott City, MD and Nick La Pointe from Bowie, MD headed out to the Jack Spot on the "Anger Management" and got their three man limit in 45 minutes. They report the fishing was very good with few throwbacks.

# 2022 FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

## 3-200 Miles

 <p><b>BLUE MARLIN</b> 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p><b>YELLOWFIN TUNA</b> 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>BIGEYE TUNA</b> 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p><b>GOLDEN TILEFISH</b> No minimum • 8 per person/day</p>
 <p><b>WHITE MARLIN</b> 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p> <p>NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit</p>	 <p><b>BLUEFIN TUNA</b> 27" to &lt;47" curved fork length 2 per vessel/day or trip 47" to &lt; 73" curved fork length 1 per vessel/day or trip 27" to &lt;47" curved fork length 3 per Charter/day or trip 27" to &lt;47" curved fork length 6 per Headboat/day or trip 47" to &lt; 73" curved fork length 2 per Headboat/day or trip</p>	 <p><b>SWORDFISH</b> 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter) 1 per person / 15 per Headboat</p>	 <p><b>BLUELINE TILEFISH</b> 5/1 - 10/31 3 per person (Recreational) 5 per person Uninspected (Charter) 7 per person Inspected (Charter)</p>
 <p><b>DOLPHIN</b> No minimum Length Boat Limit 60 Charter Limit 10 per person/ 60 per Boat</p>	<p><b>SAILFISH</b> Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit</p>	 <p><b>WAHOO</b> No minimum Length • 2 per person/day</p>	

### SHARKS

## AUTHORIZED SPECIES

**No Minimum Fork Length**  
Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead

**54" Minimum Fork Length**  
Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose

NOTE: Only 1 shark from the lists above may be retained per vessel per trip. In addition, 1 Atlantic Sharpnose, 1 Bonnethead and 1 Oceanic Whitetip may be retained per person per trip. If a hammerhead shark is retained, no tunas, billfish or swordfish may be retained.

**71" Minimum Fork Length**  
Male Shortfin Mako

**78" Minimum Fork Length**  
Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead

**83" Minimum Fork Length**  
Female Shortfin Mako

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Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov



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# DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Welcome to the Nor'easter that was not truly a Nor'easter! This week was a series of storms and high winds. As the week began, we saw the storm that although didn't fit the criteria of a Nor'easter, packed winds that were measured at 74 mph in Lewes, 56 mph in Bethany and low 50's inland. Samantha and I went to pull our crab pots right in the middle of Saturday's 56 mph tormenting storm. Even with full commercial style rain suits it was a tough ride. Our pots just outside the marina took us about an hour to pull, a feat we usually perform in about 15 minutes. Just to note, 3 other boats were also scrambling to pull pots before the storms dragged them away. The good news is we made it back safely and soaked to the bone with a tally of 34 keeper crabs in 4 pots on a 3 day soak. All along the eastern seaboard the wind and rains pounded the coast leaving many towns in utter destruction. To start off with this week we will have no

surf report. The reason is that the beaches are pretty much gone and Delaware DNREC had closed all entrances to the drive on beaches until further notice. I seriously doubt that anyone would want to brave the winds and surf we had this past week to try anyway. The surf conditions did not improve as the week went on, with winds between 25-40 mph continuing through Thursday with temps in the low to mid 50's. Offshore was no better with wind and seas reaching 14 ft. with sloppy confused seas. By Thursday the seas had lowered to about 6 ft. but remained very sloppy. I talked to several charter and headboats who normally fish the week before sea bass season opens. All of them stated they were doing general maintenance to prepare for the opening of sea bass but had not fished. The towns were majorly flooded and many, such as Bethany Beach, closed and barricaded roads. The beaches were washed away right up to the dunes and snow fences,

walkways and steps were washed away leading to the beach. The following weeks as the seas calm down will require quite a bit of repair to beach access, businesses and roads.

### Sea Bass, Tog & Flounder

Sea bass season opened on Sunday the 15th in Delaware with a size limit of 13" and a creel limit of 15. As part of the change in minimum, the season will also be shortened and end on December 11 vs. December 31.

The past two years gave us big fish and large catches early on and even had the season extend into the summer warmth later than we have seen in years. Fresh clam and jigs are the preferred method at this time as many of the sea bass are of larger size and hungry as they make their way back inshore and begin their migration north. Bucktail jigs are a favorite of many anglers often tipped with a strip of squid. Metal jigs or flat fall jigs are also widely used in catching these big brutes off the wrecks.

Beware that you will not catch the numbers of sea bass that you typically catch with these baits, however, the quality of the fish is often much larger. Sand eel type lures are also used for catching sea bass right now. Fresh clam is by far the best bait you can use this time of the year with salted clam and squid being second best. Deeper wrecks will be less crowded the first few days and can provide the angler a better chance of catching a limit of bigger fish.

Tog will end starting May 16th. Prior to the storms many record size tog have fallen prey to the anglers off the wrecks. The new state record tog was caught out of Lewes this past week as reported in Issue #2 of the Coastal Fisherman. This week I did hear of a few brave souls that tried to fish the beach before the big storms set in. Erick Rosckos pulled in a nice 24" black drum from 3R's beach. Lighthouse Bait and Tackle in Lewes reported the surf was slow until Friday when at high tide an angler threw a spoon, and sure enough, hooked up on a nice 15" bluefish. Others caught several more all around the same size. The fish were no more than 20 yards off the

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beach. Flounder has been slow to start, but each week we are seeing more of keeper size being taken from Indian River Bay areas.

On Thursday John Miller was fishing the rocks at Indian River using a white bucktail pulling in a nice 21" flounder. Most of these fish were taken on squid strips and minnows. Many were from the inlet area with deeper water coming in from the ocean on an ebb tide.

### Rockfish & Bluefish

Jonathan Jackson was also fishing the Delaware beach and caught a nice 33" rockfish using sand fleas. Not many stripers have come into the beaches or surf this year, but with night temps in the mid 40's they just may be late to arrive. Cold water and wind have seemed to slow everything down. Many of the fish being caught are either in the Chesapeake Bay or Delaware Bay, still

spawning or even further south in Maryland or Virginia and haven't finished their trek north. Surf clams and sand fleas remain the best bait for both black drum as well as rockfish in the surf and on the shoals in the bay areas. The big spawn of black drum was just beginning in the Delaware Bay, but after this big storm it is anybody's guess if they will still be around. The last full moon in May is usually the height of the spawn both here in Delaware as well as down south in Virginia and Maryland.

### Crabs & Clams

Crabbing has been good with pots averaging about 8 keepers per pot. The big news this year is they are very big! Many of the crabs I've pulled out of my pots are over 7" with a few topping 8".

Until next week and hopefully calmer and warmer weather...

Tight lines and fins up



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<b>Bluefish</b> 			<b>Thresher Shark</b> 		
<b>Black Drum</b> 	<b>April 16</b> CW Wells Assateague Island 70 lbs.	<b>April 23</b> Joe Burns Indian River Inlet 6.1 lbs.	<b>Bigeye Tuna</b> 		
<b>Cobia</b> 			<b>Bluefin Tuna</b> 		
<b>Flounder</b> 	<b>April 8</b> Danny Cox Thorofare 3.6 lbs.	<b>April 26</b> Frank Marshall Ocean Wreck 2.1 lbs.	<b>Longfin Tuna</b> 		
<b>Sea Bass</b> 	<span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">★</span> <b>May 15</b> Minh Dang Marine Electric 3.25 lbs.		<b>Yellowfin Tuna</b> 		
<b>Sheepshead</b> 			<b>Dolphin</b> 		
<b>Striped Bass</b> 			<b>Swordfish</b> 		
<b>Tautog</b> 	<b>April 22</b> Kelly Langion-Milano Artificial Reef 18 lbs.	<b>April 22</b> Billy Thornatore Ocean Wreck 7.5 lbs.	<b>Blue Marlin</b> 		
<b>Wahoo</b> 			<b>White Marlin</b> 		

To report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200 or email to [coastalfisherman@comcast.net](mailto:coastalfisherman@comcast.net)





Bluefish exploded at the Cape Henlopen State Park Pier over the weekend! Anglers Ryan Kapocsi from Bethany Beach, DE, Jessica Byrne and Jeff Taviano from Wilmington, DE rushed into the Lewes Harbour Marina late last Saturday to share these 4 fish they caught using mullet with top water lures.



More bluefish action from the beach at Cape Henlopen State Park. With most angler casting blindly into the fog last Saturday, they were rewarded with lots of action.

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# VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



Well, it took all week but we finally got a break in the weather and were able to get back to doing what we all love to do. The fishing on the southern shore was surprisingly good as the water cleared and sun reappeared.

The flounder fishing on Saturday and Sunday was particularly good in the shallows of the eastern shore back bays. Fish have been feeding in shallow water from depths of 3-12 feet on either side of the tide that produces the best water clarity. Silversides have definitely been the bait of choice coupled with a Gulp swimming mullet,

white or pink teaser. Capt. Bryan of Y-Knot Charters out of Chincoteague reported some really nice fish during an ebbing tide on chartreuse Gulp baits tipped with minnows and silversides.

The Virginia sea bass season opened today and anglers anticipation and excitement cut through this mornings fog like Rudolph's nose in the old Christmas tale. Coastal Killer Kyle had a quick 4 man limit in the waters off Chincoteague on stingsilvers as well as lil' bunker jigs. The quality was terrific with some impressive knotheads and

very few throwbacks.

The Tangier and Pocomoke Sounds have had some really good bait fishing opportunities in the shallow waters which conceal grassy patches and submerged stumps. Peelers and soft crabs have been the most productive baits on an array of finned trophies including red and black drum, speckled trout and even a few big rock that are tardy for their coastal migration. Our good friend Bobby Graves boated a giant 30 inch spec on a trip with Capt. C.L. Marshall of Tangier Sound Charters. We'll be starting our Sea Hawk casting trips

around Tangier and Smith this week as the rock season moves into the spring and summer regulations of 19 inch (Maryland) and 20 inch (Virginia) minimum size limits.

The inlets and surf of the Virginia Barrier Islands are yielding some very nice black drum. These swimming monsters are taking sea or hard clams fished on a fishfinder rig with an 8/0 circle hook to seal the deal. The rising tide seems to be the most productive with good bites coming at dusk as well. The surf has also been producing some nice drum along with a few rock and even the first kingfish of the year. The Virginia Coastal Rock season will resume on May 16th with slot limit of 28-36 inches and a creel limit of 1 fish per angler.



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The CBBT continues to contribute tog and sheepshead on crab baits fished near and around the pilings. Anglers looking for a battle have rounded the corner at Fisherman's Island to target the big three (reds, blacks and rock) on the shoals just off the beach.

The wind and rain may have kept us on the hard early on, but we certainly have been blessed with some good fishing by the end of the week. Sometimes when the weather and life in general doesn't let us do the things we want, when we want to do them, it's sobering to think that we aren't in charge and it's a privilege to get to follow our passion in this wonderful place we call home. §



Site 10 off the Delaware coast was good to Jerry Kennedy! He caught his limit of tautog while fishing on the headboat "Capt. Bob II" with Capt. Bert Adams using a tog favorite, green crabs. Jerry looks like he had a plan as these blackfish are probably delicious with some nice Guinness!



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Bill Mister is all smiles with 3 bluefish he caught off of the pier at the Cape Henlopen State Park last Saturday. Lighthouse View Bait & Tackle located at the base of the pier reports that the blues are hitting on spoons, poppers and plugs as well from both the pier and the adjacent surf!



Angler Ryan Georgov was casting his 1 oz. silverside minnow for blues off the beach in the Cape Henlopen State Park when this nice flounder decided to make it dinner instead!

# 2022 MARYLAND REGULATIONS

## STATE WATERS ONLY

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

eregulations.com





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## Featured Boat of the Week



**\$449,900**

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



**\$1,649,000**

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



**\$799,000**

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



**\$650,000**

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



**\$649,000**

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



**\$550,000**

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



**\$425,000**

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



**\$384,000**

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



**\$359,000**

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



**\$325,000**

**CONSTELLATION - 37' 1984 Sunny Briggs  
Call Ronnie Fields**



**\$289,900**

**CHUBBY - 1995 42' Liberty  
Call Jeff James**



**\$250,000**

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



**\$200,000**

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



**\$189,000**

**25' 2018 Regulator  
Call Mark Barton**



**\$185,000**

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



**\$118,000**

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



**\$99,500**

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



**\$60,000**

**29' 1996 Luhrs  
Call Ronnie Fields**



**\$59,000**

**30' 1984 Blackfin  
Call Chris Workmon**

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