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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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The weather last weekend was far from nice, but that didn't stop Jeffrey Peregoy of Fallston, MD from heading out to the South Jetty and muscling in this 27-inch, 14 lb. 8 oz. sheepshead. Jeffrey was fishing on the "Reel-M-N-AI" with Don Altemus and Mario Marisa. The big sheepshead was the star of the show on this day, but the group did catch 5 others during the incoming tide while using live sand fleas for bait. This bruiser is the largest sheepshead caught so far this year in Ocean City.

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Dave Neumayer of Hanover, PA took on the rough conditions in the Ocean City Inlet last weekend and was rewarded with this 23 1/2-inch red drum. Dave hooked the fish while tossing a bucktail at the South Jetty.

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This 21-inch, 4 lb. 8 oz. flounder made a very big mistake when it went after the 5-inch Gulp Swimming Mullet being offered by Marc Bouchard of Phoenix, MD. Mark hooked the big flattie while drifting in the East Channel off 4th Street during the incoming tide. Weighed at Bahia Marina.



Bill Ditzler, Harold Eberly and Rick Aumet (not pictured) ventured out to some ocean structure and caught flounder measuring between 19 and 23-inches along with some sea bass up to 15-inches. All were caught on bucktails tipped with strips of squid. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Only a couple of boats ventured out in rough conditions last Thursday and one of those was the charter boat, "Marli" with anglers Steve Ewell, Frank Luciani, T.J. Sheeley, Jim Hinkle, Kristen Williams and Matt Below (not pictured). Steve and Frank boated a pair of yellowfin tuna that weighed a combined 144.5 lbs. after hooking them while trolling ballyhoo along the 100 fathom edge of the Washington Canyon. The group also caught a half dozen mahi during their trip. As always, Capt. Mark Hoos was at the helm and mate Mark Stephens was in the pit. Pictured back at Sunset Marina.



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Ocean City Fishing Report

by Larry Jock



Unfortunately, there's not much to report. Last week was horrible. Bad weather kept offshore boats at the dock everyday except on Thursday and Sunday and those fishing in the bay and around the South Jetty only had a few windows of opportunity.

The star of the show last week was definitely sheepshead. We saw some really nice fish caught around the South Jetty by anglers soaking sand fleas. The largest of the year so far in Ocean City was hooked in nasty weather on Saturday by Jeffrey Peregoy. The 14 lb. 8 oz. sheepshead was one of six his group caught that day.

On Sunday, there were a couple more sheepshead caught on fleas around the South Jetty. Dave Neumayer hooked an 8 pounder and junior angler, Heidi Radebaugh on the charter boat, "Lucky Break" muscled in a 12 lb. 6 oz. sheepshead.

As this report is being written on Monday morning, it is a beautiful day in Ocean City and Don DiBlasi just returned from a trip on the charter boat, "Get Sum" with 6 sheepshead in the box after fishing around the South Jetty. Don's largest measured 21-inches and weighed 6 lbs. 8 oz. Capt.



On a beautiful Monday morning after a week of poor weather, anglers were chomping at the bit to get out on the water. Don DiBlasi of Bel Air, MD took advantage of the opportunity and ended up with 6 sheepshead in the box after fishing with sand fleas at the South Jetty aboard the "Ivy Sea" with Capt. Nick Clemente. The fish were caught on both tides, but the best bite definitely came during the incoming tide. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

Jason Mumford on the charter boat, "Lucky Break" was also out there and his anglers ended up with 6 triggerfish, a tautog and a flounder.

Denise Kieczkajlo and Michael Skowronski love to fish

for red drum and Denise found one interested in her frozen sand flea on Sunday when she hooked a 24 1/2-incher.

Flounder fishing in the bay has not been very good this season and the recent storms didn't help the situation. Water clarity was obviously poor last week, but when anglers could get out for a couple of hours, the best bite was in the West Channel. Anglers still needed to weed through a lot of throwbacks, but a few keepers

measuring around 18-inches were caught.

The only offshore action we saw last week came on Thursday and Sunday. Even though the seas were more than sporty on Thursday, the "Marli" ventured down to the Washington Canyon and picked up a pair of big yellowfins and a half dozen dolphin. The 2 yellowfins weighed a combined 144.5 lbs. Also on Thursday, the "Conspiracy" went to the Washington Canyon where they recorded 2 white marlin releases. On Sunday, "Maryland Pride" headed out to the Jackspot and caught 6 false albacore tuna before heading out to the Poor Man's Canyon where they boated 56 mahi.

Further inshore, anglers on the headboat, "Angler" hit some ocean structure on Sunday and caught flounder weighing up to 5 lbs. while dropping bucktails.

On a final note, please check out the news brief on page 15 regarding the cobia season. NOAA issued a clarification after they announced regulation changes effective September 5th. Even though these changes go into effect in September, Federal waters will remain closed for cobia fishing until January 1, 2018.

Upcoming Tournaments

This weekend is the Big Fish Classic that was rescheduled to September 8th, 9th and 10th. Weigh-ins are at the Talbot Street Pier and a lot of folks are praying that the effects of Hurricane Irma won't cause the tournament to be cancelled. It has really turned into a great event where anglers are only steps away from the scale and the bar at MR Ducks.

Hopefully, I'll see you at the scales!

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Four generations of the Hess/Shirk family hit the Hot Dog before the most recent blow and caught a half dozen mahi and 7 false albacore tuna. They were hoping that the elder statesman of the family would catch his first white marlin during the trip, but unfortunately it just wasn't that day. Fishing on the "Slaughterhouse" with Capt. Mark Hess (not pictured) are Pam's father, Raymond "O-pa" Shirk, Pam Hess, Jason Hess, Kiley Hess and Brinley Hess.



Bryan Weaver from Baldwin, MD caught his first keeper flounder, a 20-inch, while drifting a minnow in the West Channel.

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Big flounder continue to be pulled off the Old Grounds and Dennis Raber from Denver, PA took advantage of it, catching this 25-inch 6 lb. 10 oz. flattie while using a minnow and otter tail artificial bait combination. Weighed at Rick's Bait & Tackle.



Before the bad weather rolled into Ocean City, Henry and Charlie Gessford headed out to the Bass Grounds and caught a bunch of sea bass measuring up to 15-inches.

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Dale Christensen from Ocean Pines, MD caught this beautiful 26-inch, 7 lb. 11 oz. flounder while fishing with cut spot at the Bass Grounds. Dale was joined on the "Myra HT" by Jimbo Farlow, Margaret Ann Tierney, Alex Taylor and Capt. Hugh Cropper. Pictured at the Coastal Fisherman office in West Ocean City.



Justin Hayden from Springfield, MO released his first white marlin while fishing during the 2017 MidAtlantic tournament on the "Buckshot" with CJ Miller and Billy Miller (both pictured), Dion Stanton, Capt. Gary Stamm and mates Justin Hart and Wayne Blanks. The 68 1/8-inch, 59 lb. white marlin hit a trolled ballyhoo in the Washington Canyon. Dion also released a white marlin during the trip. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

Federal Size & Creel Limits

3-200 Miles

 <p>BLUE MARLIN 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No creel limit</p>	 <p>DOLPHIN No minimum length 10 per person/day</p>	 <p>YELLOWFIN TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day</p>
 <p>WHITE MARLIN 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No creel limit</p>	 <p>WAHOO No minimum length 2 per person/day</p>	 <p>BLUEFIN TUNA (Recreational) 2 per vessel/day/trip 27" to less than 47" CFL 1 per vessel/day/trip 47" to less than 73"</p>
 <p>SWORDFISH 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter)</p>	 <p>BIGEYE TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length No creel limit</p>	<p>(Charter Boat) 3 per vessel/day/trip 27" to less than 47" CFL 1 per vessel/day/trip 47" to less than 73"</p> <p>Southern Trophy Fishery closed through December 31, 2017</p>

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

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

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

Only 1 shark from the lists above may be retained per vessel per trip. In addition, 1 Atlantic Sharpnose and 1 Bonnethead may be retained per person per trip. No size or creel limits on dogfish sharks.

Prohibited Sharks

Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White

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Fish Stories

by Capt. Franky Pettolina



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 cancelled 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

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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 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.

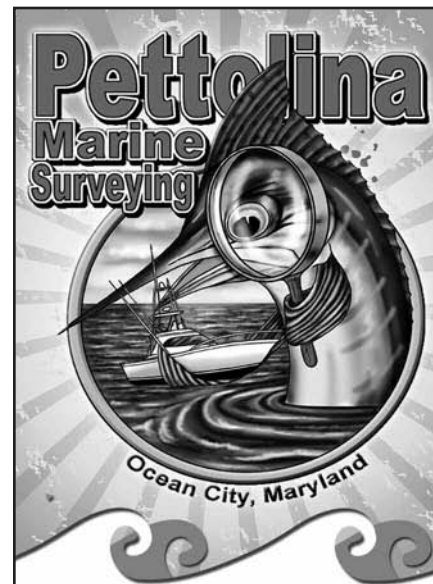
The last two tournaments I will talk about both seemed like good ideas at the time, but neither one took off. At all. Both of them were duds. And I helped start them. I guess you can't win them all. The Ocean City Marlin Club Tuna Chunking Tournament and the Bahia Marina Tuna Mania Chunking Round-Up. 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!

Capt. Franky Pettolina is Co-Captain of the charter boat, "Last Call" and President of the Ocean City Marlin Club.



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On the second day of The MidAtlantic tournament, Stephen Humphrey caught a 71 lb. yellowfin tuna and Joe Rogers released a white marlin while fishing on the "Wrecker" with Rusty Rader, Dale Christensen, Joe Rogers, Jeremy Lankford, Capt. Jeremy Blunt and mate Bobby Layton. All of the action took place while trolling ballyhoo in 700 fathoms in the Poor Man's Canyon. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



Luis Moreno and Tremaine Batson caught their limit of flounder (4 pictured) while jigging with strips of squid on ocean structure. Their flatties measured between 22 and 24-inches. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 36"
Red Drum *	36"	45"
Sailfish *	Any Size	-
Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"
Speckled Trout	24"	-
Striped Bass	40"	30 lbs. or 40"

* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program

*** Use curved-fork-length measurements

	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u>
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Blue Shark *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Hammerhead *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Mako *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Thresher *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Tiger *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"
Tuna:		
Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lbs. or 32"
False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"
Bigeye ***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"
Bluefin ***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"
Yellowfin ***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"
Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"
Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"
White Marlin **	Any Size	Any Size

** Only released fish are eligible in MD and DE programs

NOAA clarifies change in cobia regulations

On August 4, 2017, NOAA released a bulletin stating the following change in cobia regulations:

NOAA Fisheries announces a final rule to change the following management measures for Atlantic Cobia (Georgia through New York):

- * increase the recreational minimum size limit
- * reduce the recreational bag limit
- * establish a recreational vessel limit
- * establish a commercial trip limit
- * modify the recreational accountability measure

The management measures will be effective September 5, 2017.

For the Atlantic cobia recreational sector, the minimum size limit will increase from 33 inches fork length to 36 inches fork length.

The recreational bag limit will be modified to one fish per person per day, or six fish per vessel per day, whichever is more restrictive.

Cobia fishing in Federal waters was closed on January 1, 2017 and even though the bulletin states that "management measures will be effective September 5, 2017", the season will not reopen until January 1, 2018.

NOAA announces new online system for tournaments

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service is offering an online option to register Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) tournaments and report HMS tournament catches on the new Atlantic Tournament Registry and Reporting (ATR) System.

Online registration provides an additional, easy option for tournament registration and reporting. For more information go to <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/compliance/tournaments/index.html>.



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Elaine Ownes and Sue Ownes each caught and released their first white marlin while fishing on the charter boat, "Spring Mix II" with B. Leone, Laura Howard, Capt. Chris Watkowski and mates Ayrton Pryor and Cory Lednum. It was the first time offshore for all 4 lady anglers. Both releases came after hooking the whites on trolled ballyhoo in the Washington Canyon during the Poor Girls Open. Pictured back at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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While fishing on the "Grizzly" with Capt. Carey Evans, Ian Murphy caught a pair of big flounder while using Gulp and shiners for bait. Ian's two flatties were caught on ocean structure and weighed 4 lbs. and 6 lbs. on the scale at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Andy and Jessica Hitchcock of Gaithersburg, MD spent the day fishing on the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and caught some flounder and sea bass weighing up to 3 lbs. All were hooked on squid at a natural reef.


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According to Capt. Monty Hawkins on the headboat, "Morning Star", seven sea bass on his boat have never looked so good! Tara Grover shows off only some of her catch made at the Great Eastern Reef while fishing with clams and cut bait. Handling deck responsibilities for Capt. Monty were mates Dan Iacangelo and Wes Pollitt. The "Morning Star" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Matt Barone from State College, PA caught this 18-inch flounder while fishing on the charter boat, "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford and mate Lee Baker. The flounder was hooked on a Gulp artificial bait in the West Channel during the outgoing tide. The "Lucky Break" is docked at Frontier Town.

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This 19-inch flounder was caught on a Gulp artificial bait by Eric Badorrek of Selbyville, DE while drifting near the Rt. 90 Bridge last week.



Jimmy Taylorson was drifting a Gulp and minnow combination in the East Channel, just north of the Rt. 50 Bridge, when he hooked into this 22-inch flounder.

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BAY FISHING CHARTERS



John Rape from Catonsville, MD, Mike Muller from Lithium, MD, Vern Gude from Pensacola, FL and Blaise Ruecker from Kent Island, MD returned to Frontier Town with a couple of flounder in the box after taking a trip on the charter boat, "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford and mate Lee Baker. Both fish were caught on minnows in the Fishbowl, north of the Rt. 50 Bridge. Their largest flattie measured 22-inches.



During a trip aboard the charter boat, "On the Run" with Capt. Dave Caffrey, Allen Marker caught this 18 1/2-inch flounder while fishing with Gulp artificial baits in the East Channel. Pictured back at Bahia Marina.

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BAY FISHING CHARTERS



Ken Gries from Champion, PA was tossing a live minnow from the beach at Gudelsky Park in West Ocean City when he hooked into this 22-inch, 3 lb. 4 oz. flounder during the incoming tide. Ken is pictured with his wife, Deb Gries at the Coastal Fisherman office on Sunset Avenue in West Ocean City.



While fishing with squid around "A" Buoy, Terry Cooper and Jay Leibforth from Laurel, DE captured 4 flounder weighing up to 5 lbs. 8 oz. Weighed at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



During a trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mates Dan Iacangelo and Wes Pollitt, angler Mike Zeigler of Ocean City, MD had a good day, catching 3 keeper flounder (2 pictured) while dropping cut bait over an artificial reef site. Mike's largest fish measured 23-inches.



Zenon Zelek caught and released his first white marlin while fishing near the 461 Lump with Ernest Kopac, Paul Grabowski, Richard Kopac (not pictured), Capt. Ken Thompson and mate Eddie Quick. They also released another white marlin and caught a couple of mahi during their trip.

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Zach Eckel joined Bill, Jim and Lindsay Scheivert for a trip to the Jackspot where they caught a dozen false albacore tuna (4 pictured) and released many more.



Jerry Furr and JR Landis pulled 5 keeper flounder off the Old Grounds while fishing with Gulp and flounder bellies. They hooked 32 flatties and some sea bass measuring up to 15-inches.

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Richard Walls from Baltimore, MD caught a pair of flounder, weighing up to 3 lbs. 4 oz., while fishing on the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Dean Lo and Rich Fouts. Both were caught on chunks of clam at a natural ocean reef.



During the 2017 MidAtlantic tournament, Andrew Kennedy on the "Reel Rodeo" caught this 69 lb. yellowfin tuna while fishing with Rich Van Camp, Capt. JJ Logan and mates Brad Goodrich and Darin Tonks. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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Connor Barnett from York, PA is all smiles after returning to Bahia Marina with a 23-inch, 4 lb. flounder caught while fishing on the charter boat, "On the Run" with Capt. Dave Caffrey. The flattie was hooked on a Gulp artificial bait in the Ocean City Inlet.

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



James Loft, Jr. muscled in this 2 lb. 4 oz. black sea bass while fishing on the headboat, "Angler" with his dad, James Loft, Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Dean Lo and Rich Fouts. The knothead was hooked on a bucktail tipped with squid near the Old Grounds.



Julia Arfa caught and released this 65-inch white marlin while fishing on the charter boat, "That's Right" with Capt. John Oughton and mates Will Hathaway and Austin Bickford. The white was hooked on a trolled ballyhoo in the Baltimore Canyon.

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Matt Bilodeau from Jeffersonville, VT caught his very first yellowfin tuna, estimated to weigh 25 lbs., while trolling at the Hot Dog aboard the "Longfin" Capt. Tom Smith, Lance Smith and Gerry Chaveca.



Chuck Frutiger, Ty Becker, Larry McDonald, Danny Boyer, Jim Gouledner, Bob Ament and Teddy Miller returned to Lewes Harbour Marina with a nice catch of flounder caught while fishing on ocean structure with Capt. Brent Wiest on the charter boat, "Katydid".

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Jim Thompson from Selbyville, DE and Chris Carnley from Wilmington, DE had a great day flounder fishing at the Old Grounds. They returned with their limit of 8 keepers measuring up to 27 1/2-inches and weighing 8 lbs. 9 oz. Photo courtesy of Hook'em & Cook'em in the Indian River Marina.



Courtney Gallagher caught and released her first white marlin while fishing on the "Amanda May-Hem" with Amanda Pomeranz, Angela Giampetroni, Sara Giampetroni, Capt. Elliot Pomeranz and mates Ed Barker and Gary Hall. The white marlin was hooked on a trolled ballyhoo near the Rockpile.

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Tyler Clemens, Brian Hollerbush, Mark Clemens, Erin Hollerbush, Travis Clemens and Kelsi Sprenkle, all from York, PA ended their day with this 61 lb. yellowfin in the box of the "East Bound" after chunking at Massey's Canyon.

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As always, 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.



While drifting a Gulp artificial bait in the Thorofare, Isabella Huber, age 11, from Berlin, MD caught and released this flounder during a trip with Capt. Jack Kaeufer.

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Delaware Fishing Report

by Larry Jock




Well, last week was a complete blowout! Bad weather lasted the entire week with only a couple of windows of opportunity to hit the water.

At Hook'em & Cook'em in the Indian River Marina, Capt. Bert Adams said that his headboats were able to get offshore on Thursday and Sunday last week. Fishing was very slow on Thursday but the bite was much better when they ventured back out on Sunday morning, even though Capt. Chris Adams reported dirty water conditions. His anglers caught a few keeper flounder and sea bass but anglers stayed busy with a lot of throwbacks.

Before heading 10 miles off the beach, Capt. Chris did swing by Site 10 where they marked fish but just couldn't get them to bite. They even switched to smaller hooks, but with no luck.

Nothing is really happening in the Indian River Inlet, which

isn't anything new this season. For some reason, the Inlet just hasn't been producing like it has in previous years. As expected after all of the storms, water quality is poor but Bert said there are plenty of peanut bunker and 7 to 8-inch finger mullet around, so you would expect to see decent numbers of fish looking for a snack. Unfortunately that's not the case. Bert said he sees an occasional flounder and some sheepshead have been caught along the rocks on the south side of the Inlet by anglers soaking sand fleas. Tog season in Delaware is closed right now.

With storms wreaking havoc on ocean waters, not many broke the Indian River Inlet last week. On Thursday, a couple tried the inshore lumps, like Fenwick Shoal, but did not find any of the snapper bluefish that had been hanging around. On Saturday, Bert said that "Boys Toy" took

on rough seas heading to the Baltimore Canyon and released a white marlin in addition to catching a dolphin.

Capt. Mike Behney at Rick's Bait & Tackle said that his customers found a lot of good size spot in the Indian River Bay where they are also picking at a few flounder.

Not much is happening in the Lewes Canal, but Mike had some anglers get into smaller weakfish, up to 15-inches, while fishing in the Canal near the Roosevelt Inlet. Mike said that there are also a few croaker being caught in the Lewes Canal by anglers using Fishbite bloodworms for bait.

Not much happened at The Walls last week due to rough conditions.

Those that were able to fish from the beach last week found a lot of small snapper bluefish at the Delaware Seashore State Park and at Cape Henlopen State

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Park. Cut mullet is the recent bait of choice.

On a side note, NOAA clarified their change in cobia regulations, and although they put new size and creel limits in effect, they are not opening Federal waters to cobia fishing until January 1, 2018. You can read about it on page 15 in this issue.

I also heard a rumor that the Paradise Grill Flounder Pounder Open is considering going to a fish 3 out of 5 day format with first place worth \$150,000. I haven't confirmed this rumor, but I got it from a good source. I will keep you all updated once I get it verified. Looks like they are looking to become the White Marlin Open of the flounder world. Could be interesting.

As this report is being written on Monday morning, the weather has improved greatly, so there are a lot of boats on the water. Hopefully, the storms have shaken things up offshore and the tuna and marlin bite will improve. Keep an eye on our online fishing reports for daily updates.

Until next week, tight lines!



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While trolling in 80 fathoms around the Rockpile, anglers on the "Canyon Runner" captured this 55 lb. wahoo after hooking it on a naked ballyhoo. Fishing with Capt. Scott Stapleford were Rick and Jason Johnson (both pictured), Nathan Johnson and Mike Johnson. Weighed at Sunset Marina.

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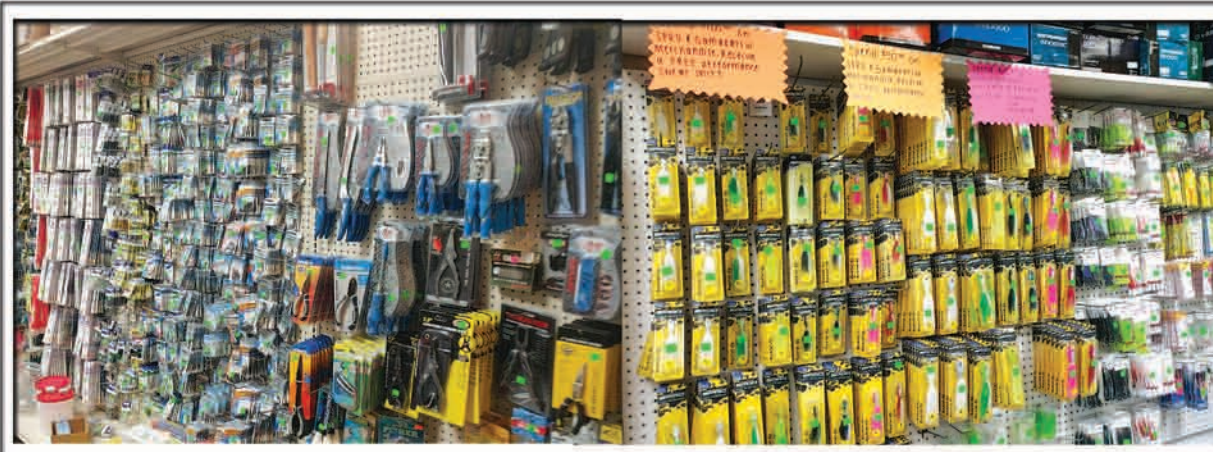
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Dave and Chris Leitzell from Harrisburg, PA, Mike Meszeros from Corton, VA, Mike Horvath from Wilkes-Barre, PA, Steve Ruggles from Lothian, MD, Carl Kuren from Wilkes-Barre, PA and Brycen Stewart from Baltimore, MD caught a mix of black sea bass, flounder and triggerfish during a trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mates Dan Iacangelo and Wes Pollitt. All of the fish were caught on natural ocean bottom. The "Morning Star" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - TIES GO TO FIRST FISH REPORTED)



Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
Sea Bass 	May 28, 2017 Lee Vincent "Fish Bound" 5 lbs. 4 oz.	June 16, 2017 Stephen Pistoia Del-Jersey-Land Reef 4 lbs. 2 oz.	Mako Shark <i>100 lb. minimum</i> 	June 15, 2017 Shane Kline "Restless Lady" 564 lbs.	June 4, 2017 John Pendell Elephant Trunk 461 lbs.
Tautog 	February 21, 2017 Sam Furest "Morning Star" 19 lbs. 4 oz.	April 14, 2017 Mike Haas Site 10 9 lbs. 13 oz.	Thresher Shark 	June 4, 2017 Mike Fritsch Fingers 583 lbs.	July 6, 2017 Chris Pugh "B" Buoy 417 lbs.
Striped Bass 	May 10, 2017 Lee Savage Assateague Island 39 lbs. 8 oz.	June 5, 2017 Scott Cornew Bethany Surf 43 lbs.	Bluefin Tuna 	June 16, 2017 Neil Smith Poor Man's Canyon 210 lbs.	July 1, 2017 Frank Perna Baltimore Canyon 126 lbs.
Weakfish 	June 10, 2017 Rich Daiker South Jetty 5 lbs. 6 oz.	May 20, 2017 John Kelleher Delaware Bay 7 lbs. 2 oz.	Yellowfin Tuna 	August 24, 2017 Mike Cassidy Wilmington 184 lbs.	July 24, 2017 Grady Kehl Massey's Canyon 67 lbs. 8 oz.
Cobia 	No Weights Reported	August 27, 2015 Paul Ferenczi Indian River Inlet 10 lbs. 13 oz.	Longfin Tuna 	August 25, 2017 Keith Fraser Norfolk Canyon 31 lbs.	No Weights Reported
Flounder 	July 14, 2017 Matt Marceron Old Grounds 8 lbs. 6 oz.	August 19, 2017 Brent Wiest Site 10 11 lbs. 4 oz.	Bigeye Tuna 	June 16, 2017 Greg Weber "That's Right" 180 lbs.	June 18, 2017 Matthew Gessler Poor Man's Canyon 130 lbs.
Bluefish 	May 4, 2017 Emma Matarese "OC Guide Service" 15 lbs. 12 oz.	April 21, 2017 Alex Neiss Cape Henlopen Surf 18 lbs. 8 oz.	Dolphin 	May 17, 2017 Chris Middendorf Norfolk Canyon 46 lbs.	July 24, 2017 John Gravatt Massey's Canyon 19 lbs.
Sheepshead 	NEW September 1, 2017 Jeffrey Peregoy South Jetty 14 lbs. 8 oz.	August 5, 2017 Hillard Head Pot Nets 9 lbs. 3 oz.	Wahoo 	July 21, 2017 Sam Homic Hot Dog 81 lbs.	July 3, 2017 Meghan Horning Fingers 39 lbs. 9 oz.
Black Drum 	May 11, 2017 Zach Nagler Assateague Surf 40 lbs.	June 1, 2017 Paul Stermer Brandywine Shoal 70.5 lbs.	White Marlin 	Most Releases in One Day (trolling only) August 18, 2017 "Rhonda's Osprey" 8 Releases June 25, 2017 "Fish Whistle" 5 Releases	

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On the fourth day of The MidAtlantic tournament, Keith Nizer caught this 60 lb. yellowfin tuna while fishing on the "Marli" with Rob Harris, Robert DiGiacomo, Joe Stein, Tom Distefano, Geoff McClosky, Capt. Mark Hoos and mate Mark Stephens. The yellowfin was hooked on a trolled ballyhoo in the Washington Canyon. Weighed at Sunset Marina.



Bryan Reburn of Centreville, MD caught this pair of flounder, measuring 17 1/2 and 20-inches, while fishing with minnows off the Oceanic Pier.

Maryland Regulations

State Waters Only



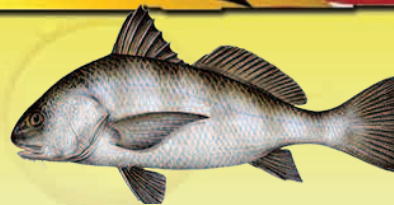
BLACK SEA BASS

12.5" minimum
15 per person/day
5/15-9/21 & 10/22-12/31



BLUEFISH

8" minimum
10 per person/day



BLACK DRUM

16" minimum
1 per person/day or 6 per boat/day



COBIA

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January 1, 2018



CROAKER

9" minimum 25 per person/day



RED DRUM

18" - 27" 1 per person/day



SHEEPSHEAD

No limit



SPECKLED TROUT

14" minimum 4 per person/day



STRIPED BASS

28"- 38" and 44" and greater
Any Combination
2 per person/day



TAUTOG

16" minimum
5/16-10/31 2 per person/day



SUMMER FLOUNDER

17" minimum
4 per person/day



WEAKFISH


13" minimum
1 per person/day



After trolling over some inshore lumps on the "Lil Angler II" with Capt. Brian Wazlavek, the cleaning table at Lewes Harbour Marina was filled with 80 bluefish and 7 banded rudderfish caught by anglers Steve Masten, Trevor, Stephan and Matt Wright, Tyler Artusa, Camryn Zimmerman and Chris Mirra.


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Matt Bilodeau caught his very first flounder, a big 24-incher, while jigging on an ocean reef with Gerry Chaveca (pictured), Lance Smith and Capt. Tom Smith on the "Longfin".

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Hanna Mattio, age 7, from Seattle, WA was drifting bunker in the bay behind Harbour Island when she hooked into this 23-inch, 4 lb. 2 oz. flounder. Pictured at the Coastal Fisherman office on Sunset Avenue in West Ocean City.

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Jeff Smith, Nelson Reiff, Richard Martin, Matthew Martin, Gerald Martin and Ryan Martin teamed up to arrow this 151 lb. butterfly ray while bowfishing on the "Nock'd-n-Ready". They also shot 3 other rays and a pair of 20-inch flounder during their trip behind Frontier Town.



Aidan Devine was visiting from Massachusetts and ended up catching a 6 lb. 15 oz. flounder while fishing with clams on ocean structure. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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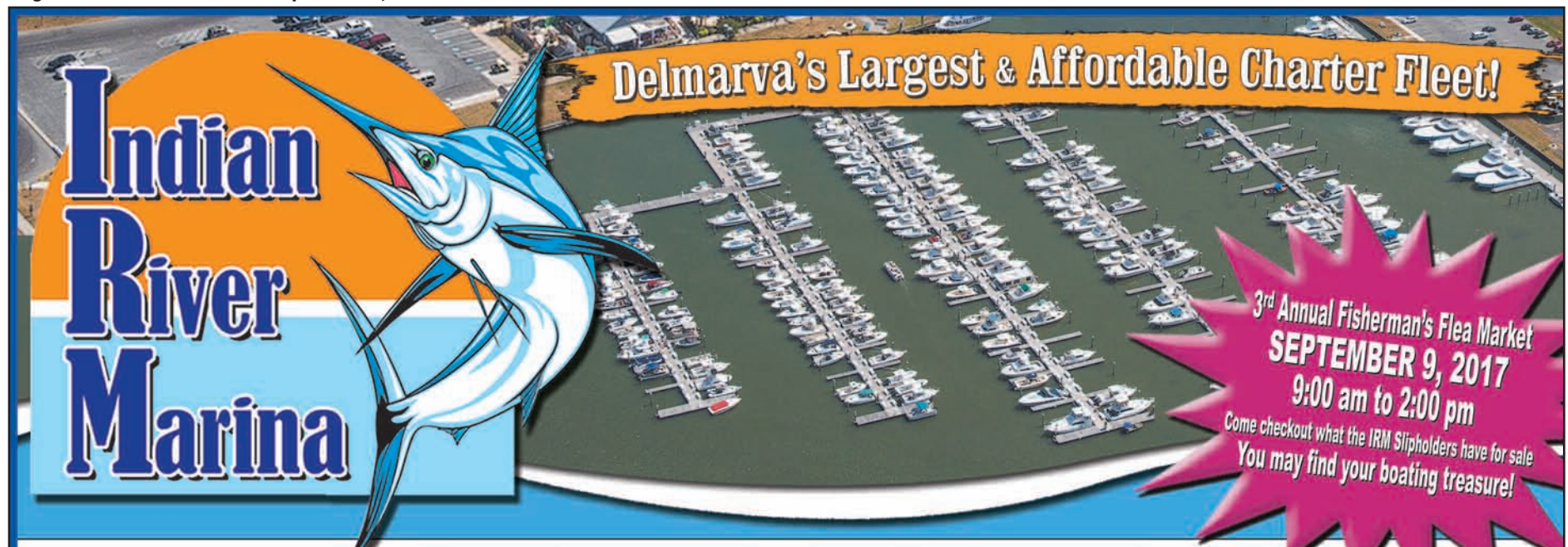
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Allen Baker, Jerry Shockley and Zach Morris took a trip to "B" Buoy and returned with 6 keeper flounder. Allen (far left) led the way with a 28-inch that weighed over 8 lbs. on the scale at Hook'em & Cook'em in the Indian River Marina.



Before the bad weather rolled into town, Rick Rummage and Kyle Mooney ventured out to the Baltimore Canyon and the Sausages where they caught a half dozen mahi and broke a good size mako off right at the boat. The largest dolphin measured 37-inches and tipped the scale at an even 18 lbs. All were caught on skirted ballyhoo in 74-degree water.



Keith's Crab and Shrimp Dip

submitted by Keith Bradley

- 4 (8 oz.) packages cream cheese
- 1 tomato, chopped
- 1 onion, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped
- 3/4 lb. fresh crabmeat
- 1/4 lb. small shrimp, cooked
- 1/2 cup banana pepper rings, chopped

Melt the cream cheese in a sauce pan over low heat.

Gently fold in tomato, onion, garlic, crab, shrimp and peppers.

Transfer to rimmed serving plate.

Serve.

Grilled Mahi Mahi With Garlic Sesame Sauce

- 4 mahi fillets
- 1 red bell pepper, thinly sliced
- 1 large zucchini, thinly sliced
- Green onion, thinly sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- Rice

Marinade/Sauce

- 1/2 cup pineapple juice
- 3 TBSP soy sauce
- 1 TBSP sesame oil
- 1 cup dry sherry
- 1 TBSP cornstarch (to be added to the sauce only)

Cook rice and set-aside.

Keep warm.

Use a small portion of the

sauce mixture to marinate the fish fillets for 1/2 hour.

Prepare the remaining sauce by adding cornstarch to marinade and bring to a boil until thick, stirring frequently.

Sear the marinated fish fillets on hot grill for 1 to 2 minutes per side.

Prepare 4 aluminum envelopes by placing 1 fillet on top of layered bell pepper and zucchini.

Top with garlic, green onion and sesame seeds.

Salt and pepper to taste.

Seal package and grill on the bottom side for 5 minutes and on the top side for 3 to 4 minutes.

Serve over white rice.

Shrimp Mold

- 1 (10 3/4 oz.) can condensed tomato soup
- 2 (1/4 ounce) envelopes unflavored gelatin
- 1/2 cup cold water
- 6 oz. cream cheese, softened

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- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 lb. cooked shrimp
- 1 cup minced celery
- 1/2 cup green onions, minced

Heat soup in a small saucepan or in a microwave oven.

In a medium bowl, stir gelatin into cold water.

Mix hot tomato soup into the gelatin liquid.

In a medium size mixing bowl, combine cream cheese and mayonnaise together.

Mix soup mixture into the mayonnaise and cream cheese mixture. Mix well.

Add shrimp, celery and green onions.

Spoon the mixture into a 1 quart mold and refrigerate for at least 1 hour, but preferably overnight.

Unmold onto a serving plate before serving.

Mustard-Cream Sauce

- 1 (270 g) tub PHILADELPHIA Herb

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& Garlic Cream Cheese
1/2 cup 25%-less-sodium
chicken broth
3 TBSP grainy Dijon
mustard, divided

Cook and stir cooking
cream cheese, broth and 1
TBSP mustard in saucepan on
medium heat for 3 minutes or
until heated through.

Remove from heat and
cover to keep warm.

Special Mahi-Mahi with Rice

2 mahi fillets
1 1/2 cups teriyaki sauce
1 tsp. minced fresh garlic

Teriyaki Rice:

1 cup jasmine rice
2 cups water
1 tsp. Italian seasoning
1/4 cup teriyaki sauce
1 TBSP oil
1/2 tsp. salt

Put fish, teriyaki sauce, and
garlic into a large ziplock bag.

Seal and refrigerate at least
for 1/2 hour (the longer, the
better).

When fish is marinated and
ready, wrap loosely in foil and
steam in the oven for about 20
minutes or until cooked
through.

While the fish is cooking,
bring 1 cup of rice and 2 cups
of water to a boil.

Add in oil, salt and Italian
seasoning.

Cook rice until tender and
fluffy.

When rice is done cooking,
remove from heat and add
teriyaki sauce. Stir well.

Serve fish and rice together.

Creamy Baked Flounder

4 cups cooked rice
1/2 cup slivered almonds
1 tsp. lemon pepper
6 thick slices roma
tomatoes
6 tsp. grated Parmesan
cheese
6 flounder fillets
3 TBSP. butter
3 TBSP. flour
2 1/2 cups milk

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2 TBSP parsley, finely
minced parsley
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. white pepper

Preheat oven to 350
degrees.

Mix rice, almonds and
lemon pepper.

Spread in bottom of a
buttered casserole dish.

Lay a slice of tomato
topped with a tsp. of Parmesan
on bottom half of each fillet;
fold top over.

Place folded fillets in
casserole, slightly overlapping.

Melt butter in a deep skillet
or saucepan.

Add flour; stir, gradually
whisking in the milk, stirring
until thickened.

Add parsley and
seasonings.

Pour over casserole.

Bake for 25 minutes.

Serves 6.

Shrimp Scampi and Rice Skillet

2 TBSP olive oil

3 cloves garlic, minced
2 cups long grain rice
1/2 cup white wine or
vermouth
1/2 TBSP. Worcestershire
sauce
Juice of 1 lemon
2 1/2 cups chicken stock
1 lb. large raw shrimp,
peeled and deveined
2 TBSP. butter
1/4 tsp. black pepper
2 tsp. lemon zest
2 TBSP. minced parsley

In a large skillet, sauté the
garlic in oil over medium heat
1 minute.

Add the rice; stir to coat.

Pour in the wine,
Worcestershire, lemon juice
and stock; bring to a boil.

Stir in the shrimp and
return to a simmer.

Cover and cook over very
low heat 15 minutes or until
liquid is absorbed.

Stir in butter and pepper.

Sprinkle with lemon zest
and parsley before serving.

Serves 4.

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Daniel Button, Randy Button and Ted Cusimano (not pictured) ventured out to some ocean structure and were rewarded with 9 keeper flounder (2 pictured) and some triggerfish. Their largest flounder measured 26-inches.

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Striped Bass in Wine

- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 medium tomatoes
- 2 shallots, sliced 1/4-inch thick
- 6 fresh thyme sprigs
- 1 lb. skinless striped bass fillets

In a large skillet combine wine, 1/4 cup water and the oil.

Add tomatoes, shallots, thyme leaves and 1/4 tsp. salt. Bring to boiling.

Reduce heat.

Simmer uncovered, 3 to 5 minutes or until tomatoes are tender.

Place fish fillets in skillet, spooning some of the broth over the fish.

Reduce heat to medium low.

Cook, covered, 8 to 10 minutes or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork.

Using a slotted spoon, lift fish and tomatoes into shallow

bowls.

Discard thyme.

Ladle broth and shallots into each bowl.

Serves 4.

Sweet Bourbon-Glazed Flounder

- 2 TBSP butter
- 1 TBSP minced shallots or finely minced onion
- 1 tsp. lime juice
- 1/4 tsp. dried ginger
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- 1/4 cup bourbon
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 4 flounder fillets

Melt the butter in a saucepan.

Cook the shallots until softened; add the lime juice, seasonings and bourbon.

Cook 2 minutes.

Add the brown sugar, stir until dissolved.

Remove from heat and let cool.

Pour the glaze over the fish in a zip-lock bag.

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Refrigerate for 20 minutes.
Preheat broiler.

Place flounder on an oiled pan and broil until fish is cooked through, about 7 minutes.

Serve with white rice.
Serves 4.

Tomato & Crab Soup

2 TBSP olive oil
5 scallions, thinly sliced
1 1/2 stalks lemongrass, peeled, trimmed, thinly sliced
1 Fresno or Thai chile, seeded, minced
2 1/2 lbs. beefsteak tomatoes, chopped (about 3 cups)
2 1/4 cups chicken or vegetable stock
1/2 cup coconut milk
3 TBSP fresh orange juice
1 TBSP fish sauce (such as nam pla or nuoc nam)
1 TBSP (or more) fresh lime juice
Kosher salt
1/2 lb. fresh lump crabmeat

3/4 cup pea tendrils or shoots, trimmed
6 snow peas, trimmed, thinly sliced on diagonal

Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium heat.

Add scallions, lemongrass and chile.

Cook until softened, 3-4 minutes.

Add tomatoes and cook until softened, 5-6 minutes.

Stir in chicken stock, coconut milk, orange juice and fish sauce.

Bring to a boil.

Reduce heat and simmer, stirring occasionally for about 15 minutes. Let cool slightly.

Working in batches, purée soup in a blender until smooth, about 1 minute per batch.

Stir in 1 TBSP lime juice.

Season to taste with salt and more lime juice, if desired.

Ladle hot soup into wide shallow bowls or chill, if desired.

Garnish with crabmeat, pea tendrils, and snow peas.

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Donald Stevens, Jerry Shockley and David Steen are all smiles after catching their limit of flounder while fishing on an ocean wreck, south of the Ocean City Inlet. The 12 flounder (6 pictured) were all hooked on belly meat and shiners with Jerry leading the way with a 26 1/2-inch, 5 lb. 12 oz. flattie. Pictured at the Coastal Fisherman office on Sunset Avenue in West Ocean City.

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Juice 2 limes
 1 large clove garlic, minced
 1/2 tsp. dried oregano
 1/4 tsp. salt
 1 tsp. chipotle hot sauce
 1 lb. striped bass fillets, cut into 8 long pieces
 2 eggs beaten
 1 1/2 cups coarsely crushed white corn tortilla chips
 1 1/2 cups very finely shredded cabbage
 1 TBSP. finely chopped cilantro leaves
 1 large jalapeno pepper, seeded and cut in thin shreds
 3 TBSP. mayonnaise
 1 TBSP. milk
 Pinch of white pepper
 8 small white corn tortillas
 1/2 cup prepared guacamole

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Mix the lime juice, garlic,

oregano, salt and chipotle sauce.

Fold in the fish; refrigerate 15 minutes.

Blot the fish dry with paper towels.

Dip in egg and roll in chips.

Bake on nonstick pan for 15 minutes or until crisp.

Keep warm.

Combine the next 7 ingredients in a bowl.

Warm the tortillas in the oven.

To serve, spread a little guacamole in the bottom of a tortilla.

Add a piece of fish; top with the cabbage mix.

Serves 4.

Crab Beignets

Crab Mixture:

1/2 small shallot, finely chopped

6 oz. fresh crabmeat, picked clean

1/3 cup mascarpone cheese

1 TBSP finely chopped fresh chives

Kosher salt

Batter And Frying:

Vegetable oil (for frying; about 4 cups)

1 cup all-purpose flour

1/3 cup cornstarch

1 TBSP baking powder

1/2 tsp. kosher salt plus extra

1 cup amber lager

To make crab mixture, combine shallot, crabmeat, mascarpone cheese and chives in a medium bowl.

Season with salt.

Gently fold to combine and set aside.

Pour oil into a large saucepan fitted with a deep-fry thermometer to a depth of 6-inches.

Heat oil over medium-high heat until thermometer registers 375-degrees.

Whisk flour, cornstarch, baking powder and 1/2 tsp. salt in a large bowl.

Gradually whisk in beer, just to blend and thicken batter.

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Working in batches of 4 and returning oil to 375° between batches, measure 1 heaping TBSP of crab mixture Roll into a ball and drop into batter.

Using a fork, toss to coat and lift from batter, letting excess drip back into bowl.

Carefully lower beignets into oil.

Fry, turning occasionally, until crisp and deep golden brown, about 4 minutes.

Transfer to a paper towel-lined plate and season with salt.

NOTE: you can make the crab mixture 5 hours ahead of cooking time. Just cover and refrigerate.

Serves 12.

If you would like to share your favorite seafood recipe with readers of the Coastal Fisherman, all you need to do is email the recipe to maureenjock@comcast.net or make a copy of it and mail it to Coastal Fisherman, 12748 Sunset Avenue, Ocean City, MD 21842.

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Chum Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson



It doesn't matter that Labor Day has come and gone. The summer is not over - not by a long shot. But the end is on the horizon, September 22nd to be exact, that's the "autumn equinox," the first day since the start of spring when the sun will be below the horizon longer each 24-hour period than it will be above it. But even when it is officially "fall" it doesn't really matter to us fishermen because there will still be fish to catch well after the first morning we have to be careful not to slip on a frosty dock or gunwale.

Still, after Labor Day there will be changes around here. At first it's mostly all good stuff, at least for "local" fishermen. During the week the ocean and our inshore waterways will simmer down a bit with not as much boat traffic and not as many anglers lining the shorelines and fishing piers. Such activity will swell some on the weekends, but as we get deeper into football and hunting seasons even that will quell as sportsmen and women find other diversions that will keep them away from local fishing holes. More "good stuff" is

that some of the fishing will (should) get better as the waters start to cool and certain species begin to prep for their bi-annual migration by fattening up on the abundance of natural bait this time of the year.

There's not a lot of downside to late season fishing except that anglers will have to start dressing in layers again, and being that we're now knee deep in hurricane season, any kind of weather "from great to grizzly" can slip in from one day to the next. Getting a line in the water at first light won't require such an early alarm clock (at least until they switch-off daylight savings time) but those who head out at the same time every morning will find they're doing a lot more running in the dark before the sky brightens up enough to switch the radar off. On the backside of the day, offshore anglers will also find themselves routinely cleaning the boat in the dark and not just on the days they fished late.

We still have a lot of fishing to do in 2017, but while last week's nor'easter was raging I

took the opportunity to do something I usually wait until the end of the season to do - I went through my logs and compared notes to see how this season compared to the last couple. In a nutshell there's a pretty big difference in how things were then and how they are now.

These days my own Ocean City season doesn't get started until I return from Florida in early May. Yeah, I know that I missed some incredible bluefish action in the bay and surf in April, but it's hard to pull away from 100-pound tarpon in 85-degree weather and race home to the unpredictable spring weather we have up here. Actually, by the time I got up here this year the weather and water became very predictable - cold water, rain, cool temperatures and lots of wind! Bluefish were still snapping in the bay along with some stripers, but by the third week of May the quantities of sharks had not yet moved into their normal Delmarva haunts. They apparently weren't so ready to leave the lower-warmer latitudes just to chase bluefish anymore than I was.

My logs show that in the first week of June the weather was still being mostly uncooperative, but by the second week of the month we were finally running more trips than we were canceling and that's a good thing in this

business! By the end of the month the heat was on and it was finally feeling like summer every day. The guys running offshore were doing quite well with the tuna and there were enough billfish and dolphin being caught that everyone seemed happy with the way the summer was shaping up.

Once we get into July most all of my trips have me no more than 5 to 15 miles from the Ocean City Inlet, which keeps me pretty focused on the conditions of the nearshore waters. In the last couple years there were times when those waters were so clear and clean in July and August that you could see the bottom when you went over the 25 to 35-foot shoals such as the 1st Lump and Little Gull, but not this year! In late June we had some pretty water inshore for maybe a week, then it turned and never cleaned up again. Since we mostly fish for sharks, that wasn't too much of a problem since most of the nearshore sharks are accustomed to murky water and just let their noses lead them to their next meal, but some species such as the big spinners, blacktips, and hammerheads tend to be found more in cleaner water, so we haven't seen many of them this season.

Another difference this season is the amount of bunker (menhaden) that we've been

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seeing in the nearshore waters. Usually in July and August the waters from the beach out at least 6 to 8 miles are absolutely alive with schools of bunker churning the surface. Acres and acres of baitfish everywhere you look. Again, in late June things seemed normal with plenty of bunker busting on the surface. But then we got into July and something changed and those fish just weren't showing up anymore, and for the most part they still aren't. Over the last couple months we've been marking some bunker on our depth finders and every once in a while will see a school on top, but not in the consistently huge numbers we've had over the last few years. Something has changed!

Another couple of fish we haven't seen much of this season are sea trout (weakfish) and croaker. Usually by early August, we can drop a bottom rig down almost anywhere from 1 to 5 miles out and expect to catch decent numbers of croaker and small

trout. But this season it's been a different story. We've yet to see the first croaker and had only been picking away at a very few trout until the last fishable day before the recent blow when we had finally had a pretty good catch of them. I'm hoping that's a sign of better things to come in September.

I'm pretty sure that the reason we're not hearing much about cobia this year is a direct result of both the murky water and lack of bunker. Those fish are always fickle anyway, so it shouldn't be a surprise to anyone that a little change in their environment is not good for the fishery. The offshore tuna action has also been riding a roller coaster of its own the last few weeks. Certainly some fish are still being caught but not in the quantities anglers enjoyed earlier in the season or over the past couple years. And where are all the bigeyes this year?

As I sit here now fishing up the last few lines of this

column, it's looking pretty good for getting offshore tomorrow, which will be the first day in four that's fit to leave the inlet. I'm hopeful that after many days of strong northeast wind, some clean water has been pushed in close to shore and is what myself and other fishermen will encounter in the morning as we run out for the first day after many. Clean, clear water slipping up on the continental shelf and working its way in close to shore could bring with it some of the fishing opportunities that have eluded us so far this season.

Just as the season is not over, neither is the chance that, given the right water conditions, we might just see an awakening of the rather sedated action that has proven to be the new normal for many fishermen this season.

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

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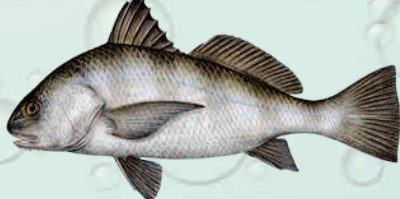


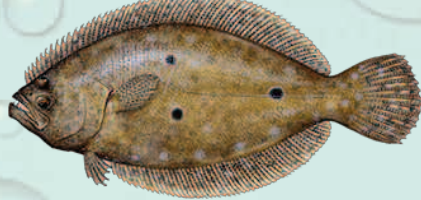


On opening day of the 2017 Capt. Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open, Crystal Williams and Janet Powell each caught and released their first white marlin while fishing on the "Fortunate" with Jenn Wojcik, Cassie Ingle, Jennifer Garmer, Capt. David Long and mates Justin Lednum and John Pasqueirillo. Both white marlin were hooked on trolled ballyhoo in the Washington Canyon. Pictured at Bahia Marina.



While tossing a frozen sand flea off the North Jetty on Sunday morning with Michael Skowronski, angler Denise Kieczkajlo from Kingston, PA hooked into this 24 1/2-inch red drum. Pictured at the Coastal Fisherman office on Sunset Avenue in West Ocean City.

Delaware Regulations

State Waters Only

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 12.5" minimum 15 per person/day 5/15-9/21</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH No minimum size 10 per person/day</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 3 per person/day</p>	 <p>CROAKER 8" minimum No creel limit</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 28 - 37 inches or 44 inches or greater 2 per person/day</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 20" - 27" minimum 5 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD No limit</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 12" minimum No creel limit</p>
 <p>COBIA No limit in Delaware waters Closed in Federal waters until January 1, 2018</p>	 <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 17" minimum 4 per person/day</p>	 <p>TAUTOG Closed September 1 - September 28</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

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On the second day of The MidAtlantic tournament, Carl Dunlap caught a 67 lb. yellowfin tuna while fishing on the "Fishbone" with Mike Krug, Tom Arnot (not pictured), Capt. Bill Chapman and mates Brian Riley, Croft Upchurch and Parker Marshall. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



In the Capt. Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open, Beth Burton captured this 13 lb. dolphin while fishing on the "Top Shelf" with Tabitha Howell, Suzie Campbell, Lisa Fleming, Jessica Mehalic, Melanie Wooldridge, Capt. Rob Burton and mate John Wooldridge. The dolphin was hooked on a trolled ballyhoo in the Poor Man's Canyon. Pictured at Bahia Marina.

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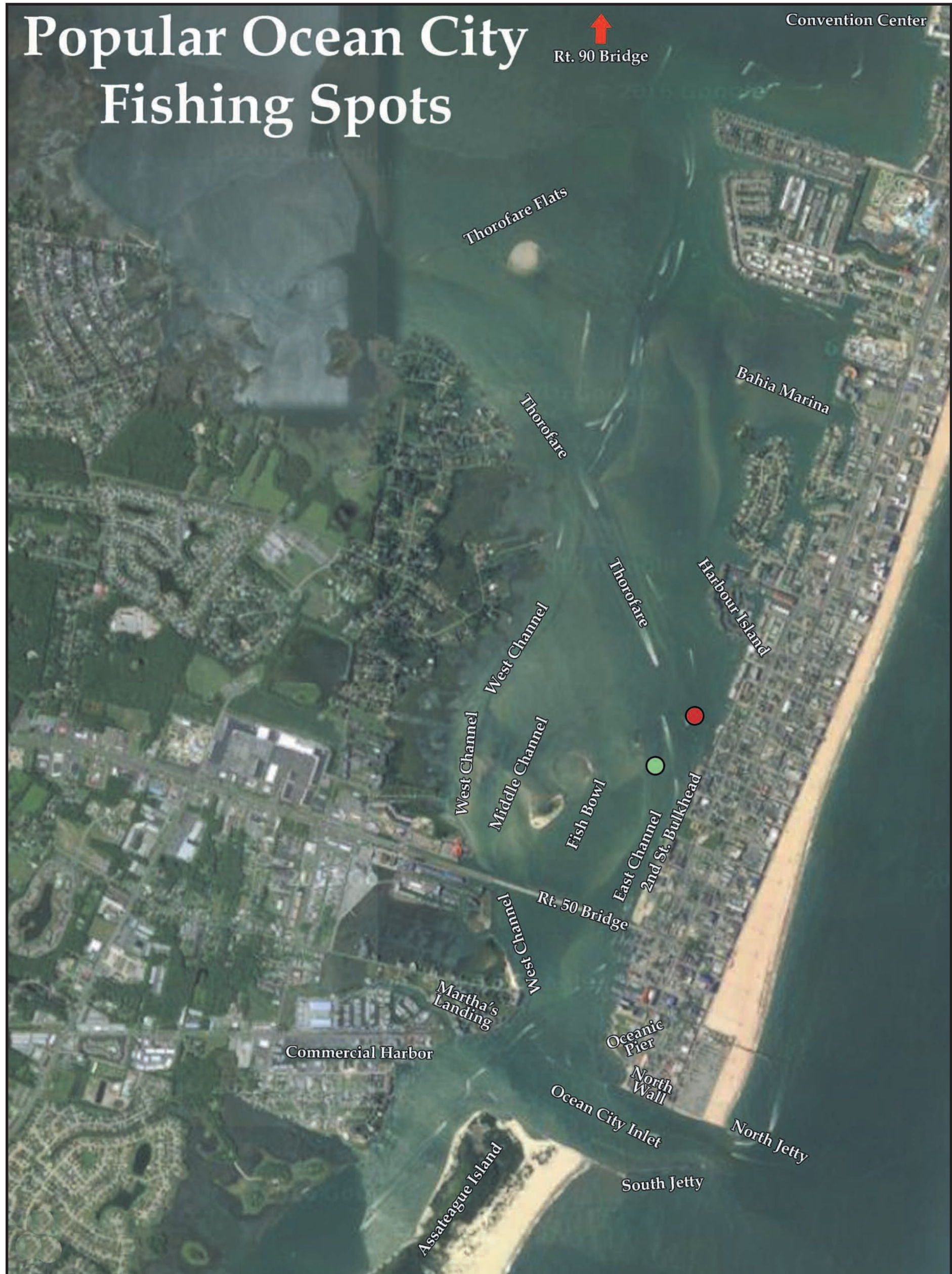
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Carla Cook on the "Team Wallhangers" caught this 36-inch, 16.9 lb. rockfish to give her team 1st place in the MSSA Summer Rockfish Tournament held on August 26th. Carla's linesider, combined with a 14 pounder, gave the team a 2-fish stringer of 30.9 lbs., besting anglers on the "Loose Knot" who finished in 2nd place with a 2-fish stringer weighing 25.45 lbs. The winning fish were caught while trolling Puller Lures with David Hild, Eddie Derr, Capt. Troy Cook and mate Thomas Curry.



Lou Penella took top honors during this trip aboard the charter boat, "Katydid" with Capt. Brent Wiest and mate Chris Vann. Lou hooked the 4 lb. 3 oz. flattie while dropping fresh bait at Site 10. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.


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Cross Ferrara from Middletown, DE picked a nice day to venture out to "A" buoy on his tricked out jet ski where he caught a limit of flounder measuring between 19 and 22-inches. All of the fish were caught on Gulp artificial baits while fishing with his dad, Nicky who was fishing on his own jet ski and also caught a limit of flatties (see next page).



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This is one impressive set-up! Nicky Ferrara from Middletown, DE took his jet ski out to "A" Buoy off the coast of Indian River and caught his limit of flounder. The 4 flatties measured between 19 and 22-inches. Nicky was joined by his son, Cross Ferrara who was fishing from his own jet ski (see previous page).

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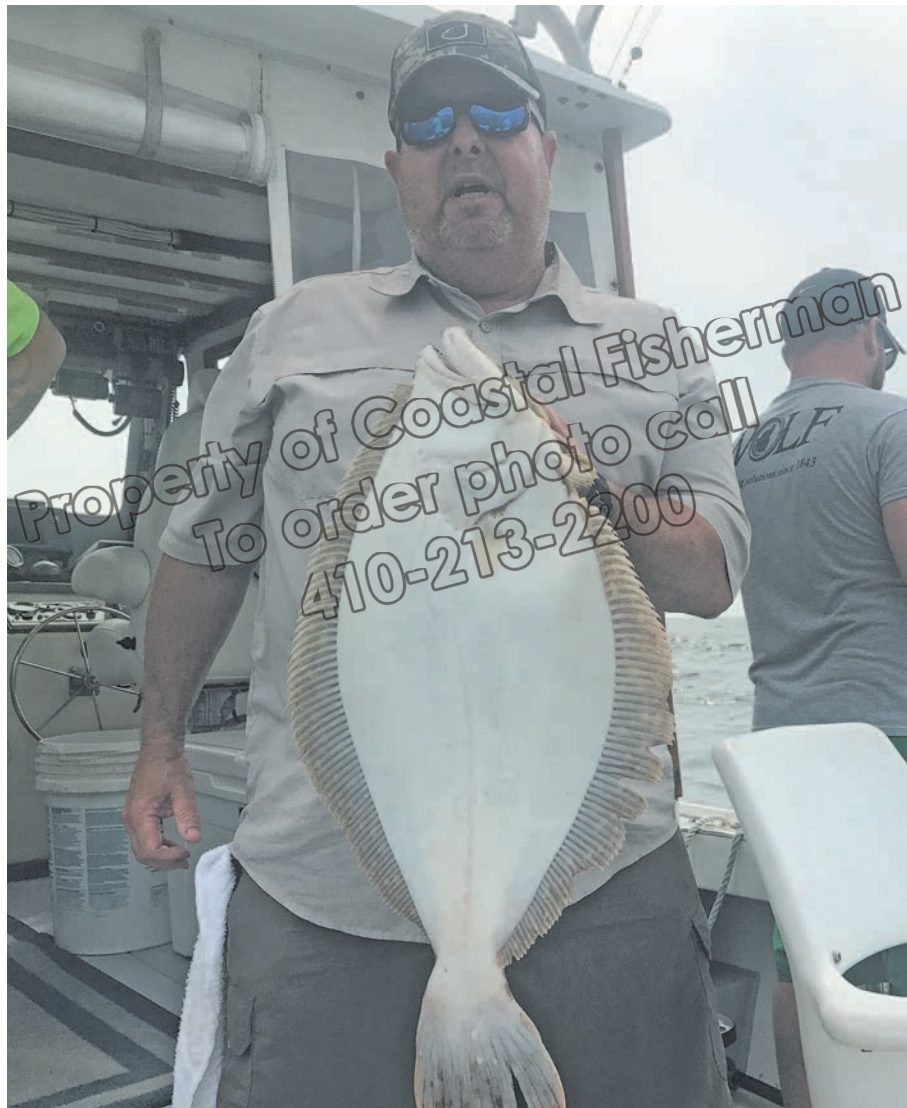
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In The MidAtlantic tournament, Tom McMurray caught this 334 lb. blue marlin while fishing on the "Makara" with David Pharr, Joe McMurray, Capt. Billy Gerlach and mates Chip Matthews and Alan Wooten. The 100 3/4-inch blue marlin hit a Black Bart Marlin Candy lure in the Washington Canyon and took 45 minutes to get to the boat. The anglers also released a pair of white marlin during their trip. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



This 26 1/8-inch, 6 lb. flounder was caught by Terry Burgess while fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. The flattie was part of a 27 fish haul while fishing with cut bait near the Old Grounds.

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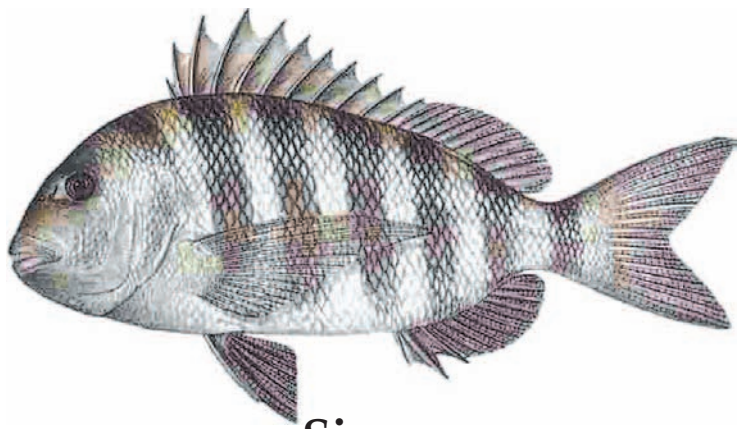
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Sheepshead vs. Black Drum



Size

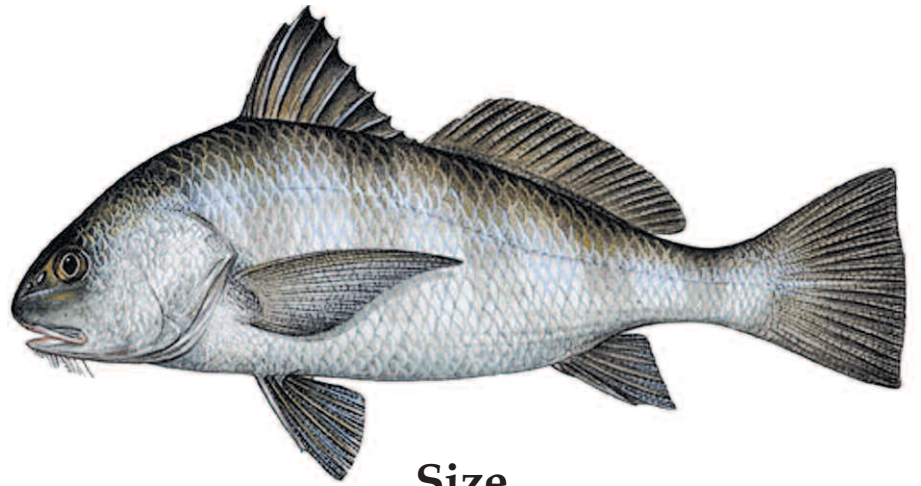
Common from 1 to 7 lbs. but exceeding 10 lbs. is not rare. Can exceed 20 lbs.

Distinguishing Characteristics

- Forked tail.
- Massive, protruding teeth.
- Vertical black stripes against a dull white, gray or yellowish background.
- Spines of the dorsal and anal fins are heavy and sharp.

Habitat

Mostly bays and protected coastal waterways, but also inhabit inshore reefs. Sticks mostly to rock or shell bottom and loves dock and bridge pilings, artificial reefs and any other structure with barnacles.



Size

Typically found in the 5 to 50 lb. range but catches in excess of 75 lbs. are not rare.. It is the largest fish in the drum family

Distinguishing Characteristics

- Broad, flat tail
- Juvenile black drum have black vertical stripes on dusky white sides.
- Adults are deep bronze to dingy black.
- All size fish have chin barbels.

Habitat

Juveniles like shorelines, bar edges and shallows while larger fish prefer surf, channels and open water. Loves to hang around piers and bridges.

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Virginia Fishing Report

by Dr. Julie Ball I.C.F.A Representative



The Labor Day weekend had a rough start as the remnants of Harvey rolled through, but Monday offered a nice break in the weather. The fall fishing trend is off to a great start, with plenty of shallow water, inshore and offshore action available, but with hurricane season approaching its peak, anglers are watching tropical developments closely. Fall's main players such as spot, speckled trout and puppy drum, are beginning to draw more interest, while the summer favorites such as flounder, cobia and red drum are staging to leave local waters.

Schools and pods of cobia continue to track out of the Chesapeake Bay, with enthusiastic sightcasters in hot pursuit. As long as there is enough sunshine to show the way, this action should remain steady until the season closes on the 15th of September. Look for easy targets of fish concentrated

in open water near the mouth of the Bay and along the oceanfront, where some fish have exceeded 50-pounds lately. Both chummers and site casters are hooking double-digit numbers recently.

Schools of big red drum are also delighting sightcasters in these same areas. Surf fishing action is also picking up on the Eastern Shore barrier islands as these big reds fatten up to head out of the area.

Nice yellowbelly spot, along with some big croaker, are infiltrating the lower Bay and local inlets. Pier anglers are taking advantage of the abundant spot showing, with the northeasterly wind kicking the bite into high gear.

The Bay flounder bite was worthwhile before the most recent blow, with good numbers of keepers responding to live bait and jigs worked near the CBBT structure. The flatfish bite in

Rudee and Lynnhaven Inlets is also decent lately. Offshore wreck action in deeper water is very good when the weather allows access to them.

Nice Spanish mackerel are still available along tide rips near the Bridge Tunnel, along Cape Henry and along the buoy lines at the mouth of the Bay. The escalating king mackerel bite is producing the biggest fish seen in years, with several smokers pushing to well over 40 and 50 lbs. boated over the past few weeks. Reports indicate that both live bait trollings and trolled plugs are getting the job done.

Inshore, big sheepshead were still taking late season offerings along the entire span of the Bay Bridge Tunnel when boats could get out. Lots of triggerfish are also in the same vicinity, as well as on several inshore and offshore wrecks. Spadefish are still around, but the bite is slowing up.

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Speckled trout are showing in Lynnhaven, Rudee and Little Creeks Inlets, the Poquoson flats, and the seaside of Oyster. This bite will continue to improve over the next months. Plenty of puppy drum are responding for anglers casting jigs or offering fresh bait within Lynnhaven, Rudee, and Little Creek Inlets.

Big amberjack are still available on local wrecks, at the Chesapeake Light Tower and at the South Tower. Jack crevelle are also a possibility around the Tower Reef area and near the mouth of the Bay. Deep droppers are still having good luck near the Canyon edges lately, with a few boats reporting limits of nice blueline tilefish, blackbellied rosefish, scattered golden tilefish and nice sea bass.

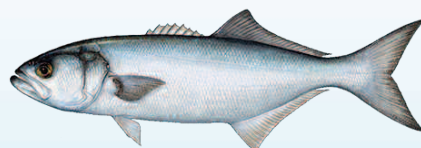
Offshore billfish action was very good, although the latest weather could mix things up a bit. In general, good numbers of white marlin and scattered big blue marlin are around, along with a few sailfish, spearfish and swordfish. Some 50 lb. class yellowfin tuna and occasional bigeye tuna, some big wahoo and bailer dolphin are also rounding out catches.

Virginia Regulations Coastal State Waters Only



BLACK SEA BASS

12 1/2-inch minimum
15 per person
5/12 - 9/21 & 10/22 - 12/31



BLUEFISH

No minimum size
10 per person/day



BLACK DRUM

16" minimum
1 per person/day



COBIA

40" minimum
1 per person or 3 per vessel
when 3 or more anglers are on
board. Only 1 allowed over 50".
6/1 - 9/15



CROAKER

No limit



RED DRUM

18" - 26" 3 per person/day



SHEEPSHEAD

No minimum size 4 per person/day



SPECKLED TROUT

14" minimum
5 per person
Only 1 fish may be greater than 24-inches



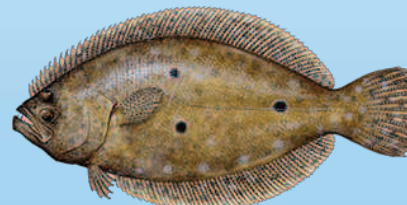
STRIPED BASS

28" minimum
1 per person



TAUTOG

Season closed 5/1 - 9/19



SUMMER FLOUNDER

17" minimum
4 per person/day



WEAKFISH

12" minimum
1 per person/day



Last Sunday morning, Heidi Radebaugh from New Freedom, PA cranked in this 25-inch, 12 lb. 6 oz. sheephead while fishing on the charter boat, "Lucky Break" with her family, Capt. Jason Mumford and mate Lee Baker. The bruiser was fooled with a sand flea at the South Jetty. Capt. Jason said that when he filleted the fat fish, there must have been 2 lbs. of mussels in it's stomach. The "Lucky Break" is docked at Frontier Town.

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Angler Restaurant
Talbot Street Pier
Oceanic Fishing Pier
Wockenfuss Candy - Boardwalk 1st St.
Wockenfuss Candy - Boardwalk 7th St.
Layton's Restaurant - 16th St.
Reel Inn - 17th St.
Bahia Marina - 22nd St.
Anthony's Beer, Wine & Deli - 33rd St.
Minit Market - 33rd St.
Dough Roller - 41st St.
Seacrets - 49th St.
Advanced Marina - 66th St.
Mione's Pizza - 67th St.
Dough Roller - 69th St.
Exxon Wine Rack - 86th St.
Layton's on 92nd St.
Liquid Assets - 94th St.
Montego Bay Market - 130th St.
7-Eleven - 139th St.

WEST OCEAN CITY

Ocean City Visitors Center
Wawa - Rt. 50
Mione's Pizza - Outlets
Wockenfuss Candy - Outlets
Bank of Ocean City
West-O Bottle Shop & Bar - Rt. 50
All Tackle Ocean City - Rt. 50
Starbucks - Rt. 50
Ocean City Fishing Center
Ocean City Marlin Club
Harborside Bar & Grill
Ocean City Fish Company
Atlantic Tackle
Sunset Marina
Sunset Provisions
Harbor Marine
Food Lion - Rt. 611
Larry's Trading Post - Rt. 611
Optical Galleria - Rt. 611
Southside Deli - Rt. 611

ANNAPOLIS, MD

All Tackle - Somerville Road
BERLIN & PITTSVILLE
Walmart - Rt. 50 (both entrances)
Berlin Post Office
Buck's Place - Rt. 611
Frontier Town - Check-In
Frontier Town - Country Store
Assateague Market - Rt. 611
7-Eleven - Rt. 589
Crabs To Go - Rt 50
Coastal Drug - Ocean Pines

FENWICK/SELBYVILLE

Fenwick Tackle
Mancini's Italian Restaurant
North Bay Marina
Uncle Willie's
Rt.113 Boat Sales
Harris Teeter
Yellowfins Bar & Grill

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
Hocker's Supermarket - Rt. 26
Bethany Auto & Marine - Rt. 26

INDIAN RIVER


Indian River Marina
Hook 'em & Cook 'em Tackle Shop
South Shore Marina

DEWEY, REHOBOTH & LEWES

Pier Point Marina
Fisherman's Wharf
Lewes Harbour Marina
ACME - Rt. 1

LONG NECK

Short's Marine
Rick's Bait & Tackle
Lucky's Bait & Tackle



Tides & Moon Phases

OCEAN CITY INLET

Wed. Sept. 6 Full Moon	Low 02:19 am Low 02:26 pm	High 08:32 am High 09:00 pm
Thurs. Sept. 7	Low 02:54 am Low 03:10 pm	High 09:16 am High 09:41 pm
Fri. Sept. 8	Low 03:33 am Low 03:56 pm	High 10:00 am High 10:22 pm
Sat. Sept. 9	Low 04:14 am Low 04:47 pm	High 10:46 am High 11:05 pm
Sun. Sep. 10	Low 05:00 am Low 05:42 pm	High 11:33 am High 11:51 pm
Mon. Sept. 11	Low 05:50 am Low 06:42 pm	High ----- High 12:26 pm
Tues. Sept. 12	Low 06:45 am Low 07:45 pm	High 12:42 am High 01:26 pm
Wed. Sept. 13 Last Qtr. Moon	Low 07:44 am Low 08:51 pm	High 01:42 am High 02:37 pm
Thurs. Sept. 14	Low 08:46 am Low 09:56 pm	High 02:50 am High 03:54 pm
Fri. Sept. 15	Low 09:52 am Low 11:00 pm	High 04:01 am High 05:04 pm
Sat. Sept. 16	Low 10:58 am Low 11:59 pm	High 05:08 am High 06:04 pm
Sun. Sep. 17	Low ----- Low 12:01 pm	High 06:08 am High 06:57 pm
Mon. Sept. 18	Low 12:51 am Low 12:57 pm	High 07:03 am High 07:45 pm
Tues. Sept. 19	Low 01:38 am Low 01:48 pm	High 07:54 am High 08:29 pm

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.

Upcoming Tournaments

....**SEPTEMBER**....

4th Annual Big Fish Classic

September 8-10 • Talbot Street Pier • 410-213-0325

12th Annual Flounder Pounder

September 10 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

17th Annual Ocean City Fishing Center Spot Tournament

September 11 • OC Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

39th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Challenge Cup

September 14-16 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

7th Annual MSA Mid-Atlantic Flounder Tournament

September 16-17 • 410-255-5535

15th Annual A.M.S.A. Red Drum Tournament

September 21-24 • 410-944-3036

... OCTOBER ...

Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament

October 1-31 • Lewes, DE • 302-645-6227

38th Annual Mid-Atlantic Surf Fishing Tournament

October 5-7 • Ocean City, MD • 410-251-2203

38th Annual Mid-Atlantic Surf Fishing Tournament

October 5-7 • Ocean City, MD • 410-251-2203

11th Annual Delaware Mobile Sportfishermen

Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament

October 6-8 • info@dmsclub.org

18th Annual Rocktoberfest Tournament

October 21-22 • Bahia Maring • 410-289-7438

... NOVEMBER ...

Lewes Harbour Marina Striper Tournament

November 1 - 30 • Lewes, DE • 302-645-6227

25th Annual MSA Chesapeake Bay Fall Classic

November 16-17 • MSSA • 410-255-5535

... DECEMBER ...

5th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Rockfish Tournament

December 9-17 • 410-213-1613



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\$3,590,000

MECHANICAL MAN - 2008 68' Weaver Custom Sportfish - Call Jimmy Fields

**\$200K PRICE REDUCTION!**

Bring All Offers!

\$1,700,000

PUSHY - 2001 102' Destiny Motor Yacht Call Jimmy Fields



\$1,095,000

SHAMELESS - 2002 Viking 65' Enclosed Bridge - Call John Blumenthal

**ANOTHER PRICE REDUCTION!**

Bring All Offers!

\$525,000

1988 58' Monterey Call Jimmy Fields



\$99,900

QUICK DRAW - 2005 32' Luhrs 32 Open Call Steve Trattner

**JUST LISTED**

\$69,900

STACEY - 1966 31' Bertram Bahia Mar Call Rick Carney



\$3,950,000

REEL PUSHY - 2008 70' Spencer Yacht Call Jimmy Fields



\$1,350,000

SEA HAG - 2008 61' Blackwell Custom Carolina - Call Jeff James



\$950,000

TROPHY BOX - 1986 57' Island Boat Works Call Jimmy Fields

**JUST LISTED**

\$649,900

DOUBLE EAGLE - 2002 52' Viking Call John Blumenthal

**NEW LISTING**

\$94,000

REEL CHANCE - 2015 Tidewater 250CC Call Jimmy Fields



\$54,900

MISS SUSAN - 1999 33' Mako Call Steve Trattner



\$4,600,000

CHASIN TAIL - 2008 67' Bayliss Call Jimmy Fields

**JUST LISTED**

\$1,200,000

REEL DIRECT - 2012 65' Guthrie Custom Carolina - Call Jimmy Fields

**Major Price Reduction!**

\$800,000

MISS HEATHER - 2000 74' Hatteras Cockpit Motor Yacht - Call Dave Shockley

**JUST LISTED**

\$259,000

REEL ASSET - 2008 36' Yellowfin CC Call Jimmy Fields

**PRICE REDUCED! Bring All Offers!**

\$86,500

MATADOR - 1974 41' Viking Call Jimmy Fields

**PRICE REDUCED**

\$54,900

RAMSI - 2004 268 Albemarle Express Call Steve Trattner



\$2,450,000

COOKIE MONSTER - 2007 74' Viking Call Rick Carney



\$1,200,000

ARGUS - 2009 58' Middleton Call Jimmy Fields



\$785,000

WATER DAMAGE - 2015 Sea Vee 430 FA Call John Blumenthal

**NEW LISTING**

\$159,900

REEL NAUGHTY - 1997 40' Ocean Call Steve Trattner

**PRICE REDUCED**

\$69,900

PERSISTENCE - 1994 35' Luhrs Call Steve Trattner

**DIESEL!**

\$44,900

JIMBO - 2000 26' Albemarle Call Steve Trattner

OCEAN CITY, MD • PALM BEACH, FL • OUTER BANKS, NC

