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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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Capt. Ronnie Fields on the "Big Stick" was out to defend their title after taking 1st Place in the Tuna-Single Division of the 2021 Ocean City Tuna Tournament. This year however the Suwanee, GA crew of Jacob Prather, Anderson Bowen, Reese VanBeber, Logan Moss, Paul Harp and owner David Bowen with mates Jace Conrad & Bradley Wilson found their fortune in the Stringer Division. After putting up a 193 lb. stringer on Saturday, they rocked the Stringer Division late day on Sunday bringing a batch of bigeyes in the 80-99 lb. range to the scales that they raised in the Norfolk Canyon. To add to the story, they had 9 fish on at the same time and despite a large multiple hook up they had to deal with sharks as well. The 4 they got into the box however did the trick with a Sunday stringer weight of 455 lbs. taking their 2 day total to 638 lbs. More than enough to secure top honors in the Stringer Division and taking home the largest prize for the event of \$305,880 in award money.



Early last week saw a good tuna bite that was mainly yellowfin. The boys on the "Cookie Monster" however had a different agenda! Angler Benjamin Halle was in the Baltimore Canyon when this 74" and 225 lb. bigeye hit on a red teaser with a ballyhoo. Rounding out the crew were Jon and Cookie Halle with Capt. Brian Denton and mate Gaven Engelman.

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Monday last week saw a lot of offshore action including this trip on the "Under Taker" out of the Indian River Marina. Capt. Bill Doherty had anglers Ray Nabb, Sean McDevitt, Wes Dickerson and Chris Whitfield with mate Wil Kennington trolling in between the Washington and Norfolk Canyons. They finished the day releasing 2 blue marlin estimated at 300 and 500 lbs., 2 white marlin releases and boated a mahi.

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The OFFSHORE REPORT

by Larry Budd

This Week Last Year

- Tropical Storm Fay dominated the news this week last year and put the 33rd Annual Ocean City Tuna in question. The storm did move through quickly so the tourney was changed to a 'fish 1 of 2 days' format. The "Big Stick" took 1st place in the Heaviest Fish Division with a 195 lb. bigeye tuna and the "Espadon" won the Heaviest Stringer Division at 443 lbs.
- Bigeyes were in between the Poor Man's and Baltimore Canyons where captains found slightly cooler waters in the mid to low 70 degrees
- The crew of the "Lights Out" headed out to the Baltimore and Poor Man's Canyons and came back to the dock with 15 release flags flying.

Coming off of the July 4th weekend, the weather was hot and the bite slowed down quite a bit. The number of boats heading offshore also went down as is more normal mid week, however many were in their slips prepping for the 34th Ocean City Tuna Tournament. Friday turned into a blowout as the remnants of Tropical Storm Elsa moved through the area, so most of the action from last week came from the tourney, so let's do a roundup!

Tournament Roundup

The Ocean City Tuna Tournament set another record this year with the Total Tournament Payout exceeding one million dollars for the first time! Despite 'Elsa' moving through the area late last week, 106 boats registered for this year's event showing strong interest and probably

attracting a lot of pandemic boat buyers as more small boats entered this year. No boats went out on the first day due to weather, so the event became a 2 day/fish 2 day contest with all 106 boats heading out on both Saturday and Sunday. This made for busy days at the scales!

The "Hydrosphere" was first to the dock and was waiting for the scales to open on Saturday. When someone is waiting like that, it is a sure sign they have something special and we were not disappointed. The crew put 2 bigeye tunas on the dock followed by 7 yellowfin. They caught the bigeyes early in the morning in the Washington Canyon, having both on the hook at the same time. After selecting the largest from the catch, they set the bar high at 233 lb. for a single tuna and 488 lbs. for a stringer of up to 5 fish. These weights remained unchallenged on Saturday and the single tuna at 233 lbs. held on to take 1st Place in the Tuna-Single Division. Their stringer ended the weekend in 3rd Place in the Tuna-Stringer Division earning the "Hydrosphere" a combined \$93,787 in award money.

Day two started slower with the first boat arriving at just before 5PM, then a steady stream until well past the scheduled close of 7PM as we worked through the backlog of boats waiting in the Inlet to get to the scales. First to make a move was the "Bar South". They found a couple bigeyes below the Norfolk in 100 fathoms and set a new 3rd Place at the time for a single at 119 lbs. as well as raising their 2 day stringer total to 562 lbs. Their

single fish would not hold onto the top 3 slots, but their stringer earned them 2nd Place in that Division with a \$63,540 payout. It was the "Instigator" that bumped them in the single category, putting a 170 lb. bigeye on the scale that they pulled from the Wilmington Canyon. That fish ended up in 3rd Place in the Tuna-Single Division putting \$59,865 in the pockets of the crew. 2nd Place in the single tuna category changed hands a few more times throughout the day, but it was the "Tara Jessica" as the second to last boat at the scales that locked in with a 199 lb. bigeye from the Baltimore on the 100 fathoms line. This was a catch that almost wasn't as they did not get the fish into the boat until 3:58PM after fighting the fish for over an hour. Not being the fastest boat either, Capt. Greg Wendell did not spare the diesels getting to the tournament boat with just 1 minute to spare with engines smoking and alarms sounding! Last year's winner for heaviest single tuna, "Big Stick" rocked the Stringer Division this year, bringing a batch of bigeyes in the 80-99 lb. range to the scales late day. This 445 lb. stringer, combined with Saturdays catch took their 2 day total to 638 lbs. More than enough to secure top honors in the Stringer Division and taking home the largest prize for the event of \$305,880.

Other notable catches occurred in the Dolphin Division as well as the Ladies Division. Only a handful of mahi were brought to the scales and it was Sunset Grille's Buddy Trala on the "Christine Marie" that had the only one that qualified at the tournament minimum of 20 lbs. That solo dolphin earned the boat a cool \$27,070 in prize money. Angler Kristin Quinn on the "Husuevo" aka "Reel Naughty" locked the top spot in the Ladies Division with a 150 lb. bigeye she caught late day in the Wilmington Canyon. This one kept diving and it took Kristin 1:15 hours to get to the boat, not a fight she will soon forget.



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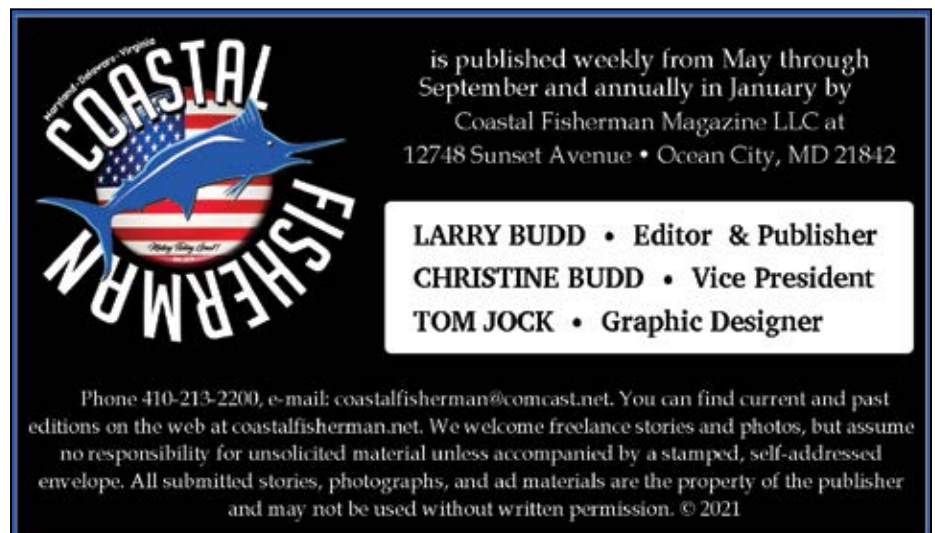
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Tuna & Mahi

Most crews had to work to find tunas over the past week, with catches in the single digits. This did improve over the weekend with several tournament boats like the "Marli" reporting catches in the high teens. They were running from the Washington Canyon to the Norfolk

2 blue marlin releases between the Washington & Norfolk estimated at 500 & 300 lbs. as well as 2 whites. Several boats in the tourney reported single and double releases of white marlin and singles of blue marlin, mainly in the southern.



Canyon with larger catches in the Norfolk. Many captains reported losing a number of yellowfins to sharks mainly to the south, worse they have ever seen most commented.

Upcoming Tournaments;• This weekend is the 17th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Kid's Classic. This event is open to all anglers 19 years old or younger with scales open from 3:00 - 6:30 pm on Saturday and 3:00 - 6:00 pm on Sunday. Details are on the Marlin Club's website, ocmarlinclub.com.

Bigeye tuna came from the northern and southern canyons. The big boys came from the Wilmington with the Norfolk producing fish in the 100 pound range and having shark issues.

• Next week sees the 2021 HUK Big Fish Classic held at the Talbot Street Pier running from July 23rd - 25th. Always a lively event with big fish coming to the dock and the Big Fish Village! Sales are open at Talbot Street from 4 - 9 pm on Friday and Saturday with Sundays hours from 4 - 8 pm. Details at BigFishClassic.com.

The mahi bite remains light with a few gaffers showing up, again from the south.

• Follow our Tournament Schedule in the paper and on-line to keep up to date!

Billfish

Billfishing has been very slow, probably due to a drop in anglers as described above and a focus on tuna. The "Under Taker" did report

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



Grady Grove, Charlie Grove and Mike Foster got in on the early July yellowfin bite landing these 3 tuna's in the Poor Man's Canyon. They were fishing aboard the "Henry" with Capts. Kevin Parker and Jim Tolson out of Sunset Marina.

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Joe Fuller from Virginia Beach, VA set a new personal best for flounder with this 24" doormat! He was fishing with Doug Johnson on the "Out of Bounds" from Fenwick Island, DE at an artificial reef at the Bass Grounds. Gulp was the bait of choice for this fattie. No mention of why the googly eye!



The Daiker family is definitely a shirts optional bunch! Rich and his father caught this 32" striper at the Rt. 50 Bridge using live spot on Rich's boat "Delicious".

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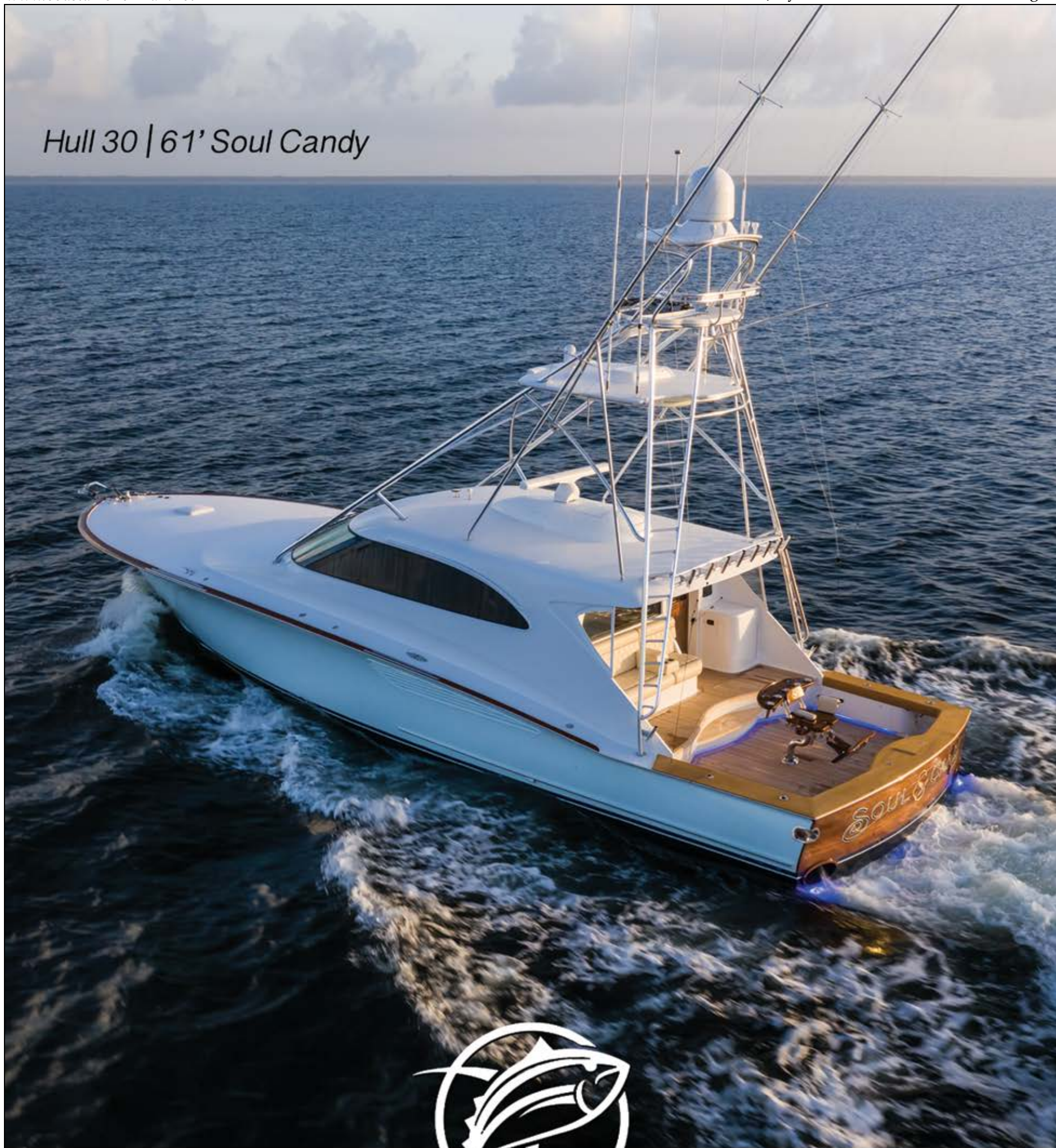
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The crew of the "Not Right!" had an early day last week. Jeremy Snapp, Kyle Hamilton, Larry Hamby, Doug Riniker and Colton hit these 10 yellowfin tuna in the Baltimore Canyon before noon and headed back home! The hot bait of the day was Joe Shutes with ballyhoo. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.



The crew on the "One More" must mean one more species. Just this month they have reported flounder, spanish mackerel, a spinner shark and now these 2 rockfish. Daniel Austill from Reading, PA with Mark Austill from Chandler, IN each got these keepers using that spot at the Rt. 50 Bridge.

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 WHITE MARLIN 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit	 DOLPHIN No minimum Length Boat Limit 60 Charter Limit 10 per passenger/day	 SWORDFISH 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	 WAHOO No minimum Length 2 per person/day	
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	71" Minimum Fork Length Male Shortfin Mako 78" Minimum Fork Length Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead	83" Minimum Fork Length Female Shortfin Mako PROHIBITED SHARKS Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White	
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.				Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov



We are not sure what is going on with Viper Sunglasses this summer, but it feels like the early 90's are coming back! Perhaps they were the lucky charms for anglers Mark Montgomery, Nick Kleiderline, Jeff Rosenkilde Sr, Jeff Rosenkilde Jr, and Chris Jenkins while they were fishing on the seemingly appropriate "Moral Hazard". They got these 9 keeper flounder up to 20" at the South Jetty of the Ocean City Inlet using Spec Rigs tipped with Gulp minnows.

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FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Summer is here, it's heating up and catching fish is in full swing! We had 95 degree days every day last week along with steep humidity levels. Unfortunately we also experienced gusty winds for several days due to the remnants of Hurricane Elsa. Fishing when you could get out though has gotten really good.

Flounder, Bluefish, & Rockfish

Flounder season is in full swing this week with most anglers coming back to the docks with limits or near limits. The bay areas of Indian River have been producing some nice flounder with Ryan West catching a 19" and a 21" from the inlet area near the Coast Guard station. Bruce

Hambrick got a nice 23" and a 21" flounder from the Indian River Bay along the main channel. Luke Horney was entered in the Indian River Marina tournament and was the big winner. He took first with a 5 lb. 13 oz., Ben Macpherson took second with a 5 lb. 1/2 oz. flounder and Aaron Hurd captured third with a 4 lb. 9 oz. one. Congratulations to all the winners!

John Pescatore got a nice flounder and a few weakfish on Monday just inside the bridge. Nick Garcia got a 23" and 18" flounder from the back bays of Delaware Bay. On the near shore, flounder were even stronger. Rick Paskowski was on the Old Grounds and caught a limit up to 20". Sam Piascik hit several wrecks and reported a lot of throwbacks but did manage a few nice 20-24" flounder and several sea bass to go along with them. Deric Pry was out at B Buoy and managed a few nice flounder on large Gulp baits. Drifting the bottom with live spot, squid and Gulp baits seemed to work about the same whether you were in the inlet back bays or offshore. On the rockfish side, the ocean has been producing a few. however, most of them are not keepers. James Fletcher was fishing at the beach and did catch a nice striper but not big enough to keep. Still a great catch for as warm as it's been. Several small stripers were taken at the mouth of the inlet although I received no reports of any keepers.

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Several bluefish were taken off the surf and at the inlet at night mostly on cut bait and bucktails. Most of the blues are keepers but not the big slammers. Weakfish are strong in both the bays and along the rocks at Indian River. Michael Steffy got a huge 27" weakfish on Sunday. Great catch!

Sea Bass, Cobia, & Triggerfish

Sea bass remains pretty good despite the warmer water. Many of the fish caught are undersized but you can still manage a few nice keepers if you work hard at it. On Monday Rick Rothenberger got a nice limit of sea bass. He then came in and potted for crabs and that too was successful. That is one good dinner, sea bass and crabs! The lone wrecks seem to be producing the best chance for a few keepers of sea bass with clam being the go to bait and squid a close second. The coral around the shipping channel are producing some sea bass but the main fish here now are flounder. Many anglers fishing the wrecks are now finding them full of triggerfish. They are an excellent table fare and easy to catch. Put a piece of squid in front of them and they are ready to strike! Once you hook one, look for others to follow it to the surface. Hook 'em and Cook 'em at Indian River Marina offers fillet services for a very reasonable fee. If you have ever tried to fillet this species you will find that the skin is like thick leather and will quickly dull even the sharpest of knives. Bringing your triggerfish to a professional cutter will assure that you get the best fillets. Cobia is also starting to get real good.

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Surf Fishing & Crabbing

The surf remains a great place to catch some northern kingfish. Small kingfish rigs with bloodworms work best. At night small blues as well as rockfish can be caught in the surf using peeler crabs and cut bait. Jonathan Martinez was out with the family and reported the bite is on. They caught several nice sized kingfish along with a big ray. Crabbing is back to normal after last week's storms. Samantha and I averaged 10-12 keepers per pot with several big males showing up this week. Regarding bait, we have found that fresh bunker is superior over chicken in the pots.

Until next week...

Tight lines and fins up



Lora Henry shows us a perfect example of the 'Delaware Stretch' with her 16.5" keeper flounder! She was drifting in the Thorofare and used white Gulp to trick this one.

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Adam May stopped by Dan's Tackle Box in Milton, DE to share this big 19.5" sea bass. He caught this one at an ocean structure while fishing on the "Midnight Express" with Capt. Adam Leamon.



Alexander Balassone of Ocean City, MD had a banner day reeling in croaker, even 3 at a time. As always his grandfather, Capt. Dennis Sirman on the "Hallie B", put him on the fish near the Thorofare. Time to warm up the skillet!

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(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - Must be reported with picture within 48 hours of catch)

Species	2021	2020	Species	2021	2020
Bluefish 	May 8 Gavin Murray Gull Island	May 29, 2020 Kathy Grab Fenwick Island State Park	Mako Shark 	May 28 Michael Eid "Hot Line" Fingers	April 16, 2020 Ron Griggs "Finatic" Wilmington Canyon
Black Drum 	March 31 Allen Skylar Assateague Island	April 19, 2020 Bill Grubb Fenwick Island State Park	Thresher Shark 	May 22, 2021 Patrick Snell "MAKO me CRAZY" Twin Wrecks	June 13, 2020 Charlie Boyles "Hook It Up" Old Grounds
Cobia 	June 17 Shannon Pickens South OC Inlet	June 21, 2020 Aaron Reeves "On the Run" South Jetty	Bigeye Tuna 	May 28 Pete Gudatis "Blood Money" Poor Man's	May 27, 2020 Ryan Turner "Full Service" Norfolk Canyon
Flounder 	April 18 Danny Cox Rt. 90 Bridge	May 5, 2020 Mackenzie Cathell Thorofare	Bluefin Tuna 	May 7 James Hammond "Hot Lick" Norfolk	June 9, 2020 Shannon Gore Baltimore Canyon
Sea Bass 	April 12 Camryn Baeder Inshore Wreck	May 15, 2020 Brent Bortner "Green Machine" Offshore Wreck	Longfin Tuna 		June 9, 2020 Evan Winterbottom "PYY Fishing" Poor Man's Canyon
Sheepshead 	June 17 Veronica Cannuli Outside OC Inlet	June 12, 2020 Keith Smith "On the Run" South Jetty	Yellowfin Tuna 	May 28 Bill Pino "Blood Money" Poor Man's	April 29, 2020 Dylan Wiley Washington Canyon
Striped Bass 	May 6 Buddy Martin East Channel	May 7, 2020 Patricia Cropper Rt. 50 Bridge	Dolphin 	June 10 Michael Seicke "Second Chance" S. Poor Man's	May 23, 2020 Jeremy Phares "Reel Fin Addiction" Norfolk Canyon
Tautog 	January 1 Mike Sadowski "Tide Runner" Ocean Structure	January 2, 2020 Patrick Enoch "Morningstar" Artificial Reef	Wahoo 	June 17 Gary Welch Washington Canyon	June 18, 2020 Jack Hannum "Blood Money" Poor Man's Canyon
Weakfish 	May 6 Rich Harpel North Jetty Indian River Inlet	June 17, 2020 Muhamad Arshad Oceanic Fishing Pier	White Marlin 	June 13 Brad Young "TUNAFOWL" Washington Canyon	May 23, 2020 Carl Sauer "Reel Escape" Washington Canyon

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



We were wondering if the Bass University on Chris Gratton's hat has a degree program for sheepshead? If so, he should graduate with honors for this 6.1 lb. convict he captured at the Indian River Inlet using sand fleas. Pictured at the Indian River Marina.



Dan Hochrein from Summertime Park in Fenwick Island, DE has been a 'floundering' machine lately. This is the latest of 4 keepers he caught in 5 days fishing in the Ocean City East Channel, all in the 19-21" range.

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. JULY 14	High 11:48 am High -----	Low 05:38 am Low 05:35 pm
THUR. JULY 15	High 12:08 am High 12:37 pm	Low 06:22 am Low 06:32 pm
FRI. JULY 16	High 12:52 am High 01:30 pm	Low 07:09 am Low 07:33 pm
SAT. JULY 17	High 01:42 am High 02:31 pm	Low 07:57 am Low 08:36 pm
	☾ 1st Qtr. Moon	
SUN. JULY 18	High 02:39 am High 03:35 pm	Low 08:49 am Low 09:42 pm
MON. JULY 19	High 03:40 am High 04:39 pm	Low 09:45 am Low 10:50 pm
TUE. JULY 20	High 04:42 am High 05:42 pm	Low 10:43 am Low 11:55 pm
WED. JULY 21	High 05:42 am High 06:43 pm	Low 11:44 am Low -----

source:usharbors.com

Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge.
 Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high tide
 Delaware Bay Entrance - subtract 1 hour 25 minutes to high tide
 - subtract 45 minutes to low tide
 Wachapreague, VA - add 4 minutes for high tide
 - 21 minutes for low tide
 Quinby Inlet, VA - subtract 6 minutes for high tide

These tides are only meant to be a guide, as tides can be affected by storms and weather fronts.

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Photo by Liane Lee on Unsplash



Thomas James Baker from New York plays it cool with this 34 7/8" 'top of the slot' keeper rockfish! Another 1/4 inch and this one would have gone back in the drink. He found this 16 lb. 8 oz. beauty at the Ocean City South Jetty using spot while fishing with Capt. Dave Caffrey of "On the Run" charters.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Anglers on the head boat "Judith M" got a nice mix of fish on this 1/2 day trip. With Capt. Walt Hammond at the wheel they headed out to the Bass Grounds and raised up sea bass, triggerfish and flounder using squid, clams and shiners.

The "OPPOR-TUNA-TY TOO" with Co-Capt's. Ken and Adam Thompson took charter guests Jeff Atkins from Ocean Pines, John Barone from King of Prussia, PA, Mike Fedele of Allentown, PA and Mike Gentry of Olney, MD on an inside trip. Mike put the heat on landing a 90 lb. yellowfin tuna and the rest of the crew lifted some really nice sea bass fishing on an artificial reef.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Mark Malamphy on the charter boat "Finatic" found some tuna for angler Paul Reyburn, Jeff Sommerfield, Rick Baker, Torin Gummel, Peter Fehn and Thomas Fehn. He put them in the Baltimore Canyon and found some 74° water. Trolling with cedar plugs and ballyhoo in 50 fathoms the group picked a single yellowfin tuna followed by a triple hookup and boating all three.



Jennifer Burnett from Pittsburgh, PA caught and released this smiling sting ray while fishing with Capt. Nick Clemente on the charter boat "Get Sum" just inside of the Ocean City Inlet.

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FISHING CHARTERS



The crew of the charter boat "Boss Hogg" does pretty work getting this yellowfin tuna in the box. It was the first tuna catch ever for young angler Travers Johnson, caught on pink and orange spreader bars. Capt. Brian Porter was at the helm with mates Alex Beane and Jack Hannul in the back!

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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Chris Adams on the headboat "Capt. Bob II" had some solid trips last week with anglers hitting their boat limits of sea bass several times. This trip was to the Del-Jersey reef and squid was the bait of the day.



It is always a thrill to catch your first white marlin and that's what the Winters family did when they headed out on the charter boat "All In". The angler took the traditional 'swim' before the picture! Capt. Christian Smith had them in the Baltimore Canyon to find the days action.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Charter boat "Spring Mix II" got it done for anglers Brenda & Mike Larson with Hal "Coach" Sparks on this trip! Brenda had a white marlin release in the Baltimore Canyon which was good practice for when she competes in the Poor Girls Open. The crew also landed 3 yellowfin tuna. All were caught on spreader bars and ballyhoo. Capt. Chris Watkowski was at the helm with mate Jacob Bialk running the lines.



Francis, Danny, Erik and Jordan Ulmer from Cecil County, MD do a line up to show off the 5 flounder they caught, up to 20"! They were fishing in the Ocean City East Channel with Capt. Jason Mumford and mate Ethan Nock on the charter boat "Lucky Break". Otter Tails and minnows did the trick to fool these flat fish.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Tracy Heltzinger is having a great summer taking multiple trips offshore. On Saturday she and Dean Miller had 'reel' good luck on the headboat "Angler" and then headed out on Sunday on the "Matriculator" with Capt. Scott Ronzetti to the Poor Man's Canyon where they landed 3 yellowfin tuna and this gaffer dolphin.



While the flounder bite in the Delaware Bays have been slow this year, the near shore bite continues to improve. Dan McGeady was part of a group that headed out with Capt. Brent Wiest on the charter boat 'Katydid' last week and came back with a boat limit of flounders including this 5.05 lb fattie that has set a new 'Heaviest' for Delaware.

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It was a good day for 14 year old Keegan O'Rourke. He was fishing on his dad's boat just off of the De Lazy Lizard restaurant in the Ocean City East Channel when he tricked this flounder using Gulp.

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Sam Williamson of Camp Hill, PA celebrated his brother's birthday on the 4th of July, but he got the present! He caught this 60 lb. yellowfin tuna in the Baltimore Canyon while on the private boat "Pursuit" out of the Lewes Yacht Club/Roosevelt Inlet.

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Tournament Ready

With the tournament season in full swing on the east coast, the fishing boats and crews are being pushed to their limits. Back-to-back fishing days and long offshore runs can wear on the crew and the equipment. Even with a full crew, it's easy to overlook a maintenance item or fail to realize a problem may be near. Here are a few tips to keep your fishing boat in top tournament shape.

Batteries

A fully charged engine or house battery should read 12.65 volts at rest or 25.3 volts for a 24v system. A battery charger or engine alternator needs to output a higher voltage, usually between 13v and 14v (and between 26v and 28v for 24v systems) to be able to recharge the battery or at least keep the battery fully charged. On larger boats, there are many places to monitor voltage,

such as the helm, the main panel, the charger and the battery itself. If you are ever in doubt with what is happening with your boat batteries, use a good test meter to check the battery voltage at the battery during 3 different scenarios: at rest, connected to a battery charger and when the engine is running (alternator). Since the captain at the helm is usually the one to monitor and spot irregularities, it is important to know what and where the helm voltage display is really measuring. If the navigation electronics or VHF has low voltage, it can cause operational difficulties and in the case of a VHF radio, decreased power output. Modern marine engines are also not very tolerant of low voltage, their computers and sensors will not operate properly in a low voltage situation.

Sometimes a good battery

charger will mask an electrical problem with the engine or generator alternator. It is a good idea to test your systems with the battery charger off, both with and without the engine running; this can help find a problem before it becomes an issue while fishing.

Air Conditioning & Refrigeration

By now, many boats have been in use for a few months in warm water. This water is full of organisms that tend to grow in the sea water plumbing for the air conditioning and refrigeration systems. If the marine growth gets too bad, you may notice a reduction of water flow in the sea water discharge line or your systems will shut down due to high pressure. The best way to maintain the sea water cooling system is to descale the system with environmentally friendly cleaners available at local boat supply stores. Do not use any type of acid, it can harm the system and damage your equipment. Products

like Barnacle Buster and Rydlyme are designed for marine cooling systems and if used as directed, are not detrimental to the equipment. These products are generally circulated through the cooling systems to descale the inside of hoses and pipes, killing the growth and leaving you with a clean surface for proper water flow and to allow the proper heat transfer from the machinery to the sea water.

A common issue with air conditioning systems is the high head pressure alarm, which shuts down your system to prevent catastrophic damage. The two most common causes for high pressure are a lack of sea water cooling and a lack of air flow at the evaporator. The sea water issue should be addressed as discussed above. The evaporator is the part of the air conditioning system where the air blows across cold coils and sends that cool air into the cabin of the boat. These systems have inlet air filters, sometimes more than one, usually a washable element that can



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 be removed and cleaned. Sometimes the metal evaporator coils become clogged and need careful cleaning with a vacuum or chemical wash to restore the proper airflow and heat transfer to the evaporator.

While you are working on the evaporator, be sure to check and clean the condensate drain. The drain consists of a hose connected to a metal or plastic pan under the evaporator. The condensate drain hose goes to a main drain trunk line or to a sump or bilge. On hot and humid days an evaporator can remove gallons of water from the cabin air and needs a good path to drain that water.

Steering

Another maintenance point is the boat's steering system, long days, long runs and fighting fish puts stress on the best steering systems. Check your steering before you head out, looking for tell tale signs of oil leaks, metal wear or rubbing and loose or worn joints and connections. Be sure to check the steering oil level and pressure where needed. Use only the proper steering fluid, other types of oil may not be compatible and result in leaks or increased steering effort.

Most importantly, have fun and catch that winning fish!



Despite a slow start to the day, Rob Tinsley from Kensington, MD got this 39 lb. yellowfin tuna in the box and the crew went on to raise 3 more as well as releasing white marlin. They were fishing on the charter boat "Prime Hook" out of the Indian River Marina with Capt. Hank Draper and mate Tanner.

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Greg Pepper and Colin Joseph from Denton, MD with Preston Walls of Ridgely fished the East Channel on the outgoing tide last Thursday and caught four keepers using live spot. The largest 19.5".



Capt. Monty Hawkins on the headboat "Morning Star" had to work around the several survey vessels working to map the sea bottom for the forthcoming offshore wind farms, as these have shown to turn off the bite. He found a spot 5.5 miles away and got his angler to almost hit a boat limit of sea bass in July!

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It is taco time for Rex Rice from Towson, MD. He caught this 41" mahi at the Hot Dog on a spreader bar while fishing with Capt. Ryan Rush on the boat "Reel Rush".

 The advertisement for Rx Design & Tattoo features a large, stylized letter 'R' on the left, with a tattoo machine integrated into its design. To the right of the 'R', the text "Rx Design & Tattoo" is written in a bold, red, serif font. Below this, two text boxes provide location information:

Boardwalk Location
201 North Atlantic Ave.
Ocean City, MD 21842

Salisbury Location
105 West Gordy Rd.
Salisbury, MD 21801

 The background of the advertisement is a photograph of the storefront at night. The building has a brick facade and a sign that reads "Rx DESIGN & TATTOO". A vertical sign on the right side of the building says "AZURE". In the foreground, a group of people is walking on a boardwalk. At the bottom of the ad, there is a Facebook logo, the website "Rxtattoomd.com", and the phone number "443.235.1899".

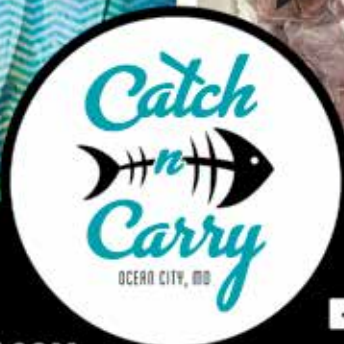
The advertisement for Wockenfuss Candies features a large, stylized sign that reads "Wockenfuss CANDIES" in a bold, orange and black font. Below the sign, it says "Established 1915". To the left of the sign, there is a small image of a white USPS mail truck with the text "Post Office in the West OC Store!". To the right, a blue starburst graphic contains the text "Stop by our Boardwalk location on 1st Street for our delicious Chocolate Covered Strawberries!". Below the sign, there is a photograph of several chocolate-covered strawberries. A text box in the center reads "For a taste of the sweet life, it's Wockenfuss!" and includes a short paragraph: "Quite simply, Wockenfuss candies and chocolate specialties are what delicious is all about. At home or at work or just because, Wockenfuss will sweeten up anyone's day!". A "WINNER 2020 OCEAN CITY" award logo is also visible. At the bottom, a pink banner lists "Hand Dipped Apples • Salt Water Taffy • Fudge • Seasonal Candies & Gifts". The address "1st Street • OC Boardwalk" and phone number "410-289-5054" are on the left, and "White Marlin Mall • West OC" and phone number "410-213-0314" are on the right, with social media icons for Facebook and Instagram.



Charlie Donohue has been making the most of the summer fishing on his boat "Lucky 1". On this trip to an inshore natural reef, he and fellow anglers Ben Semiatin and P.J. Clauser caught these 2 flounder using jigs and Gulp and also boated 7 sea bass.

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John Bucy and his 3 sons Jack, Dylan, and Garrett of Gaithersburg, MD took a 1/2 day bottom fishing trip on the charter boat "Oppor-Tuna-TY Too" on the 4th of July with co-Captains Ken and Adam Thompson. They blew up the sea bass on one of the inshore reefs using squid.



Despite windy conditions Capt. Carey Evans on the "Grizzly" took his charter to catch fish, and that's exactly what they did! Their catch created a nice display on the cleaning table of triggerfish, spanish mackerel and bluefish.

Pick Up your Coastal Fisherman at these Locations

OCEAN CITY

Talbot Street Pier
 Oceanic Fishing Pier
 Wockenfuss Candy - Boardwalk 1st St.
 Park Place Hotel - 2nd St.
 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.
 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.

WEST OCEAN CITY

Wawa - Rt. 50
 Mione's Pizza - Outlets

WEST OCEAN CITY

Wockenfuss Candy - Outlets
 Bank of Ocean City
 West-O Bottle Shop & Bar - Rt. 50
 All Tackle Ocean City - Rt. 50
 Bluewater Yacht Sales
 Ocean City Fishing Center
 Ocean City Marlin Club
 Atlantic Tackle
 Sunset Grille
 Sunset Marina
 Sunset Provisions
 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

FENWICK/SELBYVILLE

Fenwick Tackle
 Mancini's Italian Restaurant
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 Food Lion Rt.54
 North Bay Marina
 Royal Farms Rt. 54
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 Rt.113 Boat Sales

INDIAN RIVER

Indian River Marina
 Hook 'em & Cook 'em Tackle Shop
 Old Inlet Bait & Tackle

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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
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Pan Seared Blackened Ahi Tuna

Ingredients:

- 1 lb fresh ahi tuna
- 2 1/2 tsp Blackened Spice Rub (See below recipe)
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- Blackened Seafood Spice Rub:
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp cayenne pepper
- 1/4 tsp ground ginger
- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- 1/4 tsp oregano
- 1/4 tsp fennel seeds
- 1/8 tsp ground clove

Directions:

Rinse the fish and pat dry with paper towels. Slice into

1/2 inch steaks.

In a small bowl mix together the spices and set aside.



Place a frying pan or cast iron skillet over high heat until it starts to smoke. Keep kitchen area well ventilated.

Toss the ahi tuna in melted butter and then coat with spice mixture on both sides. Press spice mixture to adhere. Immediately sear on high heat each side for 10 seconds for pink in the middle, or for no more than 30 seconds per

side to cook through well. Serve immediately.

Grilled Whole Mackerel with Lemon, Oregano, & Olives

Ingredients:

- 1/2 teaspoon finely grated fresh lemon zest
- 1 1/2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup pitted Kalamata olives (1 1/4 oz), cut into slivers
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped fresh oregano plus 6 large sprigs
- 1 (3 1/4- to 3 1/2-lb) cleaned whole spanish mackerel or bluefish (with head & tail)
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 6 (1/4-inch-thick) lemon slices

Special Equipment:

22-inch grill; kitchen string

Directions:

Whisk together zest, lemon juice, and salt and pepper to taste, then add olive oil



in a stream, whisking until combined well. Whisk in olives and chopped oregano. Make 1-inch-long slits at 2-inch intervals down middle of fish on both sides with a sharp paring knife, then brush fish all over with vegetable oil and season with salt and pepper. Season fish cavity with salt and pepper, then evenly distribute 3 lemon rounds and 3 oregano sprigs in cavity. Close cavity, then evenly arrange remaining 3 lemon rounds and 3 oregano sprigs on top of fish and tie fish closed with

string at 2-inch intervals, securing lemon slices and oregano sprigs to fish.

Prepare grill for cooking. If using a charcoal grill, open vents on bottom of grill, then light charcoal. Charcoal fire is medium-hot when you can hold your hand 5 inches above rack for 3 to 4 seconds. If using a gas grill, preheat burners on high, covered, 10 minutes, then reduce heat to moderate.

Grill fish on lightly oiled grill rack, covered only if using gas grill, 15 minutes. Turn fish over using a metal spatula and tongs, then grill until just cooked through, about 15 minutes more.

Transfer fish to a large platter using 2 metal spatulas, then cut and discard string. Serve fish with sauce.

Grilled Triggerfish with Strawberry-Blueberry Relish

Ingredients for relish:

- 1/2 cup white wine vinegar
- 1/2 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh ginger
- 1 teaspoon lime zest
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 jalapeño pepper, seeded and minced
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 2 cups chopped fresh strawberries
- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- 1 cup diced cucumber
- 3 tablespoons minced red onion
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro

Directions:

Bring first 5 ingredients to a boil in a small saucepan over medium-high heat; reduce heat to low, and simmer, stirring occasionally, 5

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minutes. Add jalapeño, and simmer, stirring occasionally, 5 minutes. Remove from heat, and let stand 30 minutes. Stir in lime juice.

Stir together strawberries and next 4 ingredients in a medium bowl. Add vinegar mixture, and stir to coat. Set aside while preparing triggerfish.

Ingredients for triggerfish:

- 4 (6 oz.) triggerfish fillets
- Vegetable cooking spray
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon table salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Directions:

Pat fillets dry with paper towels, and let stand at room temperature 10 minutes. Meanwhile, coat cold cooking grate of grill with cooking spray, and preheat grill to 400° (medium high) heat.

Brush both sides of fish with oil; sprinkle with salt and pepper. Place fish on grate, and grill, covered with grill lid, 4 minutes or until grill marks appear and fish no longer sticks to grate.

Carefully turn fish over, using a metal spatula, and grill, without grill lid, 2 minutes or just until fish separates into moist chunks when gently pressed. Serve with Strawberry-Blueberry Relish.

Grilling is best for thin fillets or steaks that are 1/2 to 1 inch thick, such as triggerfish, tilapia, mahi,

tuna, swordfish, and trout.

Note: First, make sure your grill is clean and hot. Flip once, and don't rush. The fish is ready to turn when it releases easily from the grate without tugging or tearing.

Crab Caprese

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. crab meat
- 2 Tbsp. basil, very finely chopped
- 4 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 2 tsp. grainy Dijon mustard
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper, freshly ground
- 1/2 tsp. white sugar
- 16 tomato slices, 1/2" thick
- 16 fresh mozzarella slices, 1/2" thick
- 8 crusty sourdough bread slices, 1" thick
- 9 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil, divided

Directions:

Mix the basil, lemon juice, mustard, salt, pepper and sugar in a bowl. Slowly whisk in 1/2 cup (8 Tbsp.) olive oil and mix well, emulsifying into a dressing.

Take 8 slices of bread and brush with remaining 1 Tbsp. olive oil. Grill on one side until golden brown. You can grill outside, in a pan or broil in the oven.

Layer bread with cheese and tomato slices, with 2 slices each per slice.

Place 2 oz. of crab on top of each. Drizzle desired amount of dressing on top and enjoy.

Seafood Boil

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. fresh ahi tuna
- 2 1/2 tsp. Old Bay seasoning
- 1/4 cup melted butter

Directions:

Cut 2 of the lemons into

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quarters. Slice the remaining lemon into wedges and reserve the wedges for garnish.



Fill a large pot with 14-16 cups of water. Place the 2 quartered lemons in the water along with the Old Bay seasoning, garlic and onion. Bring to a boil.

Add the potatoes to the pot and cook for 8 minutes.

Add the lobster tails and cook for 5 minutes.

Add the clams, crab, and corn, and cook for 5 minutes.

Add the shrimp and sausage and cook for 2-3 minutes.

Drain the seafood mixture from the pot, reserving 1 cup of the broth.

Melt the butter in a small bowl and whisk it into the reserved broth. Pour the broth over the seafood mixture.

Garnish with chopped parsley and lemon wedges.



Sprinkle with additional Old Bay seasoning to taste, then serve immediately.

Marinated Mako Shark

Ingredients:

- 1 pound mako shark, fresh
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 2 tablespoons light soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Paprika

Directions:

Combine all the marinade ingredients together in a medium size glass bowl and stir to mix evenly.

Place the mako shark steaks in the marinade so that they are completely covered.

Place the bowl of fish and marinade in the refrigerator and allow to marinate for 15 minutes. Remove and turn the steaks. Place back in the refrigerator to marinate for another 15 minutes.

Remove the shark steaks from the marinade and place in an oiled baking pan. Sprinkle with paprika as desired.

Place in an oven preheated to 400 degrees F. Cook for 10 minutes per inch of thickness or until the fish flakes easily.

To grill: Remove steaks from the marinade, spray with cooking oil, and place on a hot grill. Grill for 5 or 6 minutes and then turn. Grill for an additional 5 or 6 minutes or until shark steaks are flaky.

Sesame Seared Ahi Tuna Bites

Ingredients:

- 1 pound fresh wild-caught ahi tuna, sushi-grade
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons sesame oil
- 1 tablespoon rice wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh ginger
- 1/2 cup sesame seeds
- 2 tablespoons light olive oil
- Toothpicks for serving

Directions:

Cut tuna into square pieces,



about 1-inch size, set aside.

In a large bowl stir together first five ingredients through ginger until combined. Remove half of the marinade and set aside.

Toss tuna pieces into half of the marinade to coat. Marinate about 20 minutes covered in the fridge.

Evenly spread sesame seeds onto a plate or flat surface. Coat each piece of tuna with seeds. For best presentation, coat 4 adjacent sides, but leave the two opposite ends uncoated to keep meat exposed.

Heat olive oil in a large non-stick pan to medium-high heat. Add prepared tuna pieces and cook each sesame-coated side until lightly browned, about 15-20 seconds per side. Centers should be pink and rare.

Remove from pan and insert one toothpick into each. Serve with remaining sauce for dipping.

Reel good.



Anglers Sharon Abel and Brian Broskoskie from Ocean View, DE headed south to the Eastern Shore of Virginia to try their luck off of Cape Charles, VA. They were sight casting with eels and managed to land two nice cobias, 47" and 41". Her Los Sueños hat must be a lucky charm.

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July 30 & 31 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

AUGUST

48th Annual White Marlin Open
August 2 - 6 • Harbour Island Marina • 410-289-9229

12th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce
Flounder Tournament
August 7 • Ocean Pines Yacht Club • 410-641-5306

28th Annual Capt. Steve Harman Poor Girl's Open
August 12 - 14 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

The MidAtlantic
August 16 - 20 • Cape May, NJ & Ocean City, MD

6th Annual OCMC vs. OCLTC Shoot-Out
August 27 - 29 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

SEPTEMBER

63rd Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament
September 3 - 5 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

6th Annual OC Marlin Club vs. Light Tackle Club Shoot-Out
September 10 - 12 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

20th Annual Ocean City Fishing Center Spot Tournament
September 11 • OC Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

16th Annual Flounder Pounder
September 12 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

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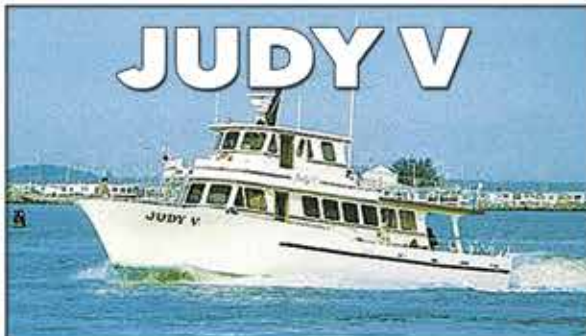
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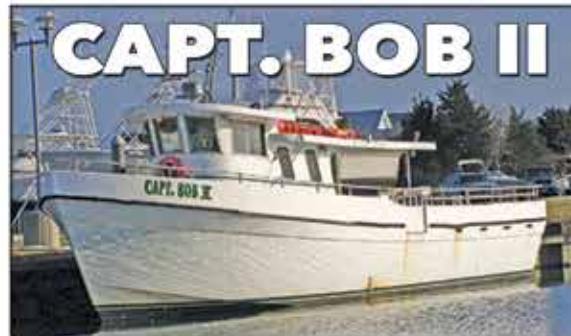
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Grant Barnhart jumped on it when the tog season opened back up! He went fishing at the Indian River Inlet with live sand fleas and landed this 3 lb. and 17" tog. Pictured at Old Inlet Bait & Tackle.



Richard Hoenes and Blake Howell from Jarettville, MD teamed up on 3 nice yellowfin while fishing on the "Sea Hunt". They were south of Poor Man's Canyon on the 70 fathom line in 73° water. They also released a large mako shark that ate a horse ballyhoo behind a maroon Ilander.

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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	SHARK:		
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"	TUNA:		
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"	34 lbs. or 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



Michael, Matthew and David Angstadt with Niki Grant fished in the Lewes Canal last week using minnows for bait. They worked through some flounder finding six keepers for dinner. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Last week tropical storm Elsa passed through and really messed up the fishing plans for a lot of fishermen. For some anglers the couple days of wet, windy, and rough conditions provided little more than an inconvenience when they stepped outside and concluded "Oh well, if I can't go today I'll wait and go tomorrow or the next". But for many other fishermen it would have been a major letdown because, for one reason or the other, they didn't have the option of going later and they really-really wanted to fish!

Those of us in the charter fishing business know too

well the hassles of bad weather. Not only can we expect no paycheck for the period, we'll also have the joy of spending a lot of extra effort trying to make sense of the ever-changing forecast so we can keep abreast of the coming and goings of the nasty weather enabling us to make the right calls as we juggle charters by canceling, postponing, rescheduling, and doing what we can to make the best of the messy situation. We know that we're going to have a lot of disappointed clients. Fortunately, most will understand that a good day of fishing and boating is always dependent upon

the right conditions.

Unfortunately some won't quite "get it" and that's why captains sometimes have conversations like the one I had with a client the other day who was bound and determined to go fishing regardless of how rough the ocean was. His booking was made months ago and he and his family were looking very forward to fishing that day. When I informed him that, due to the tropical storm, it was going to be way too rough to go he told me, "But we've been planning this for months and are really excited about going fishing. We don't care about the weather". When I explained that it was simply not wise or even safe to go out on the ocean he asked if he could pay me more money to take them out? When I said that there wasn't enough money in the world he asked if I could recommend another captain and boat that would take them out that day.

I'm sorry, but even though I've experienced it before, I still don't know how to deal with logic like that! Obviously the fellow simply didn't have enough experience on the water to fully understand what bad weather can do to boats on big bodies of water. Fortunately, even mildly experienced sportsman know that weather plays a factor in all of outdoor pursuits, at times it won't matter if the fish are five-feet or five hundred miles from shore, if the weather forbids it there's nothing an angler can do but suck-up the disappointment and accept the fact that there will be days, weeks, even entire months when

conditions won't allow them to get in on the action that awaits them just of our coast. It's just what fishermen learn to accept.

Patience and the ability to handle disappointment are two of the greatest attributes sportsmen so often acquire, because no matter if they're hunting or fishing, adverse conditions will always be a major threat to their outdoor plans. Depending upon what's being pursued and where, it can be too hot, cold, windy, wet, dry, sunny, cloudy, rough, calm, too late in the day or too early in the morning. When planning out our adventures we try to maximize our chances for success by watching weather forecasts, studying tide and moon tables, and researching anything else we can about what we'll be getting into. But Mother Nature is the great equalizer who doesn't care if someone is rich or poor, a crack shot, the most skilled angler, has traveled thousands of miles to a destination, or been planning out a particular adventure for years, without prejudice she can pull the plug on our plans in a heartbeat and there's no sense in crying about it because the weather will always be just as unpredictable as the fish or game we're trying to catch or kill.

I was sitting in an airport terminal when I overheard a couple folks yapping about their flight that had been delayed because the weather at the place they were headed had the airport shut down. Apparently they were going there for vacation and if they didn't arrive on time they'd miss out on



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 some kind of side-trip that they were really looking forward to. To say that the two were "furious" would be an understatement, feelings that they surly didn't try to hide from the airline personnel or anyone else within earshot. The fellow seemed to think that if he made enough of a fuss that he'd get his way. When that didn't work he took the "high-roller" approach and asked the person at the counter, "OK, what's it going to cost me to get there on time?" As if paying some extra money could change the weather at his destination. It was pretty obvious that the couple throwing the hissy-fit at the terminal weren't sportsmen, and I was left hoping that if they ever decided to try fishing in Ocean City that they wouldn't call me!

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- 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
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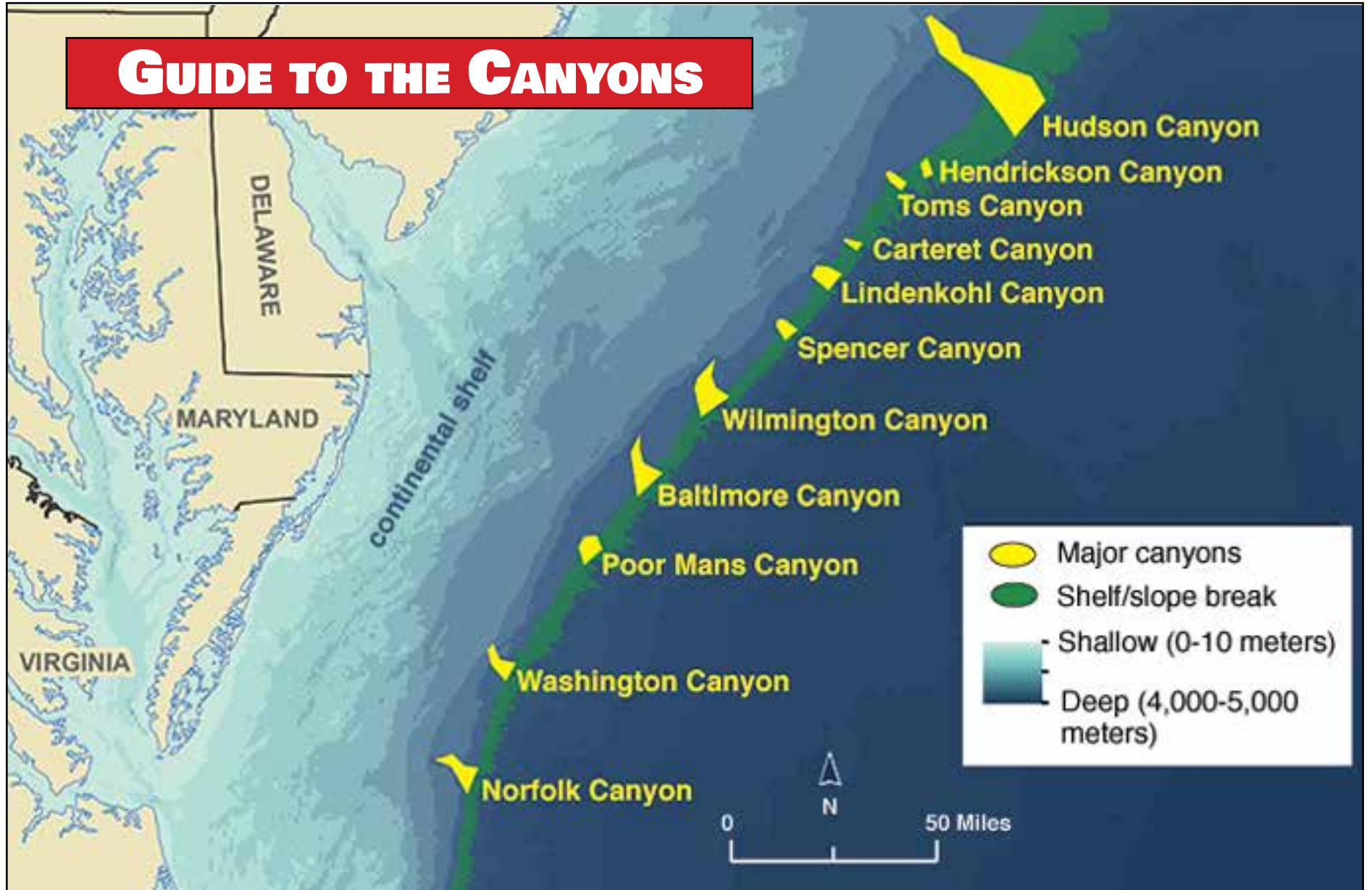
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Big Bird Cropper is back on the big bluefish! He stopped by the office with this 33 inch he caught by the Rt. 50 Bridge on a Roy Rig of course while fishing with Shaun Flaherty on the "Lost Time". Shaun also bagged another rockfish at the top end of the 'slot' at just under 35"! For reference, the rulers on the suspenders are not for official use!



Wayne Crook, Sr. from Ocean Pines, MD with his son Wayne Cook, Jr. from Lancaster, PA were definitely doing it old school on the 4th of July weekend! Wayne Jr. put on a vintage Coastal Fisherman shirt and the pair headed to the bay behind the Ocean City Airport to land this pair of 18 "flounders.

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Angler Michael Steffy was working the Outer Wall near Lewes, DE with sand fleas looking for tog, rockfish or weakfish. While he only caught one tiderunner, it was a big one. The citation fish weighed 5.95 lbs! Pictured and weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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OCEAN CITY FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Here we go as the summer fishing season is officially in full swing! The hurricane seems to have churned up the waters and revitalized the fish. Several limits returned to the docks along with some really nice size fish.

Flounder, Bluefish & Rockfish

Flounder fishing has been some of the best we have seen in years. In the back bays the head boats are reporting that their clients are being rewarded with some really nice fish. The "Fish Frenzi" reported some nice flounder at 18-21" along with some sea bass thrown in. Blake Gunther and Derek Yobst reported fantastic fishing early this week with several nice flounder being brought in. Josh Metzgar and crew fished the Rt. 50 Bridge on Monday and caught some nice flounder as well as a few undersized rockfish. Danny Rodriguez caught a limit of flounder

on Sunday and left them chewing. That's a lot of fillets for dinner! The main areas of the bay to target the flatties are basically anywhere. Fish are in most of the main channels both north and south of the bridge. Squid and shiner combos remain the star of the show bait with Gulp as an alternative. Target the outside edges of the channel where the water depth changes as the fish will stage on these dropoffs. On the nearshore side of the ocean, the African Queen wreck area is producing the best flounder with the Bass Grounds as a close second. Using the large Gulp baits are working the best. Target the down current side of these wrecks as the fish will set up there waiting to ambush bait fish being swept out of the wreck by the current. At night the Ocean City fishing piers are producing small bluefish on cut bait. Most of these fish are

coming at night, however, some can be caught during the day. Stripers are also coming from these piers, but unfortunately most of the them are undersized. The Rt. 50 Bridge is also producing some blues as well as rockfish. Shawn and Big Bird Cropper were at it again catching a nice keeper at the bridge measuring 34" and weighing in at 17.5 lbs. As usual, they credited the Roy Rig for this exceptional catch. This was in connection with an inshore slam consisting of a bluefish, striper and flounder.

Sea Bass, Cobia & Triggerfish

Sea bass remains very strong late in the season. Last year we saw sea bass well into July which in previous times were not seen. Many attributed this to a lower number of anglers. I believe that the lack of pressure last year definitely helped the

www.coastalfisherman.net spawn, but this may just be a changing cycle as we see every few years. The "Ocean Princess" reported that their longer trips have been producing quite a few nice keeper sea bass along with a few big flounder. The "Angler" reports that their full day trips are also producing some very nice hauls of keeper sea bass. Most of the head boats targeting sea bass stated that the full day trip where they can run further offshore is producing much better. Deep water in the 100 ft. zone is producing the best and biggest catches. The half day trips are giving up a few nice keeper sea bass but the throwback ratio is about 7 throwbacks to 1 keeper. Fresh salted clams are the best choice, but squid appears to be working just as well.

Cobia is also in full swing. I had an opportunity to fish out of Cape Charles this past week and caught a beautiful 43" and 45" cobia. Several huge cobia have been taken by the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. Looking to Ocean City, several cobia have been spotted on the near

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 shore lumps. Isle of Wright and Little Gull Bank are great places to set up and chum for these fish. Early morning is the best time with live eels being the best baits to use. The "man in the brown suit" can also be found on many of the wrecks nearshore, so when you are out sea bass or flounder fishing be sure to keep a bucktail with a trailing worm or Gulp bait ready just in case one of them swim by checking out your boat.

Triggerfish are all over the nearshore wrecks and many anglers are very happy to see these tasty creatures return to the wrecks. This species have a very firm and tasty white meat. An old trick taught to me years ago by a charter captain is to cut the fillets into chunks about 2", boil a pot of water with about

a half of a box of brown sugar, and drop the chunks into the boiling water and when the cut fish floats to the surface it is done. This may sound like it will make the fish way too sweet but in fact makes it taste just like lobster. Try it next time you catch one... you won't be disappointed!

Crabs & Clams

Carl from Bob's Marine reports crab catches in the upper bay to be around 10-14 keepers per pot. Martin's Fish Market has fresh and frozen bunker by the flat for crabbing. Clamming on Assateague Island is also very productive with clams either right at the surface or just below the sand. Rakes can be found at most tackle shops as well as many hardware stores.

Until next week...

Tight lines and fins up



If 7 year old Sean Dieter and 6 year old William Boyd from Ocean Pines, MD did not have the fishing bug already, they sure do now! They landed their first keeper flounders, both at 17", on a Deadly Double with white 4" Gulp in the Ocean City East Channel while fishing on the "Pull and Prey".

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Cindy Trout from Mount Airy, MD went against the family heritage when she landed this 22" flattie! A mud minnow for bait in the bay behind Assateague Island on a falling tide did the trick. Her hubby Jim looks on in awe.



We can tell that Ashley Barnett is a hands on type of angler! She caught this yellowfin tuna, her first ever, in the Washington Canyon on a purple spreader bar. Fishing with her aboard the "Lifestyle Choice" were John Kenyon, Victoria Southard and Taylor Deemer.



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13th ANNUAL OCMC LADIES' TOURNAMENT "HEELS & REELS"*

To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund
Registration: July 29, 6:00-8:00pm
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) July 30 & 31
Weigh-Ins: July 30 & 31 5:30-7:30pm at Atlantic Tackle

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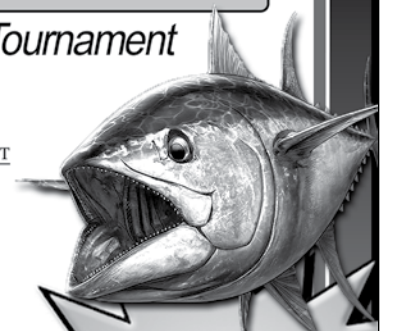
Registration: September 2, 6:30-8:00pm
Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 3, 4, 5
Weigh-Ins: September 3,4,5 6:00-8:00pm at Sunset Marina

6th ANNUAL OCMC vs OCLTC SHOOT-OUT

Angler Meeting: August 26, 7:00pm
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43rd ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP

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2021 COASTAL FISHERMAN



(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - TIES GO TO FIRST FISH REPORTED. HOOK & LINE ONLY)

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
 Bluefish	June 9 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge 12 lbs. 3 oz.	May 8 Gavin Murray Gull Island 15.1 lbs.	 Mako Shark	July 1 Vince Cusimano Poor Man's 250 lbs.	No Weights Reported
 Black Drum	April 11 Emily Blume Assateague Island 48 lbs.	May 7 Adam Clarke Slaughter Beach 77.5 lbs.	 Thresher Shark	June 7 Roman Brady Fingers 542 lbs.	June 17 Rory Badger Old grounds 458 lbs.
 Cobia	June 17 Shannon Pickens S. of OC Inlet 36 lbs.	No Weights Reported	 Bigeye Tuna	June 27 Greg Eckard Washington Canyon 235 lbs.	No Weights Reported
 Flounder	July 4 Richard Rudell Old Grounds 10 lbs.	 July 7 Dan McGeady Ocean Structure 5.05 lbs.	 Bluefin Tuna	May 28 James Hammond Poor Man's 150 lbs.	No Weights Reported
 Sea Bass	 May 27 Michael DePalma Jack Spot 4 lb. 5 oz.	May 28 Denise Eddinger Del Jersey Reef 4.1 lbs.	 Longfin Tuna	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
 Sheepshead	No Weights Reported	July 8 Chris Gratton Indian River Inlet 6.1 lbs.	 Yellowfin Tuna	June 18 Dianna Harris Norfolk Canyon 98 lbs.	June 26 Julia Dadisman Poor Man's 118 lbs.
 Striped Bass	May 6 Buddy Martin East Channel 17 lb. 8 oz.	No Weights Reported	 Dolphin	June 25 Jimmy Carr Washington Canyon 28 lbs.	June 26 Chad Starnier Poor Man's 18 lbs.
 Tautog	April 27 Kurtis Berry Ocean Structure 22.7 lbs.	April 19 Johnny Justison Ocean Structure 8.9 lbs.	 Wahoo	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
 Weakfish	June 23 Doug Stewart OC Inlet 3.9 lbs.	 July 3 Michael Steffy Outer Wall 5.95 lbs.	 White Marlin	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported

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



It was tough out there last week with many crews working hard to get a few fish in the box. Capt. Anthony "Hook Optics" Pino on the charter boat "Blood Money" shook up that trend when he took a group from Riesterstown, MD out last Tuesday! Starting in 150 fathoms in the Norfolk Canyon in 73° water they got 8 tunas in the box with many others that got eaten by sharks before they could get them to the boat. Then running further offshore of the Washington Canyon in 850 fathoms they found 79° blue water and managed to catch 2 out of 3 on white marlin hookups and a blue marlin release in the afternoon!

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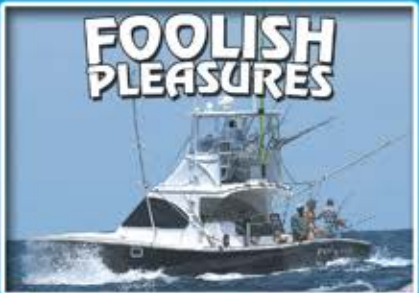


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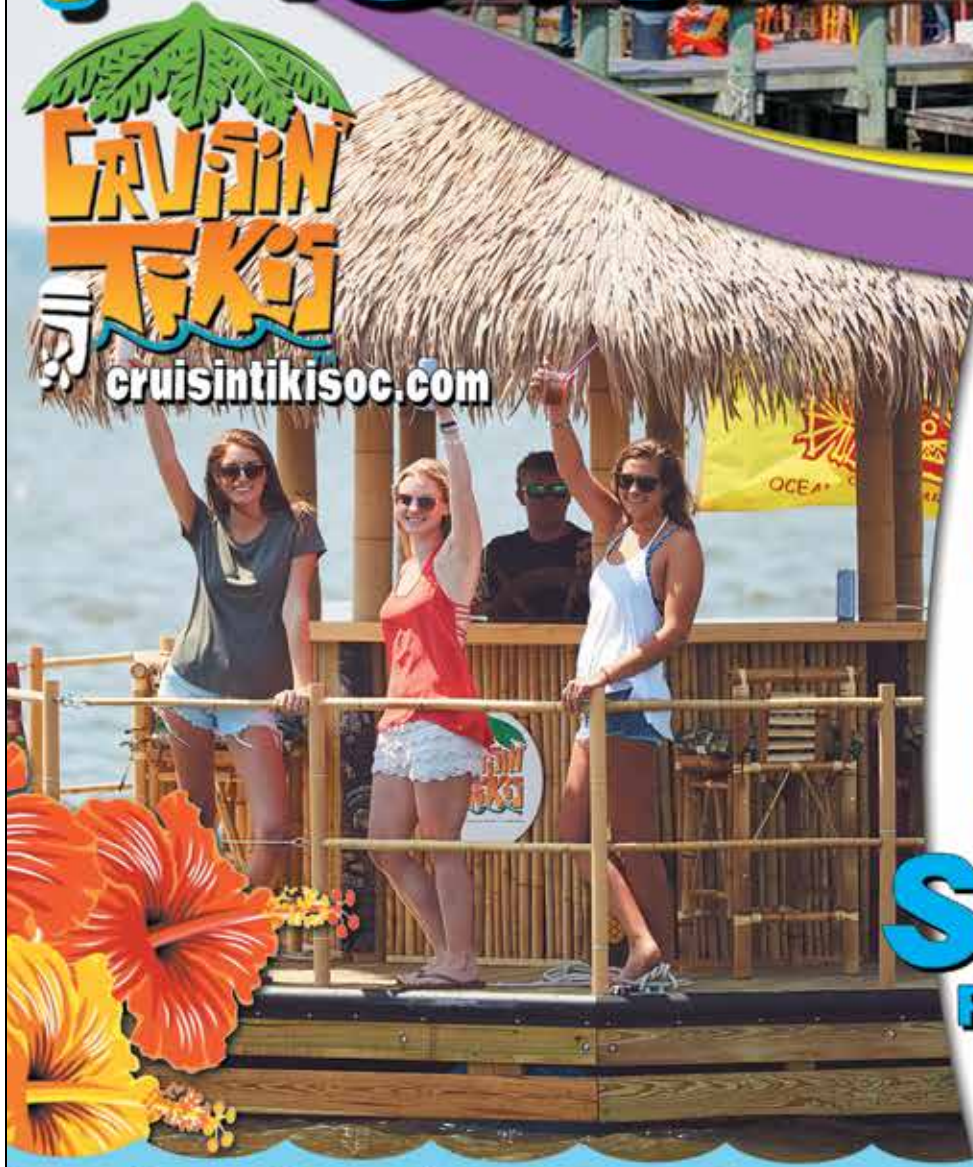
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2021 TOURNAMENTS

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SEPTEMBER 12



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The crew of the charter boat "Bill Slayer" did just that last week. Capt. Chris Ragni with mates Connor Campbell and Reese Yost (pictured) took Justin Meace and friends out to the Baltimore Canyon where they caught and released this sailfish and a white marlin! They also boated 2 yellowfin tunas and a skipjack making this trip one for the history books.

MARYLAND REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY



BLACK SEA BASS
12.5" minimum / 15 per person/day
5/15 - 12/31



BLUEFISH
8" minimum
3 per person/day or
5 per person/day Charter



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



COBIA
40" minimum
1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/15
Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers



CROAKER
9" minimum
25 per person/day



RED DRUM
18-27" minimum
1 per person/day



SHEEPSHEAD
4 per person/day



SPECKLED TROUT
14" minimum
4 per person/day



STRIPED BASS
28-35"
Less than 3 miles from shore
1 per person/day



SUMMER FLOUNDER
16.5" minimum
4 per person/day



TAUTOG
16" minimum
4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15
2 per person/day 7/1 - 10/31
4 per person/day 11/1 - 12/31



WEAKFISH
13" minimum
1 per person/day



The Brown Boys from Ocean View found friends! Richard and Rick were joined by Bob Keller from Hayden, CO and Joe Miranda of Bonita Springs, FL on a trip to the Baltimore Canyon early last week on the "Miss Darlene". They caught 5 yellowfin tuna using a mix of spreader bars and ballyhoo and also grabbed a few tilefish. Looks like Rick lost the beard and his smile!



Adrian Magdaleno from Gaithersburg, MD found the right combination for flounder last week. Using live minnow and pink Gulp he drifted over the African Queen Reef and boated these 2 flounder, 18.5 inches & 21.5 inches.

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Capt. Bill Oass and Anthony Nicholas found the mackerel bite was hot at the Fenwick Shoals last week with some blues mixed in to cool things off. Anthony also learned the hard way just how sharp spanish mackerel's teeth can be when one cut his hand open early in the day!



The charter boat "Strike Zone" from Lewes, DE had a last minute cancellation and decided to take a family fishing trip! Capt. Chris Keller worked the tough tides early that day and got some short tog, but as the tide slowed down they found a spot on an ocean structure where Lauren Gravatt found this nice 3.96 lb. triggerfish using squid.



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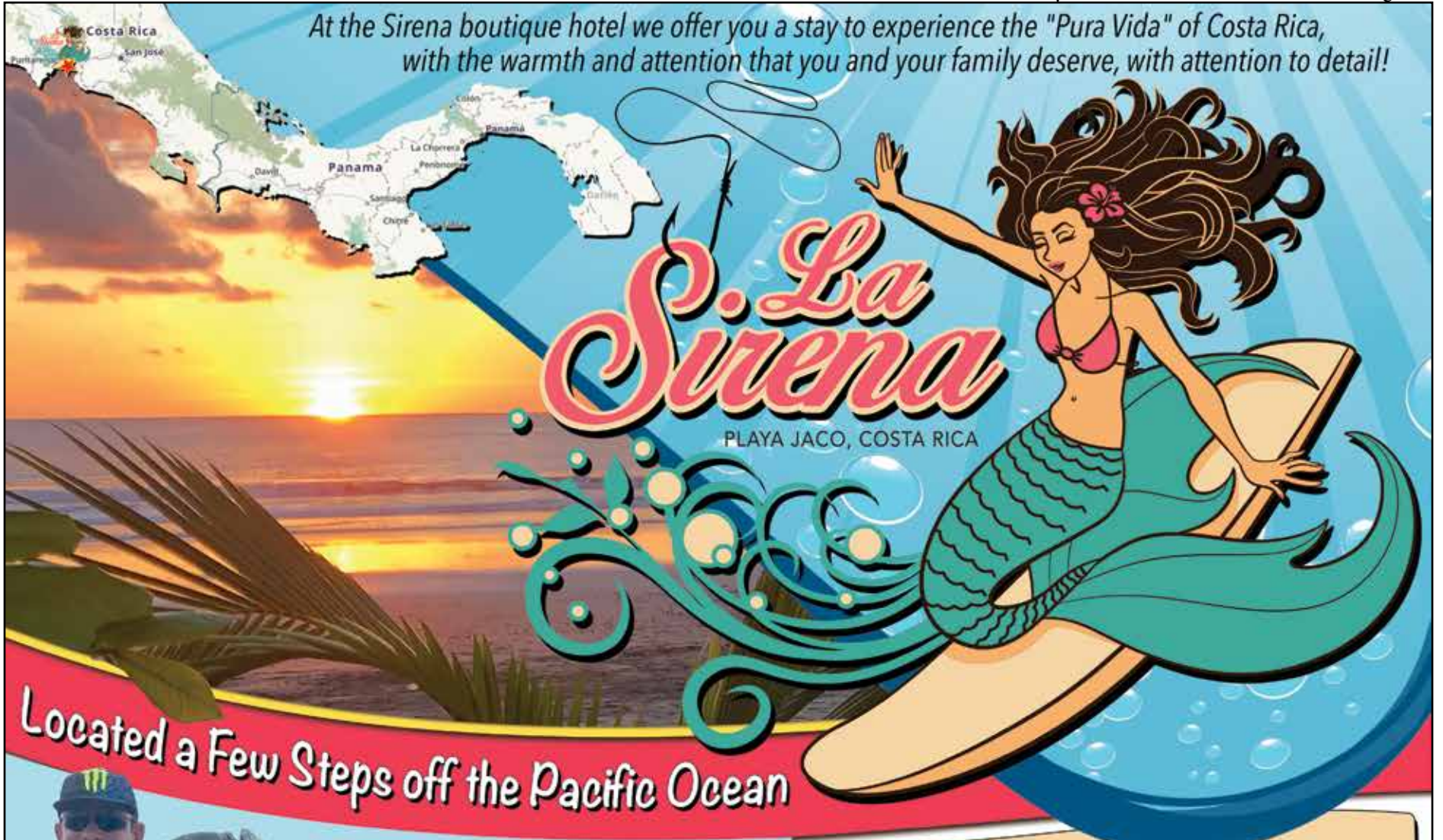
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2021 34th Annual 2021 **OCEAN CITY** **TUNA TOURNAMENT** **RESULTS**

SINGLE LARGEST TUNA

1st - "Hydrosphere"	233 lbs.	\$93,787
2nd - "Tara Jessica"	199 lbs.	\$30,802
3rd - "Instigator"	170 lbs.	\$59,865

HEAVIEST STRINGER WEIGHT

1st - "Big Stick"	638 lbs.	\$305,880
2nd - "Bar South"	562 lbs.	\$63,540
3rd - "Hydrosphere"	488 lbs.	\$ Included Above

HEAVIEST DOLPHIN

1st - "Christine Marie"	20 lbs.	\$27,070
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TOP LADY ANGLER

1st - "Reel Naughty" Kristin Quinn	150 lbs.	\$1,500
2nd - "Myra HT" JL Cropper	42 lbs.	\$1,000
3rd - "FFMD" Danielle Robertson	38 lbs.	\$250

TOP JUNIOR ANGLER

1st - "Boss Hogg" Robert Warden	65 lbs.	\$1,500
---------------------------------	---------	---------

BOATS 35' & UNDER

Single Largest Tuna - "Not Stressing"	97lbs.	\$8,190
Heaviest Stringer Wt. - "Drankin' & Crankin'"	168lbs.	

BOATS 36' - 51'

Single Largest Tuna - "Tara Jessica"	199lbs.	\$14,580
Heaviest Stringer Wt. "Reel Naughty/Husuevo"	350lbs.	\$14,580

BOATS 52' & UP

Single Largest Tuna - "C-Boys"	124lbs.	\$36,630
Heaviest Stringer Wt. "Big Stick"	638lbs.	\$36,630

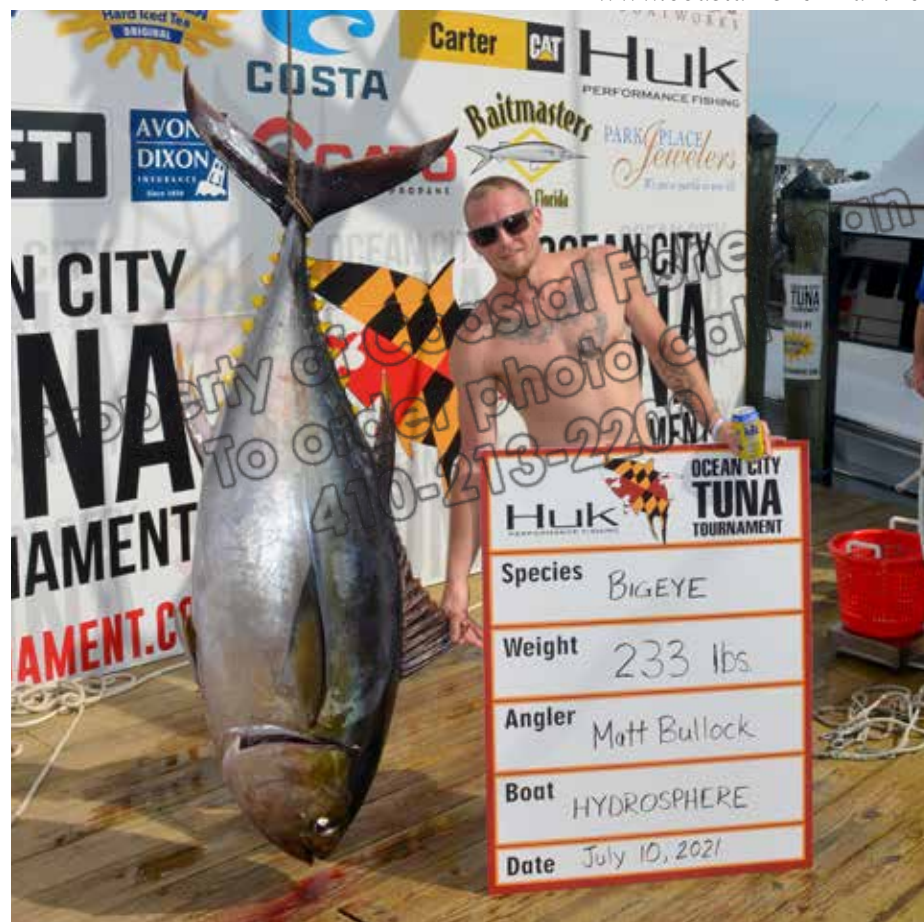
LARGEST SINGLE TUNA JACKPOT

1st - "Reel Fun"	139 lbs.	\$198,000
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2021
BOATS
ENTERED
106

BOATS FISHED
DAY 1 - 106
DAY 2 - 106

TOTAL
PRIZE MONEY
\$1,022,390



The "Hydrosphere" was first to the dock and was waiting for the scales to open on Day 2 of the 34th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament so we knew they had something good on board. They started in the Washington Canyon and got an early hook up with 2 bigeye tuna. Anglers Scott Frederick, Mike Frederick, David McClelland, Del Ferkel and Matt Bullock worked with Capt. Matty Bierley and mates Eric Strauss & Jimmy Salvo and also got 7 yellowfins in the box for good measure. At the scales Matt's bigeye set the bar high at 233 lbs. and combined with the other bigeye and some chunky yellowfins their stringer landed at 488 lbs! These weights remained unchallenged on Saturday and the single tuna held on to take 1st Place in the Tuna-Single Division. Their stringer ended the event in 3rd Place earning the "Hydrosphere" a combined \$93,787 in award money.



While fishing on the "Instigator" Joe Venito from Boonton, NJ connected with this 170 lb. bigeye tuna in the Wilmington Canyon on the 3rd day of the 34th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament. That put the boys into 2nd place at the time. A late day challenger would move this one to 3rd in the Tuna-Single Division where it remained, earning \$59,865 in awards. Rounding out the crew were Capt. Josh Wentling, mate Kyle Shipp and fellow anglers Roy Richards, Terry Cantwek, Matt Surowiel and Seton Herbert all also from Boonton.



Just like Vegas, you have to bet big to win big and that is exactly what the crew of the "Reel Fun" did during the 34th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament! Anglers Trey Gettier, Andy Mayr and Wendell Austin with boat owner Scott Gettier along with Capt. Rob Skillman and mate Jamie Coates entered the Single Largest Tuna level along with several others. This strategic combination allowed them to earn a combined \$207,180 in award money for this 139 lb. bigeye they caught in the Wilmington Canyon!



Every tournament has some unique stories and the 34th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament is no exception. The "Tara Jessica" headed out to the Baltimore Canyon around the 100 fathom line catching a single yellowfin tuna, but it was the bigeye tuna that makes the story. The crew was still fighting the fish when 'lines out' came at 3PM, but since the rules allow he kept on it until they got it in the box at 3:58PM! Already late in the day and not being the fastest boat either, Capt. Greg Wendell did not spare the diesels getting in with just 1 minute to spare with engines smoking and alarms sounding! Their 199 lb. tuna slid into 2nd Place in the Tuna-Single Division and earned anglers Seth Frederick, Gary James, William Broadway, Spencer Cropper, John Crisco and Melissa Mendoff \$30,802. Capt. Gary Wendell was on the bridge with mate Steve Mendoff working the lines.



It was one and done in the Dolphin Division of the 34th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament! With an event minimum of 20 lbs. only one of the few mahi brought to the scales qualified. Lucky angler and Sunset Grille's Buddy Trala caught this winning fish in the Norfolk Canyon and it logged in at exactly 20 lbs. earning \$27,070 for the boat! Buddy was fishing on the "Christine Marie" with fellow anglers Chrissy, Steve and Rob Summers. Capt. Scott Walker was at the wheel with mates Josh Ardis and Rob Belcher in the pit.



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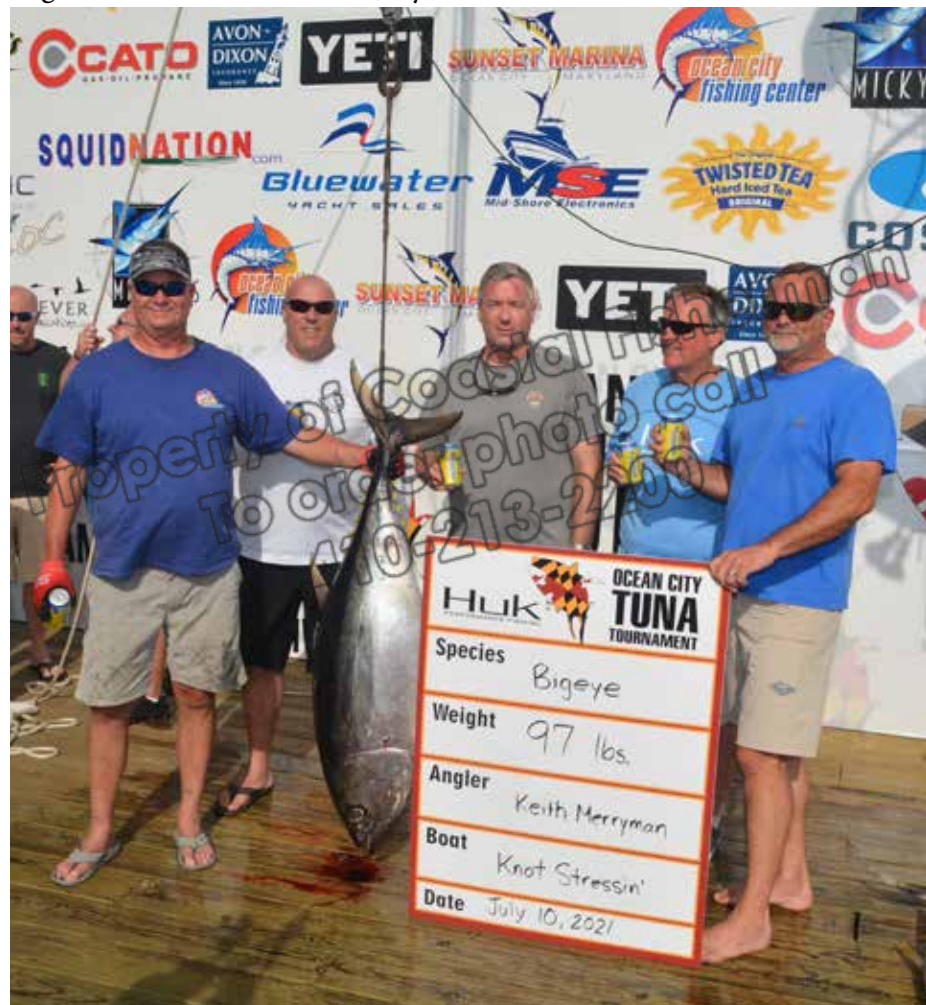
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The crew of the "Knot Stressing" was just outside the Washington Canyon during the 2nd day of the 34th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament. They connected with 3 tuna, but it was the one Keith Merryman landed at 97 lbs. that earned the boys \$8,190 from the Boats 35' and Under Level. Rounding out the crew were Capt. Bryan Martz with mate Bill Waters and fellow Severna Park, MD anglers Mike Maxwell and Dave Small.



One of the most unique names of the 34th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament was the "Drankin' and Crankin'"! Southern Maryland anglers Brad Martin, Ryan Jones, Brandon Myers with Chris and Dave Rankin spent day 2 of the event in the Washington Canyon where they boated 4 yellowfin tuna. This stringer at 168 lbs. was enough to lock the \$8,190 in award money from the Boats 35' and Under Level.



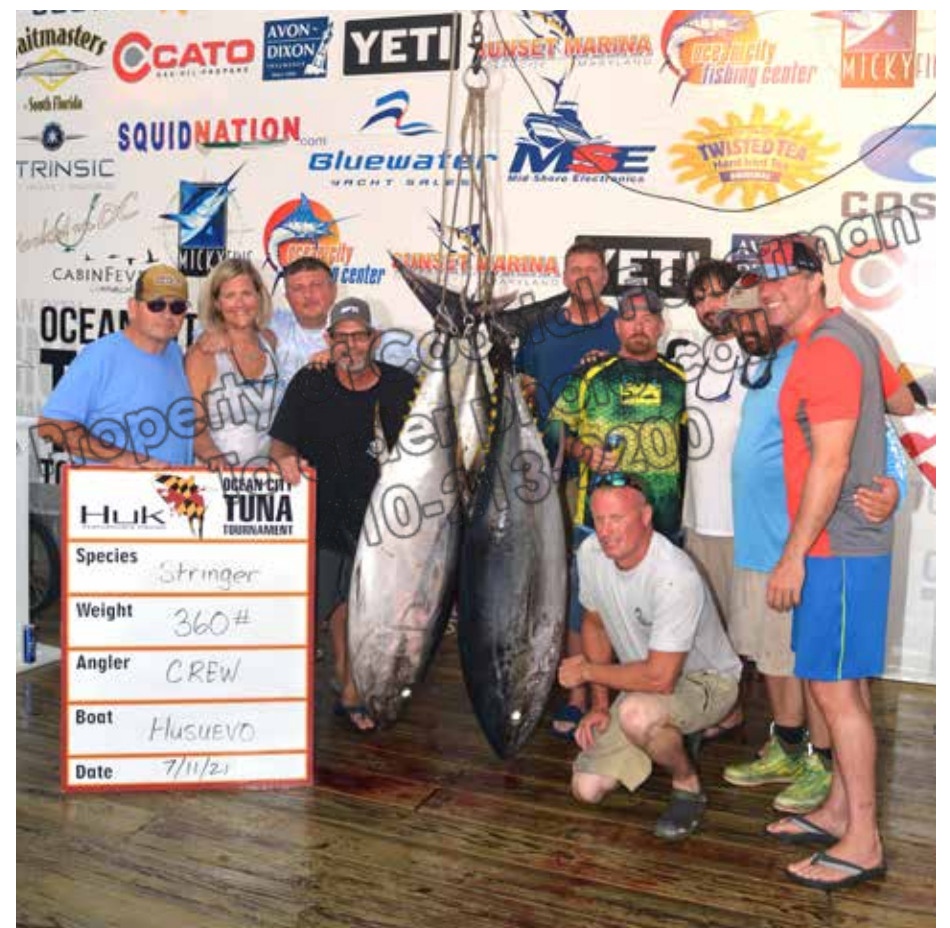
The crew of the "Bar South" bet on the south during the 34th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament fishing in and just below the Norfolk Canyon. Despite losing 7 tuna to sharks on Day 2, they still managed to bring an 84 lb. bigeye and several yellowfins to the scale putting a 238 lb. stringer on the board. Day 2 saw the boat back in the Norfolk boating a couple of bigeyes and some yellowfins adding another 324 lb. stringer for a total of 562 lbs. That gave the weekend's combined crew of Capt. Raul Gonzalez, Eddy Ferrer, Rob Gothier, Al Smith, Cooper Nalley, Troy Purnell with Reel Inn's own Spunky Lathroum and mates Brian Behe & Cory Purnell a comfortable lock on the 2nd Place Tuna-Stringer Division earning \$63,540.



Capt. Brian Porter spent his 2 days fishing during the 34th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament in the Norfolk Canyon. Coming to the scales both days despite losing fish to sharks saw yellowfin tunas on Saturday and a mix of yellowfins and bigeyes on Sunday. This combination put owner Howard Burger with anglers Glen Orr, Robie Warder, Teddy Riche, Mike Dahl and Bob Waddel Sr. with mates Jack Hannul & Alex Beane in the money earning a combine \$27,360 from 3 different stringer levels of the tournament. Angler Robbie Warder also took the top honors in the Junior Angler Category earning \$1,500 for a 65 lb. yellowfin tuna.



Anglers Bill Leash, Paul Crampton, Jr., Paul Crampton III got into the Added Level for Boats 52' and Up and it paid out for this 124 lb. bigeye tuna they caught on Day 3 of the 34th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament. Capt. Luke Blume with mates Nate Lange & Josh Blume put the "C-Boys" in 250 fathoms of the Wilmington Canyon on Day 3 of the event where the anglers went 2 for 3 on the bigeyes and missed a couple of white marlins.



A last minute mechanical issue put the crew of the "Reel Naughty" onto the "Husuevo" with Capt. Tony Bauer at the helm for the 34th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament. Day 3 was a big day for Noel Johnson, Mike Aiello, Eric Quinn, Sean Ladie, Kristin Quinn and Justin Yeiser. One of the last boats to the dock saw mates Victor Little and Mark Robbins start sliding jumbo bigeye tunas from the Wilmington Canyon on the dock. This included Kristin's Top Lady Angler tuna at 150 lbs., another 167 lb. tuna and a stringer of 360 lbs.! They did have one more bigeye, probably the largest, that was disqualified as it hit a prop prior to getting it in the boat.



Angler Kristin Quinn on the "Husuevo" aka "Reel Naughty" locked the top spot in the Ladies Division of the 34th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament with a 150 lb. bigeye she caught late day in the Wilmington Canyon. This one kept diving and it took Kristin an 1:15 to get to the boat, not a fight she will soon forget. She earned \$1,500 or about \$1,200 an hour!



Junior Angler Robby Warder reeled in this 65 lb. yellowfin tuna on the 3rd day of the 34th Annual as well as a 59 pounder the day before to secure both 1st and 2nd Place in the Junior Angler Division earning \$1,500 is prize money.

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A beaming Richard Rudell from Baldin, MD popped into our office on the 4th of July with news of a flounder he caught. It was not just any flatfish, but a real doormat measuring 28" and weighing in at 10 lbs.w! He was fishing at the Old Grounds with Donna Pasqua using a home made white bucktail with a touch of orange and a strip of squid. Measured at Atlantic Tackle at the Sunset Marina.

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TOBASCO - 1979 48' Whiticar Call Jimmy Fields



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WORK LESS PAY MORE - 2019 32' Century - Call Dave Shockley



DOUBLE TROUBLE - 2004 35' Marlago Call Terry Layton



SOUTHBOUND 2019 30' Grady White Call Jimmy Fields



2019 24' St. James Boatworks Call Jimmy Fields



2021 24' St. James Custom Boatworks Call Jimmy Fields



2007 33' Buddy Cannady Call Ronnie Fields



2018 25' Custom Blackfin Call Jimmy Fields



2018 27' Baja Outlaw Call Chris Workmon



1982 34' Crusader Call John Caselli

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