

Priceless

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COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME 42 • • • NUMBER 1 • • • MAY 10, 2017



Emma Matarese of Pennsville, NJ is all smiles, and probably a little tired, after reeling in this 15 lb. 12 oz. bluefish in the East Channel. Emma hooked the big chopper on cut bunker while fishing on the charter boat, "Ocean City Guide Service" with her dad, Anthony Matarese and her uncle, Capt. John Prather. So far, Emma is on top of the leaderboard for catching the heaviest bluefish of the year in Ocean City this season. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



James Peterson can usually be found working on a headboat out of Port Jefferson, NY, but this past winter he wanted to go to where the big tautog are caught, so he jumped on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" and hooked this 14 pounder that he released to live another day. James also caught and released an 11 lb. tog during his trip. The fish were caught on green crabs at a small wreck located in 35-feet of water. As always, Capt. Kane Bounds was at the helm and mate Kevin Twilley was working the deck.



John Davis, looking dapper as ever in his new floppy hat, fished at the Roosevelt Inlet on Saturday night and caught this 35-inch, 13 lb. 8 oz. bluefish while using a piece of mullet for bait.

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The surf off a VA barrier island produced this 46-inch red drum that was caught and released by Tim Tribbitt at the top of the tide. Tim was using peeler crabs for bait.

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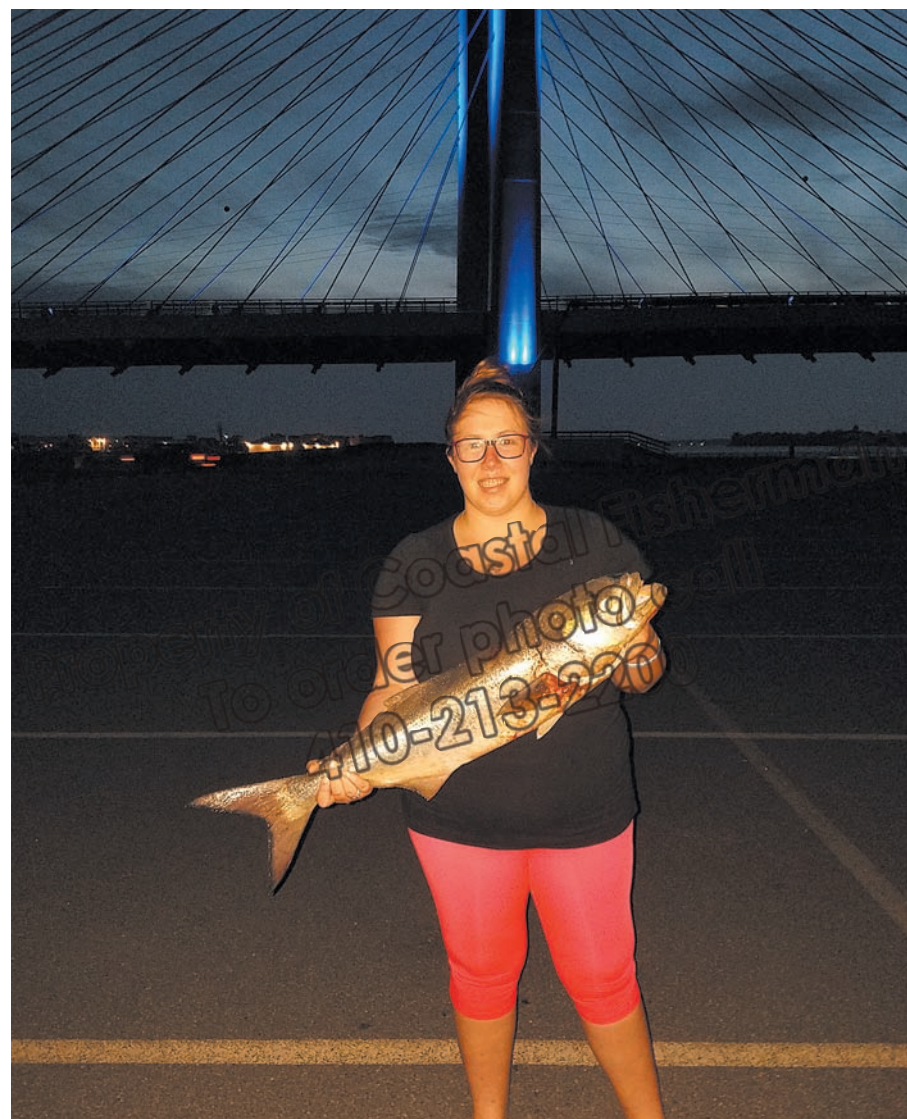
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Against the backdrop of the Indian River Bridge at night, Amber Ewing of Ocean View, DE poses with the 9 lb. bluefish she caught on a white bucktail tipped with squid. Photo courtesy of Hook'em & Cook'em Tackle Shop in the Indian River Marina.

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During a trip in April, Sung Seo from Silver Spring, MD caught this 13 lb. tautog on a white crab at an artificial reef in 80-foot of water during a trip aboard the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mate Dean "I Love Getting into Pictures" Lo. The "Angler" sails out of Capt. Bill Bunting's Angler Dock.



Mason Howell and Liam Sturm were chomping at the bit to get out in their 13-foot Boston Whaler and into a bluefish blitz. They ended up hooking choppers weighing between 10 and 12 lbs. while trolling Stretch 25's between the Rt. 50 Bridge and Harbour Island.

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Ocean City Fishing Report

by Larry Jock



Mother Nature made it a rough one for anglers last week. The wind blew all week and really didn't start to die down until late on Sunday and when I say "die down" I am saying relative to what we had in previous days. It was still puffing more than normal.

The conditions made it especially tough for surfcasters who have been waiting patiently for big striped bass to come close enough to the beach to grab their offerings of fresh bunker, peeler crabs or sand fleas. Although they have been kept busy over the last several weeks with large bluefish hitting anything thrown their way, very few big stripers have been beached. However, it looks like things may be heating up with some nice fish caught over the weekend and on Monday morning as this report was being written.

It's has been interesting that the commercial netters have been returning with some nice catches of stripers over the last few weeks, but surfcasters just haven't had the same luck. Some have a theory that the fish have been feeding mainly on crabs and sand fleas and haven't been interested in offerings of bunker. Other anglers have theorized that the fish are filled with roe and are just in the heavy migrating mode. I have seen pictures of big fish being caught from the beach up in New Jersey, so I have a feeling that the big fish may be cruising by us a little further off the beach than we normally see during their spring run. Who knows? It could be a whole host of reasons. Hopefully, with the bite looking more promising this past weekend and on Monday morning, surfcasters

will soon be rewarded for their patience.

In the bay, anglers who wished to endure the incredibly windy conditions we had EVERY day last week found big chopper bluefish all over the bay, but those fishing from 32nd Street down to the East Channel off 3rd Street reported seeing bluefish boiling on the surface on many occasions. Little Emma Matarese pulled in the biggest bluefish of the week when she hooked into a 15 3/4 pounder in the East Channel while using fresh bunker for bait. Vinnie Locascio caught a 12 lb. bluefish while fishing from the pier on 9th Street which has been a good location for several weeks now.

Big bluefish were also caught in the bay behind Assateague Island with the waters behind Frontier Town producing some of the best catches of the week.

Bluefish are known for attacking anything thrown their way, but anglers have had good results recently by trolling swim shads and Rat-L-Traps. Big Bird Cropper continued to have good results with his famous Roy Rig, a salt-and-pepper swim shad on a short shanked jig.

Up until the bad weather that rolled through last week, flounder fishing was showing some improvement with keeper fish being caught in the Thorofare, mainly on the troll. Trolling from edge to edge of

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the narrow, shallow channels on the Thorofare flats gave anglers the best shot at boating a keeper.

On Saturday, anglers on the charter boat, "Get Sum" battled the windy conditions in the Thorofare and ended their day with 2 flatties measuring 19 3/4-inches and 20 1/4-inches. Capt. Nick said they also had 7 throwbacks during the trip and the fish were biting both pink and white Gulp! Alive Swimming Mulletts.

Offshore, it was a wasted week for those hoping to catch the first white marlin of the season. The water that anglers caught makos, tuna and mahi in a week ago has broken up, but I'm sure the temperature charts are being studied hard by local captains looking to deposit the \$15,000 for the first white marlin catch of the season will bring this year.

Finally, the Ocean City Reef Foundation held their annual dinner on Sunday night. The event has outgrown the Ocean City Marlin Club, so this year it was held at Seacrets. Around 160 people attended the dinner and through the admission fee and money received from silent and Chinese auctions, it looks like they raised more money than last year, so congratulations to Capt. Monty Hawkins and his team of volunteers. As Capt. Monty loves to say, "More money equals more reefs" and we all want that. To join the Reef Foundation, log on to their website at ocreefs.org. A \$50 donation gets you charts of all of their reef sites.

Until next week, I'll see you at the scales!

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- AWARDS BANQUET • MAY 28 6:30PM - 9:00PM

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Larry Kinard from Middle River, MD jumped on the hot bluefish bite in the Ocean City Inlet and caught 16 big ones while fishing on the charter boat, "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford. All were hooked on Rat-L-Traps during the outgoing tide. Pictured at Frontier Town.



Judy Gordon was super excited about boating her first bluefish during a trip with Thom and Rhonda Daub on the "B. MARIE". Judy's blue measured 34-inches and was caught on a mullet rig.

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Mike Gasparo slayed this 13 lb. 3 oz. tautog after hooking it on a white crab at an ocean wreck in 80-feet of water off the Delaware coast. Mike was fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley.



While fishing on the north side of the Indian River Inlet, Phil Whalen of Port Deposit, MD muscled in this 11 lb. 10 oz. bluefish after fooling it with cut mullet on a bluefish rig. Phil is pictured with his wife, Linda at Hook'em & Cook'em Tackle Shop in the Indian River Marina.

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Site 10 has been a good spot for tautog fishermen lately and on this day, anglers on the charter boat, "Fish Whisperer" returned with 14 in the box after hooking them on green crabs and white leggers. Pictured are Shawn Maloney, Barry Beck, Joseph Alfano, Steve Dubon, Victor Veror, Capt. Dave Popovich and mates Chris Huk and Brent Jones. Photo courtesy of Hook'em & Cook'em Tackle Shop at the Indian River Marina.

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Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	Blue Shark *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Bluefish	34"	14 lbs. or 33"	Hammerhead *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Blue Marlin **	Any Size	Any Size	Mako *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Cobia	44"	-	Thresher *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	Tiger *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	Tuna:		
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lbs. or 32"
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 36"	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"
Red Drum *	36"	45"	Bigeye ***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"
Sailfish *	Any Size	-	Bluefin ***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"
Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	Yellowfin ***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"
Speckled Trout	24"	-	White Marlin **	Any Size	Any Size
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Fish Stories

by Capt. Franky Pettolina



I spent a little bit of time this morning going through one of my ancient fishing picture photo albums. A real photo album. Not something I could click on my Facebook profile and find. An honest to goodness photo album. The kind with pages turned yellow from age, faded pictures, broken bindings and worn out adhesive backing. Pretty much it was falling apart.

I was looking for one specific cut out from an old *Coastal Fisherman*, and of course I couldn't find it. I can picture this clipping in my mind very clearly. It was taken in the spring of 1988 if I remember correctly. Maybe '89. But I am pretty sure it was '88. Dad, since I am sure you are reading this, go get the log book out and look for the day I am talking about. Let me know exactly when it was so I can tell everybody next week. (Editors note: We located the picture in our 1989 archives and you can see it on right). The picture was of my Mom and me, holding a skipjack tuna and a small mahi mahi. Actually it was small enough that it probably only warranted one mahi. The

caption of the picture started with the words "definitely unusual for May."

Nowadays, unless the fish

you seldom saw pictures of offshore/bluewater fish in the early season issues of the *Coastal Fisherman*. There are probably several reasons for this. And before anyone says global warming, let me tell you that we were fishing a warm eddy of water in a canyon (again, Dad will need to look up where exactly we

guessing sites. There are plenty of tools in our tool box. Well, back in the 80s the sea surface temperature technology was just starting to become available in the recreational fishing market. One of the early providers was Capt. Len Belcaro of Offshore Services up on the northern Jersey Shore. Len put together a weekly fishing dirt sheet that was mailed to subscribers and this included fishing reports and some of these satellite images. On a side note, that flyer kept growing over time and is now known as the *Big Game Journal*, one of the premier fishing magazines in the country. Usually his report would arrive on Thursday and the sea temperature data would be a week or more old. Since it was May and the offshore fleet wasn't really fishing yet, Capt. Len wasn't sending his reports out, but he was still monitoring the water temps, and he spied this eddy spinning into range. He called Dad and told him that we should go off and give it a shot. The selling point was that Len thought there would be giant bluefin in the patch of water. So while the rest of the Ocean City charter fleet was wreck fishing or trolling for bluefish, the "Last Call" was out in the canyons dragging spreader bars on 130 pound tackle hoping to strike giant bluefin gold.



Definitely unusual for May. Mattie Pettolina, with her son Frank, Jr. and husband Capt. Frank Pettolina, displays a dolphin and a skipjack tuna caught on a Nobbie artificial in 1000 fathoms between Poor Man's and Washington Canyons last weekend. The family outing was on the charter boat "Last Call" out of Bahia Marina.

were caught during a kids tournament, or in the bay, a picture of a skipjack and a mini mahi making the *Coastal Fisherman* would be unusual. But this picture was kind of a big deal. Well, maybe not a BIG deal, but it was significant.

You see, back in the 80s

were because I don't remember). In the modern era of fishing we don't consider heading out without looking at up-to-the-minute satellite imagery of sea surface temperatures, online images of the factors that influence water color and currents and multiple internet weather

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Unfortunately we struck out, other than the skippy and the mini mahi. And we only lucked into those because I put a little feather type lure out on one of the flat lines.

I often replay that day in my mind. The water looked good. The surface temp was in the upper 60s/low 70s. There were whales and other signs of life. What I really wish is that we had a spread of ballyhoo and smaller lures out instead of the big spreader bars. I think we may have had more luck with smaller tunas or even more mahi. We were definitely rigged for elephants, not peanuts.

But one other thing also really sticks in my mind. Well, at least today it does. Back then I was a kid that thought he knew a lot more than he really did, and I was convinced my Dad heard something wrong on the radio that day. Since there weren't any other sportfishing boats out, the only captains on the radio were commercial fishing guys. I think the ones Dad

was listening to on the radio were based out of Cape May, but I am not sure. Anyway, Dad heard one of the guys say that he saw a white marlin tailing. At the time I laughed about it. A white marlin?!? In May?!? Unheard of. Impossible.

Well here we are in the beginning of May almost 30 years later. Last week's issue of the *Coastal Fisherman* had tunas, mahi mahis (worthy of 2 mahis), and makos in it. There has been a finger of good water from the Baltimore Canyon down to the Poor Mans Canyon for over a week. And over the past few years the first white marlin of the season has been caught in May. It has been too windy for the fleet to head offshore at the time I am writing this, so I have no idea what pictures will end up in this week's issue. But I am confident that throughout the rest of this month there will be more offshore fish, and maybe even the first white marlin. And this year, that first white is

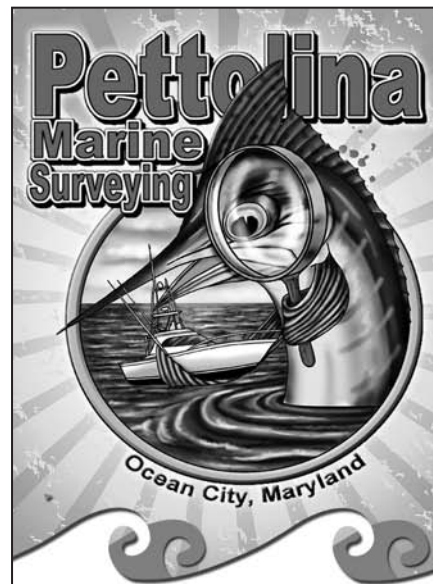
worth a minimum of \$10,000 dollars. If it is caught by a member of the Ocean City Marlin Club it is worth \$15,000. That is the other BIG change from back in the 80s. Back then the fish received \$1,000 from the town and \$1,000 from the Marlin Club.

But like I said earlier, I often replay that day in the late 80s in my mind. I change my technique a bit. I put out a few ballyhoo and add a couple of teasers to the spread. Who knows....we could have been famous!

I am sure many people will be out gunning for the #FirstWhiteMarlinOC when the weather breaks. I wish everybody the best of luck. Be safe out there, and hopefully you get a chance at your own special May *Coastal Fisherman* picture!

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

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2017 Schedule

* You do NOT have to be a Member to Participate in this Tournament

8th Annual Memorial Day Tournament*

To benefit Catherine & Charles Kratz Memorial Foundation and Scholarship Fund

Registration:
May 26, 6:30 PM

Fishing Days: (1 of 2)
May 27 & 28

Awards Banquet:
May 28, 6:30 PM

38th Annual Small Boat Tournament*

Registration:
June 16, 6:30 PM

Fishing Days: (1 of 2)
June 17 & 18

Awards Banquet:
June 18, 6:30 PM

35th Annual Canyon Kickoff*

FREE TO ALL OCMC BOAT MEMBERS

Registration:
June 29, 6:30 PM

Fishing Days: (2 of 3)
June 30 July 1 & 2

Awards Banquet:
July 2, 6:30 PM

13th Annual Kid's Classic*

To benefit Wish-A-Fish Foundation

Registration:
July 21, 6:30 PM

Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2)
July 22 & 23

Sunday Carnival & Awards:
July 23, 5:00 PM

9th Annual OCMC Ladies' Tournament "Heels & Reels"*

To benefit the OCMC Auxiliary Scholarship Fund

Registration:
August 3, 6:00 PM

Fishing Days: (1 of 2)
August 4 & 5

Awards Banquet:
August 5, 6:30 PM

59th Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament*

FREE TO ALL OCMC BOAT MEMBERS

Registration:
August 31, 6:30 PM

Fishing Days: (2 of 3)
September 1, 2 & 3

Awards Banquet:
September 3, 6:30 PM

39th Annual Scott Smith & Charles Kratz Challenge Cup

Registration:
September 13, 7:00 PM

Fishing Days: (2 of 3)
September 14, 15 & 16

Italian Night:
September 15, 6:30 pm

Awards Banquet:
September 16, 6:30pm

5th Annual OCMC Rockfish Tournament*

To benefit the Jimmy Fund

Registration:
December 8, 6:00 PM

Fishing Days: (5 of 9)
December 9-17

Awards Banquet:
December 17, 5:00 PM

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Job Robertson (left) caught a 15 lb. 13 oz. bluefish and Alex Neiss landed a 12 lb. 2 oz. chopper, both while tossing lures around the Cape Henlopen Pier. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Mike Murray from the City of Brotherly Love is all smiles after boating this 12 lb. tautog during a trip aboard the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. The tog made the mistake of eating a white crab Mike dropped on a Delaware wreck in 80-feet of water.

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>

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, Shortfin Mako, Finetooth,
Atlantic Blacknose

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

















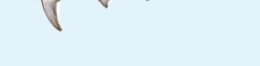
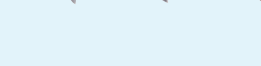
Only 1 shark from the lists above may be retained per vessel per trip. In addition, 1 Atlantic Sharpnose and 1 Bonnethead may be retained per person per trip. No size or creel limits on dogfish sharks.

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

2017 COASTAL FISHERMAN

First Fish of the Year

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

Species	2017	2016	Species	2017	2016
Sea Bass 	None Reported	May 15, 2016 Steve Billingsley "Morning Star" Sue's Reef	Mako Shark 	April 28, 2017 Andy Smelter "Nontypical" Triple 0's	May 14, 2016 Brian Leader "Keep Er Wet" Poor Man's Canyon
Tautog 	January 1, 2017 Pat Scida "Morning Star" Artificial Reef	January 1, 2016 Dave Moore "Morning Star" Ocean Wreck	White Marlin 	None Reported	May 27, 2016 Andy Urban "In the Black" Norfolk Canyon
Striped Bass 	April 28, 2017 Jack Austin Cape Henlopen Surf	January 14, 2016 Connor Metz "G-FORCE" Little Gull	Blue Marlin 	None Reported	May 28, 2016 Bo Appel "Boss Hogg" Norfolk Canyon
Weakfish 	None Reported	June 2, 2016 Rod Grodzicki Inner Wall	Bluefin Tuna 	April 30, 2017 Dale Christensen "Wrecker" Triple 0's	April 21, 2016 Joe Cantianelli "Reel Life" Baltimore Canyon
Flounder 	April 7, 2017 Lukas Layton Rt. 90 Bridge	April 16, 2016 Hannah Johnson "Lucky Break" Sinepuxent Bay	Yellowfin Tuna 	April 30, 2017 Corbin Ensor "Tunafowl" Triple 0's	May 7, 2016 Jeff Rosenkilde "Mate Trix" Baltimore Canyon
Bluefish 	April 17, 2017 Ayrton Pryor Assawoman Bay	April 15, 2016 Sean Fox Assateague Surf	Longfin Tuna 	None Reported	June 5, 2016 Jeff Drury Lindenkohl Canyon
Black Drum 	April 20, 2017 Tom Fox Assatague Surf	March 31, 2016 Billy Powell Assateague Surf	Bigeye Tuna 	None Reported	May 26, 2016 Denise Rust "Marli" Norfolk Canyon
Sheepshead 	None Reported	May 7, 2016 George Easter Russell's Reef	Dolphin 	April 30, 2017 Megan Humphrey "Wrecker" Triple 0's	May 20, 2016 Randy Tracey "Talkin Trash" Washington Canyon
Thresher Shark 	None Reported	May 20, 2016 Chris Stafford "Reel Nauti" Jackspot	Wahoo 	None Reported	June 2, 2016 Ryan Morris "Jade II" Washington Canyon

For a copy of this page or to report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200

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Jessica Stellhorn of Kingsville, MD caught her first bluefish ever while fishing from the beach off 136th Street in Ocean City with Gordon McNamara and Matt Shoup from Fenwick Bait & Tackle. Jessica fooled the 38-inch, 12 lb. chopper with a rig tipped with finger mullet during high tide.

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Chris Wines from Silver Spring, MD ended this day with 3 big bluefish, measuring up to 35-inches, after fishing with bunker at Cape Henlopen.



No stranger to readers of the Coastal Fisherman, Frank Graziano was at it again, hooking this 28-inch male tautog during a trip on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. Frank fooled the tog with a white crab on an artificial reef.

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After a long wait, flounder started showing up in the Roosevelt Inlet where Ethan Thomas captured this 18-inch flounder after hooking it on a minnow. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Jim Kelly and Noel Smith teamed up to catch 7 big gators during a trip on the charter boat, "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford. Their largest bluefish measured 41-inches and weighed an even 15 lbs. All were caught while trolling Swim Shads and Rat-L-Traps on the north end of the bay behind Assateague Island. The "Lucky Break" is docked at Frontier Town off Rt. 611,



Kyle Heisey caught this 36-inch, 9 lb. bluefish on a finger mullet while fishing in the suds off Assateague Island.

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BAY FISHING CHARTERS



Steve Kirshner of Willards, MD caught a pair of big bluefish while fishing with bunker in the bay behind Ocean City. The choppers measured 37 and 38-inches.



Mike Haas (left) boated a 9 lb. 13 oz. tautog while fishing at Site 10 with John Ibach of West Chester, PA. The anglers ended their day with 6 tog in the box, all caught on green crabs and white leggers. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em Tackle Shop.

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BAY FISHING CHARTERS



Mike Hernandez released this 10 lb. male tautog during an April trip on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. The big tog ate a white crab in 65-feet of water on an ocean wreck. The "Fish Bound" docks at Bahia Marina.



Michael Renzi from Milford, DE is all smiles after catching this 32-inch bluefish while drifting around the South Jetty. Michael was fishing with his dad, Pete Renzi on the "Fish Frenzi" when the anglers caught 3 choppers measuring up to 36-inches. All were fooled with white 5-inch swim shads and Hopkins spoons.

HAVE A PHOTO OF YOUR CATCH?

Email it to coastalfisherman@comcast.net

Include in the email:

- Angler's full name and town
- Names & towns of others in photo
- Weight and/or length of fish
- Bait/lure used
- Location of catch
- Name of boat, if any

Please do not compress the photo and do not run it through any photo software.

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KEYS TO TAKING A GOOD FISH PICTURE:

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

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Talk about one heckuva tautog fishing trip! These happy anglers boated some bruisers during a winter trip on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mates Dan Iacangelo and Wes Pollitt. Sam Furest from Philadelphia, PA (back row, middle) led the way with a 19 1/4 lb. monster caught on a white crab at an ocean wreck. Also pictured with big fish are Roger Darr, Vinnie Artrip, Chan Park, Dennis Muhlenforth, Sam Jackson and Craig Weedon. The "Morning Star" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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On his very first day of retirement, Jerry Gigeous celebrated by getting on the water to take advantage of the incredible bluefish bite behind Ocean City. Jerry hooked this 37-incher on cut bait while drifting off 9th Street.

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



It was a lucky day for this 11 lb. female tautog. Victor Feleccio caught and released the blackfish on a green crab in 65-feet of water during a trip aboard the "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley.



Bill DeCarlo took a trip on the charter boat, "Reef Chief" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mate Dean Lo and ended up boating this 8 lb. tautog after hooking it on a white legger over an artificial reef. The "Reef Chief" is docked at Capt. Bill Bunting's Angler Dock.

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You head out on a fishing trip, hoping to bring home a nice tautog for dinner, but instead you capture a 4+ lb. lobster. That is exactly what happened to Andre Green during an early March trip on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mates Wes Pollitt (pictured) and Dan Iacangelo. The lobster was caught at an artificial reef.

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Local junior angler, Kirby Kaeufer of Ocean Pines, MD shows off one of a dozen snook he caught while fishing out of St. Petersburg, FL in February.

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



The bay behind Assateague Island, especially near Frontier Town, has been a hot spot for big bluefish and that is exactly where Sarah Russell hooked into this 38-inch, 10 lb. gator while using fresh bunker for bait. Weighed at All Tackle Ocean City on Rt. 50 in West Ocean City.



Lukas Layton is one happy angler after landing this 35-inch black drum during a trip down to a Virginia barrier island with his dad, Ray. The duo took home 2 black drum and released 3 others after hooking them on sea clams.

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Three men are standing on a boat deck, holding a large bluefish. The man on the left is wearing a blue shirt and shorts, the man in the middle is wearing a white shirt and shorts, and the man on the right is wearing a black shirt and shorts. A large, diagonal watermark is overlaid across the image.

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It must have been one of the warmer days this spring when Anna Schumann of Easton, MD captured this 12 lb. bluefish while drifting a finger mullet in the Thorofare with Jim Bugg.



This is the smile of a guy who just caught and released an 11 lb. tautog while fishing with green crabs in 60-feet of water. Tom Hanlon made it happen during a trip aboard the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley.

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Last weekend, Kevin Garner, Rick Hess, Jeff Garner, Kevin Hess and Randy Garner battled very windy conditions and returned with a pair of flounder measuring 19 3/4 and 20 1/4-inches and a couple of snapper blues. All of the action took place in the Thorofare while fishing on the charter boat, "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente.

MARYLAND REGULATIONS

State Waters Only

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 12.5" minimum 15 per person/day 5/15-9/21 & 10/22-12/31</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH 8" minimum 10 per person/day</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day or 6 per boat/day</p>	 <p>COBIA No limit in Maryland waters Closed in Federal waters</p>
 <p>CROAKER 9" minimum 25 per person/day</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 18" - 27" 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD No limit</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 4 per person/day</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 28"- 38" and 44" and greater Any Combination 2 per person/day</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 1/1-5/15 4 per person/day</p>	 <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 17" minimum 4 per person/day</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>



Rhonda Daub took advantage of the incredible bluefish bite, boating this 30-inch after hooking it on a mullet rig behind the Ocean City Airport. Rhonda was fishing on the "B. MARIE" with Judy Gordon and Thom Daub.



Lorraine Bartenfelder took a winter trip to Los Suenos, Costa Rica and ended up catching this 73 lb. wahoo during a trip aboard the "Aye Land Girl" with Donald Bartenfelder.



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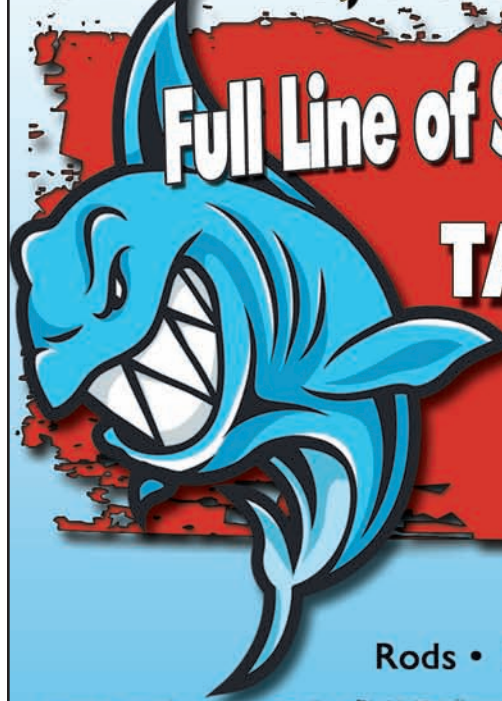


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Delaware Fishing Report

by Larry Jock




Every year we have a week where I could write the fishing report on the back of a napkin and unfortunately last week was that week. I don't think it is because we are lacking fish in our waters, it's just that Mother Nature wouldn't cut us a break. The wind blew, and I mean really blew, all week and is still puffing a good amount on Monday as I am writing this report.

At Hook'em & Cook'em Tackle Shop in the Indian River Marina, Capt. Bert Adams said that the back bays were loaded with bluefish over the weekend, especially in 2 to 4-feet of water. Anglers, including his son Christopher, had their boats surrounded with choppers that were eager to go after the poppers being thrown their way.

Bluefish action in the

Indian River Inlet and off the beaches in Lower Delaware was not as good as it was prior to the stretch of bad weather last week, but those that braved the conditions were still able to muster up good catches of big blues with some weighing more than 10 lbs. On Sunday, Bert said they saw the opposite of what they typically see with choppers being hooked north of the Indian River Inlet in the morning during the outgoing tide and the bite moving south in the afternoon down to 3R's Road throughout the incoming tide.

Surfcasters are also dealing with their fair share of skates and landing the occasional striped bass. Striper action along the coast is not as good as we normally see at this time of the year and with pictures showing up of nice fish being caught in New Jersey, I wonder

if they are scooting by us a little further offshore. Typically during their spring run to the north, they hug the beach much more than they do when they are heading south in the fall.

Bert said that there were rumors of a 45-inch striper being caught off the South Jetty on Friday but we haven't seen any pictures, so it might just be a tale.

Unfortunately, with all the windy weather the ocean was nasty all week, preventing headboats from getting out to the tautog grounds. Prior to the blow, Indian River boats were having good results out at Site 10.

Down at Fenwick Tackle, Matt reported seeing mainly bluefish coming off the beaches along with a few pufferfish. He didn't see any striped bass at all. Some short stripers that haven't been terrorized by

maurading bluefish are still being caught and released in The Ditch.

Matt also said that a few flounder were caught in the Thorofare, but most were too small to keep.

Tommy up at Lewes Harbour Marina said that flounder haven't shown up in the Lewes Canal yet, but hopefully they will arrive in good numbers for the Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament on Friday, May 19th. Their goal is to raise \$10,000 from the event.

Bluefish are being caught in good numbers around the Cape Henlopen Pier, in the Roosevelt Inlet and Broadkill River. Tommy said that he hasn't seen any black drum in the past 2 weeks. Prior to that, some were hooked in the Broadkill.

Short stripers have mainly been found on the Rehoboth side of Herring Point.

Until next week, keep those lines tight and have fun! That's what it's all about.

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During a trip aboard the charter boat, "Katydid" with Capt. Brent Wiest, angler David Ritter from Harrisburg, PA boated this 7 lb. 6 oz. tautog while fishing with crabs for bait. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Gary Baum from Long Neck, DE had a good day catching chopper bluefish off Burton's Island, landing 4 fish weighing up to 10 lbs. (2 pictured). All were hooked on finger mullet and fresh bunker. Weighed at Rick's Bait & Tackle.

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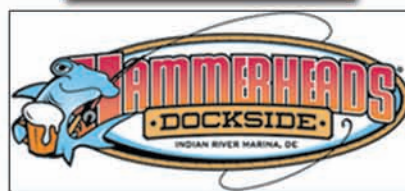
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Matt King from Edgewater, MD caught and released this 23-inch female tautog during a trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. The blackfish was fooled with a white crab while hanging out at an artificial reef. Matt also caught his limit of male tautog during the trip.



Rich Daiker of Reisterstown, MD had a good day fishing for bluefish, boating 7 nice gators after hooking them around the Rt. 50 Bridge on bucktails during the outgoing tide. Rich's largest weighed 13 lbs.

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Ship to Shore

by Steve Katz

Steve's Marine Service



Welcome to the 2017 season of Ship to Shore. As in the past, the first few articles of the season will review some topics that are helpful in getting your boat ready for the season. If there is a topic you would like covered this season, please let them know at the *Coastal Fisherman*.

So what is 12.65? It is the voltage of a fully charged battery. Why is this a big deal? There are not many ways for us to know the condition of a battery on-board our boat until it is too late and the battery is dead. Monitoring the battery's voltage is the easiest and least expensive way to keep informed on the battery's health. As an example, if your fully charged battery voltage drops down by .2 volts (2/10

of a volt) to 12.45 volts, the battery is only 75% charged. That is a big change in battery capacity with just a small amount in voltage change. Further, if your battery drops to 12.00 volts, it is only about 25% charged! While this amount of voltage may be hard to measure with traditional marine gauges, installing a precise digital voltage gauge will help you to monitor battery health. These measurements need to be taken while the battery is resting and not under any load or being charged.

Load testing is another way to measure the batteries health. Usually preformed at a battery store or automotive shop, this test puts a load on the battery and monitors the battery's voltage to see if it

can handle the load without too much of a voltage drop. There are other tests, such as modern conductance testers that measure internal resistance of the battery to determine the battery's capacity and health.

If your battery voltage is low, often a simple recharge can get it back to full capacity. There are many different types of chargers, technologies, sizes and features of battery chargers available. Basically a charger outputs a higher voltage than the battery, causing electricity to flow from the higher voltage-charger to the lower voltage-battery. In order get a battery fully charged, it needs to be charged with a voltage of approximately 14 volts. A charging voltage too high will overheat the battery, causing the electrolyte to gas out and eventually dry out the battery. Charging with a voltage too low will not fully charge your battery.

The best way to charge a

battery is with a modern multi-stage battery charger. These modern chargers have a controlled algorithm that changes the voltage and current based on time. A multistage charger starts out with a bulk charge, sending a high current, high voltage charge for a short period of time. It then switches to an absorption charge, with a high voltage but lower current for a longer time. Once the battery is fully charged it switches to a float charge, to maintain the battery at a full state of charge.

If you are buying new batteries you may wonder about the various types, such as Flooded, AGM and Gel. All of these batteries use lead and Sulfuric acid (electrolyte) to store electricity. AGM and Gel are similar since they both are a VRLA battery (valve-regulated lead-acid battery), also known as a sealed lead acid battery (SLA). An AGM battery has fiberglass mesh

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between the lead battery plates which absorbs and contains the electrolyte. A gel battery has silica and other agents to convert the liquid Sulfuric acid into a gel. There are advantages and disadvantages to each type of battery, with price a primary factor for many boaters. The traditional flooded or wet cell batteries are the most popular, with some that are maintenance free (electrolyte that evaporates from the battery is captured and re-enters the battery). The second most popular is the AGM that is also maintenance free and about twice the cost as a flooded battery. AGM batteries often have better performance, charge faster and can be discharged further without damage as compared to their flooded counterpart.

Deep cycle or starting battery? A starting battery or cranking battery is designed to supply a lot of power for a short period of time, whereas a deep cycle battery is designed to supply a smaller amount of power over a long period of time. Starting batteries have a large number of thin plates designed for maximum surface area allowing maximum current output, but can easily be damaged by deep discharge. Deep cycle batteries have thicker plates that deliver less

peak current, but withstand frequent discharging and recharging without damage. Many boats use a combination of types, a starting battery for the engines and a deep cycle battery for the house loads. A deep cycle, if powerful enough can be used for starting and house power.

Periodic preventative battery maintenance is always a good idea. Clean all the battery connections by removing the cables from the battery terminals and cleaning both the battery terminals and the associated cables lugs with a wire brush. Label the wires if necessary before you remove them to assure you put them back in the correct location. Check the cable ends to be sure they are tightly crimped on the wire. If your batteries are not sealed, check the electrolyte level and add distilled water if needed.

Learning the condition of your batteries and knowing if replacement is necessary will help you have a more reliable boating season.

Captain Steve Katz is the owner of Steve's Marine Service and holds NMEA, AMEI and NMEA2000 certificates along with ABYC Master Technician certification and factory training from many manufacturers.

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Olivia Hurst is one tired angler after muscling in these 9 and 10 lb. bluefish all by herself during a trip with her dad, Dan Hurst. The dynamic duo were fishing from the beach in South Bethany and used cut bunker for bait. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em Outfitters in South Bethany, DE.



Sean Kane (pictured), Barry Cullen, Dale Bennett and Mike Zorzi, all from Bethany Beach, DE ended their day with 6 keeper flounder in the box after fishing down in Chincoteague, VA. All of the fish were caught on top-and-bottom rigs tipped with minnows. Photo courtesy of Hook'em & Cook'em.

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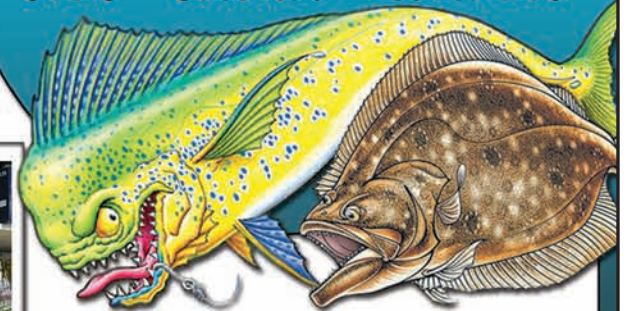
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Barb Firestone and Rachelle Bair, both from Dover, PA ventured down to Solomons Island to take advantage of the Spring Trophy Rockfish Season on the Chesapeake Bay. While fishing on the charter boat, "Marli" with Capt. Mark Hoos and mate Mark Stephens, the duo caught 4 rockfish on tandem Ole Man Lures parachute rigs in 45 to 60-feet of water around "HI" Buoy. Their largest of the day was this 53-inch, 55 pounder that sported a 30 1/2-inch girth.

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Scott Chatterton from Millville, DE caught a pair of chopper bluefish, measuring up to 30-inches, while surfcasting with mullet from the beach on Fenwick Island.



Jack Austin from Lewes, DE was soaking chunks of bunker in the suds off Cape Henlopen when he caught this 25 1/2 lb. striped bass during an afternoon trip. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



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Suzanne Martin muscled in this 8 lb. 8 oz. gator after hooking it on a bluefish rig tipped with a piece of mullet. Suzanne was fishing in the surf at Herring Point and weighed her catch at Lewes Harbour Marina.

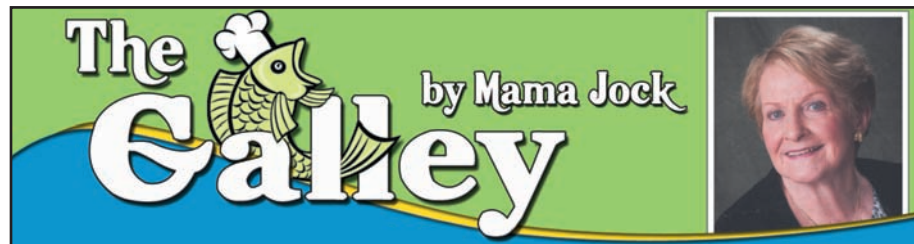
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Indian Seafood Stir-Fry

2 TBSP peanut oil
1 red onion
1 tsp. ground cumin
1/2 tsp. ground coriander
1/2 tsp. dry mustard
1/2 tsp. kosher salt
1/4 tsp. turmeric
2 small green chiles
2 TBSP fresh ginger
5 medium tomatoes
1/2 c. dried unsweetened coconut
3/4 lb. mussels
1/2 lb. shrimp
1/4 lb. sea scallops
1/4 lb. squid
2 TBSP lemon juice
1/3 cup coarsely chopped fresh cilantro
Cilantro leaves

In a wok or a large, deep skillet, heat oil over medium

heat.

Add onion, cumin, coriander, dry mustard, salt, and turmeric.

Stir-fry until onion softens, about 3 minutes.

Add chiles and ginger; cook, stirring, 1 minute.

Increase heat to high and add tomatoes, coconut, and seafood.

Stir-fry 3 to 5 minutes, until shrimp are cooked through.

Discard any mussels that don't open once cooked.

Sprinkle with lemon juice and chopped cilantro.

Stir to combine and garnish with cilantro leaves.

Parmesan Shrimp Pasta

12 oz. penne pasta
2 TBSP butter
3 cloves garlic, minced

Pinch of crushed red pepper flakes
1 lb. peeled and deveined medium or large shrimp
1 TBSP freshly chopped parsley
kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
3 cup baby spinach
1 cup crushed or diced canned tomatoes
3/4 cup heavy cream
1/2 cup grated Parmesan, plus more for garnish

In a large pot of salted boiling water, cook penne until al dente.

Drain, returning 1/2 cup pasta water, and return to pot.

Meanwhile, in a large skillet, melt butter.

Add garlic and cook until fragrant, 1 minutes.

Add crushed red pepper flakes and shrimp and season with salt and pepper.

Cook until shrimp is pink, 1 to 2 minutes per side.

Add parsley and combine.

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Set shrimp aside on a plate (keep juices in skillet).

Add spinach and season with salt.

Let wilt, 2 minutes, then add tomatoes, heavy cream, 1/4 pasta water, and Parmesan cheese. Simmer for 5 minutes.

Add shrimp and cooked penne. Stir until combined. (If you want it more saucy, add remaining 1/4 cup pasta water.)

Garnish with Parmesan cheese and serve.

Brazilian Fish Stew

submitted by Bill Regine

4 TBSP. lime juice
1 1/2 TBSP ground cumin
1 1/2 TBSP paprika
2 1/2 tsp. minced garlic
1 1/2 tsp. salt
1 1/2 tsp. pepper
2 lbs. flounder fillets, cut into bite-sized pieces
1 TBSP olive oil
1 large onion, chopped
3 large bell peppers, sliced into 2-inch strips
1 (14 oz.) can diced

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tomatoes, drained
1 (14 oz.) can coconut milk
Fresh cilantro, chopped

Combine the lime juice, cumin, paprika, garlic, salt, and pepper in a large bowl.

Add in the flounder and mix until coated.

Cover and place in the refrigerator to marinate for 20 minutes or longer. (You can do this step the night before to save time the next day.)

Heat the olive oil in a large skillet or casserole over medium-high heat.

Add the onions and cook until they begin to soften, about 3 minutes.

Add the pepper strips, tomatoes, and marinated flounder.

Pour the coconut milk over everything, cover, and simmer about 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.

In the last few minutes, stir in the cilantro.

When the flounder is cooked through, garnish with additional cilantro.

Serve.

Crab Stuffed Baked Flounder

submitted by Julie Regine

1 stick of unsalted butter
1 large onion, chopped (about 2 cups)
1 cup chopped green onion bottoms (the white part)
1 cup chopped celery
1/2 cup green bell pepper
1/2 cup red bell pepper
1/2 cup yellow bell pepper
1/2 cup thinly sliced green onion tops
1 tsp. kosher salt
1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
1/2 cup minced garlic
1/2 cup finely chopped parsley
1 lemon, zest and juice
1 lb. lump crabmeat
Optional: 1/2 cup panko breadcrumbs
4 to 4 1/2 lb. flounder, deboned and dressed (with head removed, keep tail)



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During the last week in April, Nick Ager got in on the spectacular bluefish run around Ocean City, catching 10 choppers in the surf. Nick is pictured with a 38-incher that was hooked off 120th Street. His largest of the week was a 39-incher. All of the fish were caught on finger mullet.

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1 1/2 tsp. kosher salt

Preheat the oven to 350 °F.

In a pot, melt butter over medium high heat.

Add the onion, green onion bottoms, celery, all three bell pepper colors, sliced green onion tops, kosher salt, and cayenne pepper.

Stir well and cook until wilted and all the water is cooked out of the vegetables, about 15 to 20 minutes.

Add the garlic and cook until fragrant, about 1 to 2 minutes.

Remove from the heat and stir in the parsley, lemon juice, zest and lump crabmeat. If you find the filling to be overly moist, add the half cup of panko breadcrumbs.

Place the flounder on a rimmed sheet pan lined with parchment paper.

Fold back the flaps of the flounder so that it lays flat.

Sprinkle the tsp. of kosher salt onto the flounder.

Carefully spoon the filling into the solid side of the

flounder, being careful to avoid the open flaps.

Fold the flaps back over the filling and position them to where they're nearly covering all the filling.

Place the flounder in the oven and bake for 35 to 40 minutes, until the flesh is flaky and cooked through and the internal temperature is over 145 °F.

Note: When using a more standard-sized flounder (2 to 2 1/2 lbs.), cut the recipe in half and proceed as directed. Cook time will also likely be shorter so watch closely and check internal temperature after 25 minutes of baking.

Tautog Chowder

submitted by Olivia Regine

- 1/2 cup diced onions
- 1 cup diced potatoes, cut in 1/4-inch cubes
- 1/8 cup scallions, diced
- 1/2 cup bacon, diced
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 5 TBSP butter
- 3 TBSP flour

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4 cups fish stock
2 lbs of tautog, chunked
into 1-inch pieces
Salt
Pepper

In a medium sauce pan
crisp the bacon on high heat.

When bacon is crisp
remove half the bacon and
lower heat to medium low.

In the remaining bacon and
bacon grease, saute onion until
transparent.

Add 1/2 of the scallion,
and cook for 2 minutes.

Add potato along with 2
TBSP of butter.

Mix well, adding the fish
stock or clam juice and water..

Bring to boil until potatoes
can be easily pierced with a
fork.

In a small skillet on
medium heat, melt 3 TBSP of
butter.

Mix in 3 TBSP of flour
creating a roux and cook until
lightly brown.

Bring the stock down to a
simmer and add the roux and
1 cup of heavy cream. Mix

well every 2 minutes until
thickens.

Once thick add in the tog
and simmer for 5 minutes until
fish is done.

NOTE: It is important to
simmer and not boil the soup
after adding cream because
boiling will curdle the cream
making the soup lumpy. Also,
add tog at the end because it
will break apart when stirring
the roux into the soup.

Baked Sea Bass with Lemon Couscous

submitted by Julia Regine

1 sea bass, scaled and
gutted
Sea salt
Black pepper
Extra virgin olive oil, to
drizzle
Rosemary sprigs
Handful of large basil
leaves
2 large garlic cloves,
peeled and thinly
sliced
1/2 lemon, cut into
wedges

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Little Patrick Hurley from West Ocean City, MD took a trip to Cape May, NJ to do some surf fishing with his dad, Joe Hurley when he hooked into his first striped bass. The 37-inch was caught off the beach just north of the Cape May Ferry.

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Mussels Posillipo Mussels in marinara, served with focaccia bread.	Vitello Alla Parmigiana A generous portion of lightly hand breaded veal topped with sauce and imported parmesan cheese, served with spaghetti.
SALADS	Linguine Con Scampi Jumbo shrimp, lots of garlic, white wine, lemon juice and fresh herbed butter.
Caprese Salad Fresh mozzarella and tomato with fresh leaf basil and extra virgin olive oil.	DESSERT
Romaine & Gorgonzola Salad Crisp romaine lettuce, plum tomatoes, imported gorgonzola cheese and balsamic vinaigrette dressing.	Tiramisu Lady fingers soaked in rum and espresso coffee topped with mascapone cheese

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For the couscous:

1/2 lb. couscous
Finely grated zest of 1
lemon
1 tender rosemary sprig;
leaves stripped and
finely chopped
10 oz boiling orange juice
or vegetable stock
1/2 lb. peas, thawed if
frozen
Juice of 1/2 lemon
4 TBSP extra virgin olive
oil
Bunch of flat leaf parsley,
chopped

Heat oven to 400-degrees.

With a sharp knife, score
the sea bass on both sides and
rub all over with salt, pepper
and a small drizzle of olive oil.

Pick the rosemary sprigs
off the hard stems.

Roll a large basil leaf
tightly around each rosemary
sprig.

Insert into the slashes in the
fish, along with the garlic
slices.

Lay the sea bass on a
lightly oiled foil-lined baking

tray.

Stuff the cavity with the
lemon wedges and remaining
rosemary.

Bake for 15 to 20 minutes
until the flesh is cooked
through. You should be able to
pull out a fin easily.

Prepare the couscous while
the fish is in the oven.

Put the couscous, lemon
zest, chopped rosemary and
some seasoning into a large
bowl and pour over the boiling
juice or stock.

Cover with Saran Wrap
and leave for 5 minutes.

Cook the peas in boiling
water for 3 to 4 minutes until
tender.

For the dressing, mix the
lemon juice with the olive oil
and some seasoning to taste.

Once the couscous has
absorbed all the liquid, fluff it
up with a fork.

Drain the peas and add to
the couscous along with the
dressing and chopped parsley.

Toss to mix.

Serve the fish with the
warm couscous and steamed

green beans.

Fried Calamari

submitted by Cindy Schmus

1 lb calamari, bodies sliced
into 1/2-inch rings,
tentacles left whole
1 1/2 cups buttermilk
1 cup flour
2 tsp. paprika
2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. black pepper
1 tsp. garlic powder
1 tsp. cayenne
1 tsp. red chili flakes
Oil for frying
Chopped parsley for
garnish
Lemon wedges to serve

Lemon Aioli:

1/3 cup mayonnaise
Zest and juice of 1 lemon
Dash of Tabasco
Salt and pepper to taste

Prepare lemon aioli by
whisking together mayonnaise
and Tabasco sauce.

Season with salt and
pepper.

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Soak calamari in buttermilk
for 20 to 30 minutes.

Preheat frying oil to 350-
degrees.

Combine flour with
paprika, salt, black pepper,
garlic powder, cayenne pepper
and red chili flakes.

Dredge calamari in
seasoned flour, tossing evenly
to coat.

Carefully drop a handful of
the calamari into the hot oil.

Cook until golden brown,
about 1-2 minutes.

Remove with slotted spoon
and transfer to a paper lined
baking sheet.

Repeat with remaining
calamari.

Sprinkle parsley on top.

Serve with lemon wedges
and lemon aioli.

**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.**

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Tawes State Office Building, Annapolis, MD



This 35 lb. African pompano was caught by Ocean City sniper, Mark Radcliffe while fishing on a wreck in 130-feet of water off Islamorada, FL back in February.



We always see a lot of anglers coming to Ocean City from New Jersey during the early months of the year in search of good size tautog and on this day, Bill Pissaro boated a 9 pounder after hooking it on a white crab in 50-feet of water.



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Augie Gee ventured down from New York, NY to spend the day fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley and ended up catching this 9 lb. 11 oz. tautog while fishing with white crabs in 65-feet of water. The "Fish Bound" is docked at Bahia Marina.



This 41-inch, 38 lb. 13 oz. striped bass was caught and released by Brian Parker of Salisbury, MD while fishing from the shore of the Nanticoke River during the outgoing tide. Brian hooked the big linesider on a bloodworm.

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FISHERMAN

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



Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
Sea Bass 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Mako Shark <i>100 lb. minimum</i> 	April 30, 2017 Rob Griggs Triple 0's 249 lbs.	No Weights Reported
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 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Striped Bass 	No Weights Reported	April 28, 2017 Jack Austin Cape Henlopen Surf 25 lbs. 8 oz.	Bluefin Tuna 	April 30, 2017 Dale Christensen Triple 0's 49 lbs.	No Weights Reported
Weakfish 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Yellowfin Tuna 	April 30, 2017 Corbin Ensor Triple 0's 48 lbs.	No Weights Reported
Cobia 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Longfin Tuna 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Flounder 	April 30, 2017 Courtney Ritter Thorofare 3 lbs. 11 oz.	No Weights Reported	Bigeye Tuna 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
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 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Sheepshead 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Wahoo 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Black Drum 	April 19, 2017 Tom Cox Assateague Surf 14 lbs. 10 oz.	No Weights Reported	White Marlin 	Most Releases in One Day (trolling only) None Reported	None Reported

For a copy of this page or to report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200

Chum Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson



I had a fellow fishing with me who spent much of the day talking about his 28-foot twin-engine vessel that he had spent more than one hundred thousand dollars on. He kept it somewhere on the Chesapeake Bay and was really looking forward to someday running it around to Ocean City. As we approached the Inlet at the end of the day, he came into the cabin and asked me about the red and green buoys stationed just outside the jetties. He wanted to know how they marked the channel and what the colors represented.

Now don't get me wrong, I fully understand that everyone has to start somewhere and there's nothing wrong with being unaware of something you've never been exposed to, but this guy owned and had been operating a boat for a few months but had no clue what

the buoys meant. That's like driving your own car and not knowing what a stop sign means!

After explaining a little about the buoys I asked him if he had ever owned a boat before, and he said "no". Then I asked why he started his boating career with such a large boat and I was surprised to hear that his decision was made because he had taken notice that so many people started out with small boats and then graduated over the years to bigger and bigger craft. He figured that instead of wasting his time messing with little boats; he'd get something with some size to it right from the beginning.

If you ask me, such reasoning was not only a classic example of "more dollars than sense", but also a great argument for mandatory

licensing of anyone who operates a boat. It's crazy that we're required to take a competency test and get a license to drive a car or fly a plane, but anyone with enough money can simply buy a boat and "have at it". Imagine how safe it would be out on the highway if all you needed to drive a car was to own one. It's scary to think that someone who has zero experience on a boat can operate in the same waters as hundreds, if not thousands, of other boaters. It's no wonder the Coast Guard and State Marine Patrols stay so busy assisting boaters who have gotten into trouble!

With all that being said, I do acknowledge that at least here in Maryland anyone born before July 1, 1972 is required to have attended an approved safe boating course before they may operate a boat on state waters. But that's not the case in all states, and even here in Maryland it leaves a huge chunk of the over 45-year-old population free to run our waterways without any formal training.

While I'm at it, I'm not going to reserve all my ridicule to just first-time boat owners. I'm continually amazed at how often I see so-called "experienced" boat owners doing very stupid things with their boats simply because they don't know any better. These days there's so much activity on the water and so many new

types of vessels and high-tech marine products coming out each season that all of us need some way to stay abreast of what's happening out there.

If you're like so many folks who have been boating for a lot of years and think you know everything you need to know to safely do your summertime thing on the water, let's see if you can answer the following questions:

What does a red and green-banded buoy indicate?

If you anchor your boat at night you're required to turn on a white anchor light. What are you supposed to display during the day to indicate you're anchored?

At night, if you see the red side-light of a boat in front of you which way should you turn?

If you're five miles out in the ocean and your motor quits, will the Coast Guard come out and tow you back in?

If you're at the Jackspot and your GPS quits working are you capable of using a chart to plot a course back to the inlet? How about a course from the Jackspot to the Hambone?

For anyone who operates a boat, the answers to these questions should come as quickly and easily as if they were driving their car down a road and saw a red flashing light at an intersection. All boaters should know this stuff! With this in mind, I strongly suggest that anyone with a

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boat, or who is contemplating buying a boat, consider taking a boating course before this new season gets too far along. Obviously, such a course will get beginning boaters off to a good start, but I also guarantee that even "seasoned" skippers will relearn things they've forgotten and certainly pick up on some things they never knew.

Almost no matter where you live, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or some other organization probably offers boating courses somewhere in your area. By the way, the Coast Guard Auxiliary has scheduled one-day safe boating courses at the Ocean Pines library on May 20th and August 19th and three-day sessions June 6th-8th and July 11th-13th from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Whether you're a boat owner, a soon to be boat owner or just a frequent passenger of a friend or family member who has a boat, having a safe boating course under your belt will at least provide you with the very basic knowledge that everyone who shoves off from a dock should have to keep their voyage both enjoyable and safe.

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



Dispite windy conditions, local TV star Big Bird Cropper and John Wittmyer from "Crabs To Go" fished the outgoing tide around the north side of the Rt. 50 Bridge and ended their day with 14 big bluefish. The guys had a blast tossing Roy Rigs to the ravenous choppers. Pictured at the Coastal Fisherman office.

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This 8 lb. male tautog was hanging out at an artificial reef when he made the mistake of going after the white crab being offered by Chuck Burnham during a trip in January on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. The "Morning Star" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Debbie and Joe Viscuglia from Millsboro, DE were fishing at the Cape Henlopen Pier when they hooked into some nice size bluefish while using bunker for bait. Their choppers ranged from 10 1/2 lbs. to 12 lbs. 13 oz. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.

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The world famous Ocean City Marlin Club Kid's Classic was held... On opening day of the tournament, Luke Duffie, John Duffie, and Tyler Knight anglers participating. On opening day of the tournament, Luke Duffie, John Duffie, and Tyler Knight teamed up to release 5 white marlin and a sailfish to win 1st place in the Billfish Release Division. The anglers were fishing on the "Billfisher" with Jonathan Duffie, John Knight, Jeremy Duffie, Capt. Chris Horning and mates Jake Emche and Noe Gonzalez when they released their billfish in 600 fathoms below the Norfolk Canyon. Their 6 releases gave them a 1 fish lead over the anglers aboard the "The Chaser", who released 5 white marlin, and the "Max Bet" who recorded 3 white marlin and 2 sailfish releases on the final day of the tournament. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

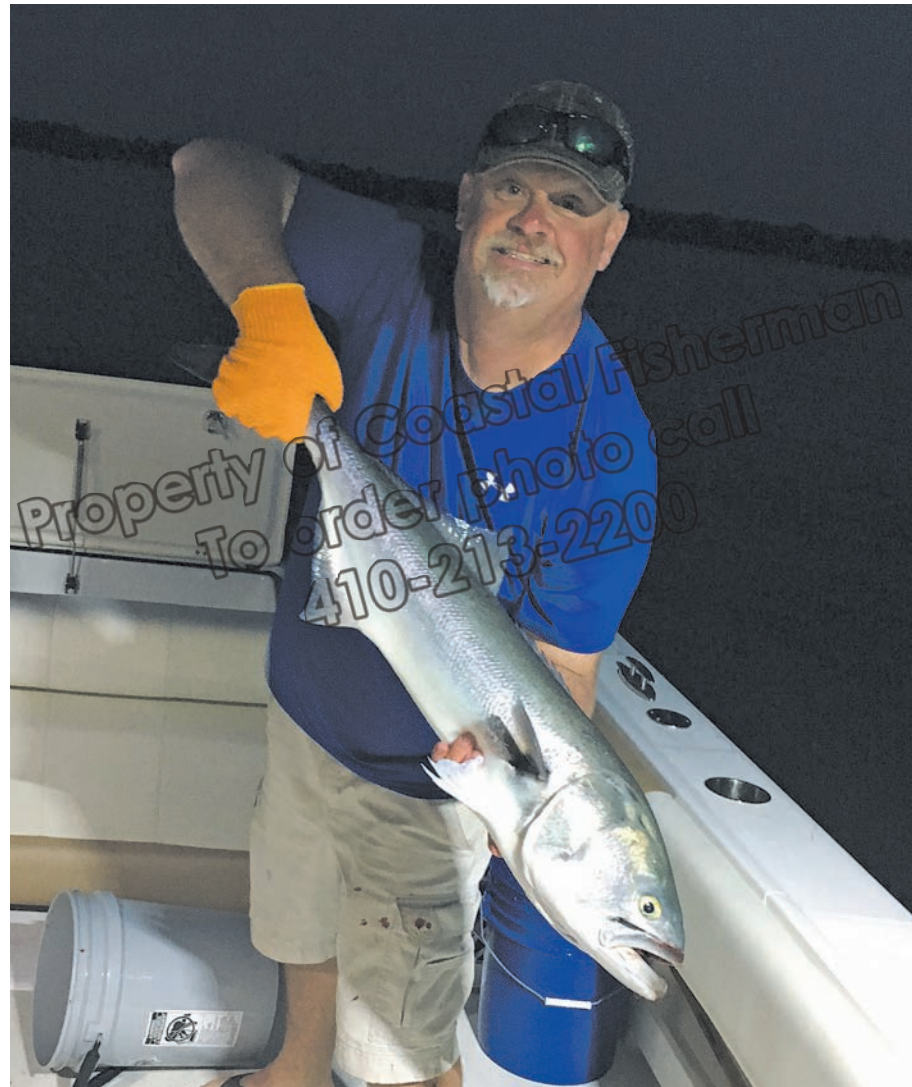
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If there are fish in the waters around Ocean City, MD you can bet that Pete Renzi will be chasing them down from behind the wheel of the "Fish Frenzi". On this night, Pete took advantage of the excellent bluefish bite around the South Jetty and hooked this 36-incher on a white, 5-inch Storm Shad.



"Peggy"

Peggy is an extremely sweet 2 year old gal who is very outgoing. She is a very playful and talkative kitty who also likes to snuggle and be held. Cat adoption fees are only \$50 and includes spay/neuter, up to date on shots, and microchip!



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Tom Donnelly from Ocean Pines, MD took a trip down to Quepos, Costa Rica to fish on the "Reel In 2" with Brian Deviney and ended up catching and releasing this sailfish.



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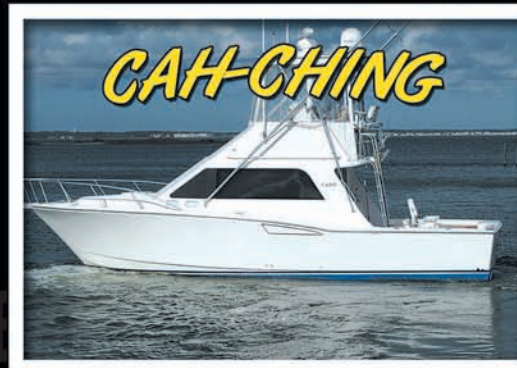
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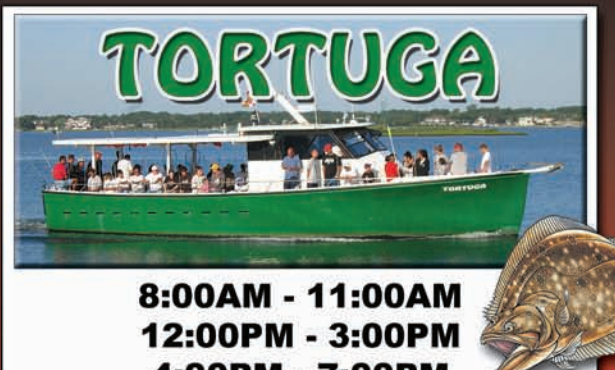
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Tyler Tribbitt ventured down to a Virginia barrier island with his dad, Tim Tribbitt to do some red drum fishing and was rewarded with a 46-inch that he caught and released at the top of the tide while using peeler crabs for bait.



While vacationing in Key Largo, FL this past winter, Shirley German of Ocean City, MD caught this mutton snapper on cut ballyhoo while fishing with her husband, Gary German and Capt. Jayme Stephenson on the "Sailors Choice".

VIRGINIA REGULATIONS Coastal State Waters Only



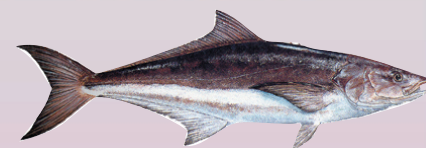
BLACK SEA BASS
12.5" minimum
15 per person/day
5/15 - 9/21 & 10/22 - 12/31



BLUEFISH
No minimum size
10 per person/day



BLACK DRUM
16" minimum
1 per person/day



COBIA
40" minimum
1 per person/day or 3 per vessel
with 3 or more anglers on board.
Only 1 can be greater than 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
5/16 - 12/31



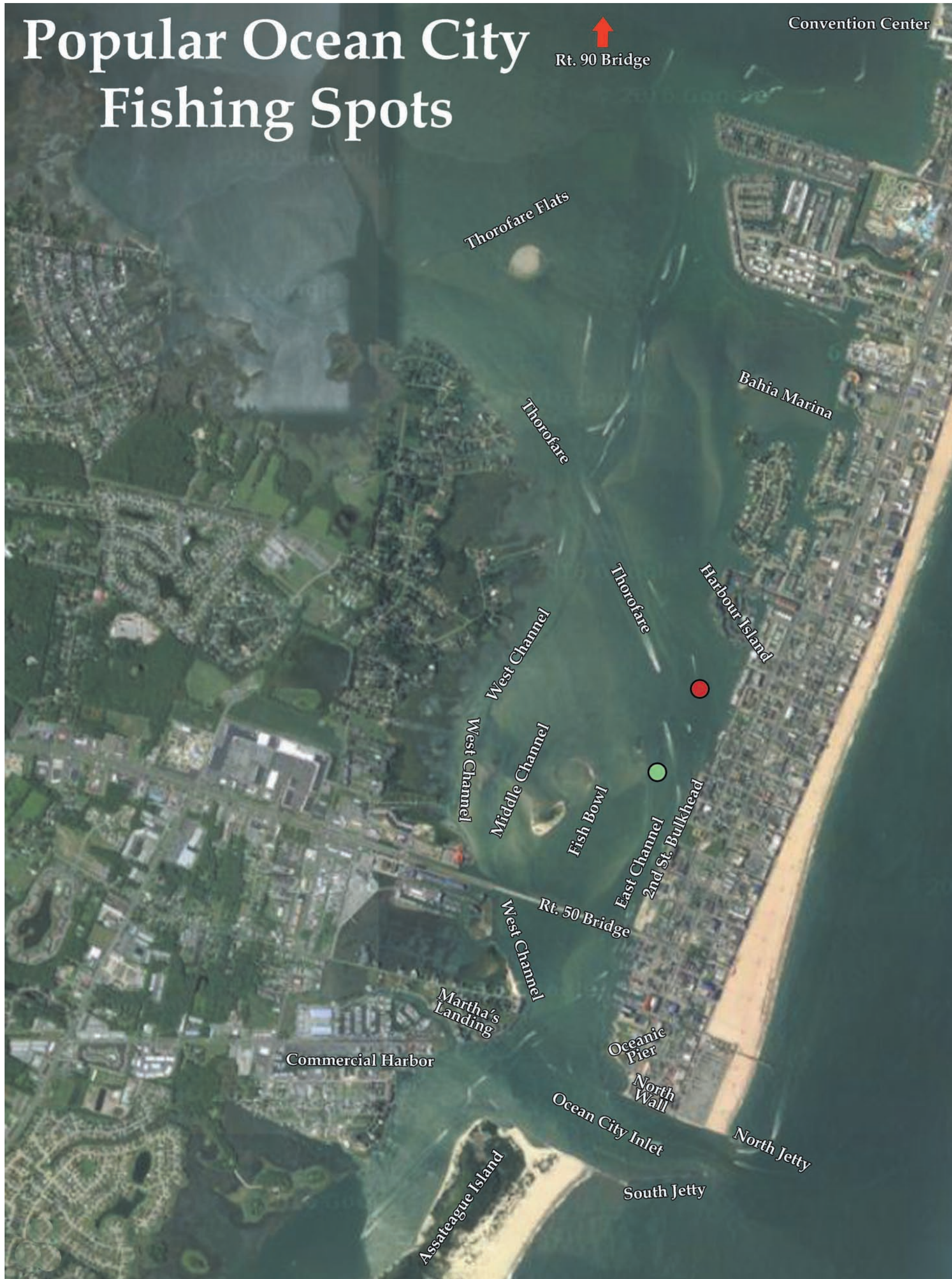
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17" minimum
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