www.coastalfis Volume 48 · · · Issue 10 · · · Sink 209 Event Canyon Kick-Off Species BigEye /Yellowfin Weight 2/916/44.516 Angler Josh/CREW Boat Fish-On Date Sunday 7/02/23

Day 3 of the 41st Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Canyon Kickoff was expected to be uneventful with only 5 boats fishing. The weather had turned 'sporty' and early reports from the canyons for tuna were pretty bleak. The energy at the scales however perked up when we got word that the "Fish On" had something special aboard and was 7 miles out. Once to the dock they did indeed have fish on! It took a hefty tail rope and two mates on gaffs, but eventually a 219 lb. bigeye slid onto the dock! Capt. Andrew Dotterweich had the crew trolling in the middle of the Washington Canyon when angler Josh Jasper hooked the big fish. He made fast work of it, getting it to the boat in only 35 minutes. That eyeball dominated the Heaviest Tuna Division as the only bigeye and finished in first place. It is also the Heaviest Bigeye caught so far this season! Rounding out the crew were owner Todd Willard, Sean Walker, Valerie Henry and mate Jake Emche.

Page 2 Coastal Fisherman July 5, 2023

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Greg Volpitta from Monkton, MD got a chance to fish with flounder specialist Danny Cox from West OC. The pair fished the West Channel using spot where Greg caught this 211/2" flounder.



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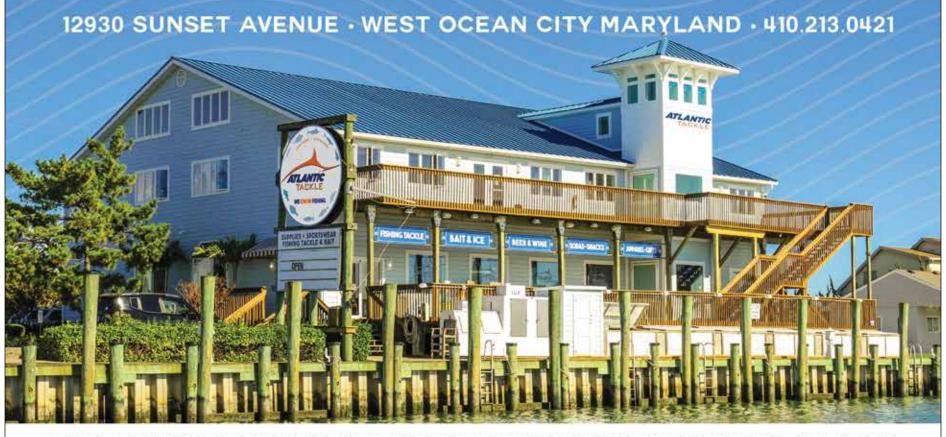




We have been seeing a lot of sheepshead recently. Angler Dan Sander got this 7.6 lb. and 22" one from the Indian River Inlet using sand fleas. Measured and weighed at Rick's Bait & Tackle.



#### July 5, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 3



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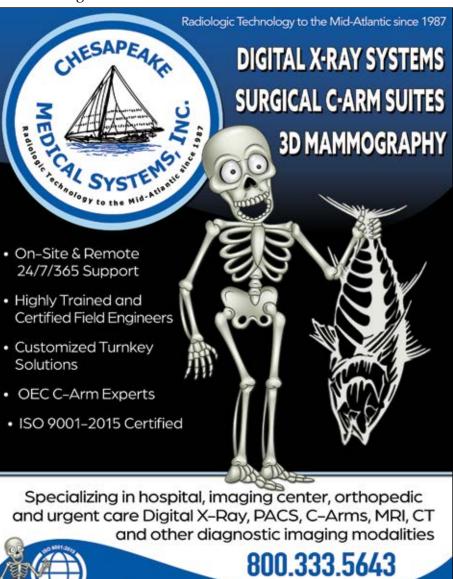
AJ, Kristen, Jacob, Brian and Al crushed it with Capt. Dave Caffrey of "On The Run" charters based at the Bahia Marina! He took them to one of the Ocean City Reef Foundation sites where they hooked these 10 keeper flounder up to 22"!



The Rt. 50 Bridge remains a hot spot for stripers and big bluefish. Ryan Edgell was fishing there with Tanner Adkins and snagged this gator 31" bluefish using live mullet.



Early last week saw some slow times for tuna, so Capt. Kurt Howell with Mate Ricky Adkins on the charter boat "Game Changer" put anglers Jim, Kyle, James and Jim Miller onto some deep dropping in the Washington Canyon. The group landed several large golden tifelfish with the largest tipping the scales at the Ocean City Fishing Center at 48.2 lbs.



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July 5, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 5



#### **This Week Last Year**

• The "Reel One" was on the cover with a 102" and 340 lb. blue marlin they caught in the Washington Canyon.

• The hot tuna bite was in the Washington Canyon. The "Spring Mix II" bagged an 85.5 lb. yellowfin, the "Playmate" brought back a 216.6 lb. bigeye and the "Top Dog" reeled in a 243 lb. eyeball that was the heaviest for the year.

- The "Carol's Teakettle" boated a 132 lb. bluefin at the Hambone on a naked ballyhoo.
- Tyler Enslin and Andy Swope caught one of the last legal mako sharks in the Washington before the ban took effect last July.
- The first wahoo catch of the season was reported from the "Chasin Tides" at the Hot Dog.

With the Ocean City Tuna Tournament and its rich purse only 9 days away, everybody was keeping an eye on the tuna bite this week. To quote a famous novel, "it was the best of times and the worst of times" for tuna fishing, and these extremes could occur on the same day. The week started out with decent action on yellowfin tuna. Last Monday saw several boats hitting the dock with high single digit catches, mainly from the Poor Man's Canyon. Capt. Chris Ragni on the "Bill Slayer" out of the Indian River Marina, took some of his high school buddies there and got 7 yellowfins in the box. The charter boat "Talkin' Trash" based at the Ocean City Fishing Center slammed 10 yellowfins weighing 346.2 lbs. in total. Most are reporting wide trackers and chains as the baits of choice as usual.

There were not a lot of bigeyes reported, but the ones brought in were notable. Last Thursday the private boat "Lucky Duck II" managed 4 chunky eyeballs from the 800/800. While most captains on Saturday reported very slow tuna action, the "Obsession" out of Bahia Marina bucked the trend and dragged a 225 lb. bigeye to the scales. Angler Bren Mayhew reeled in that bad boy north of the Washington Canyon while trolling the edge of the shelf. The crew also managed a 50 lb. yellowfin. Our last reported bigeye upset the leaderboard on the final day of the Ocean City Marlin Club's Canyon Kickoff! That is where most of our reports came for the weekend offshore, so let do a round up!

The Marlin Club held its 41st Annual Canvon Kick Off over the weekend from Friday thru Sunday. 34 boats entered this years fish 2 of 3 day event with most fishing on the first two days. Friday saw 29 boats trying their luck with 11 making their way to the scales. All of the tuna that day were yellowfins, mostly in the 35-45 pound range. It was the "Mackenzie Rae" however that broke the trend and topped the leaderboard on day 1 with a 55.5 lb. yellowfin they caught at the Rock Pile. That one held the top spot through day 2, but slipped to 2nd Place overall for the tournament. A couple dolphins also hit the dock, with 2 over the tournament limit of 10 lbs. The "Reel Estate" lead that category Friday with a 15 lb. mahi from the 461 Lump north of the Washington Canyon. They would however finish in 2nd Place for Heaviest Dolphin for the event. As for releases, the "Christine Marie", "Undertaker" and "Buckshot" all reported single white marlin releases. The "Christine Marie" went deep into the Norfolk Canyon in 1200 fathoms to raise their white and a 40.5 lb. yellowfin. Shout out to the crew for sharing some tuna with the tournament staff!

Day 2 saw fair weather in the morning with 32 of 34 boats fishing. Even with the leader board filled and anglers knowing what they needed to beat, the action at the scales was again lively with 11 boats weighing fish. Everyone reported tough fishing, with most reporting only 1 or 2 bites for the day. Still, there were some change ups to the leaderboard. The "Barbara Rose" slid in with a 51.5 lb. yellowfin from the Poor Man's ending day 2 in 2nd Place. The "Undertaker" found a weed line deep in the Washington Canyon catching several mahi. Only one was over the tournament limit, and at 19 lbs., it easily slid into the top slot where it finished the tournament. They also released a white marlin, when combined with the one from Friday put them on top of the Release Division. The "Christine Marie" also released another white to lock in 2nd Place. A lone blue marlin report came from the "Loose Knot" for their marlin released in the Wilmington Canyon. That blue ran up their spread hitting on the long line, then playing with a spreader bar before finally taking the short line!

We expected day 3 to be uneventful with only 5 boats fishing. The weather was also more 'sporty', and early reports from the canyons for tuna were pretty bleak. The energy at the scales however perked up about 5:30 PM when we got word that the "Fish On" had something special aboard and was 7 miles out. Once to the dock they did indeed have fish on! It took a hefty tail rope and two mates on gaffs, but eventually a 219 lb. bigeye slid onto the dock! Capt. Andrew Dotterweich was trolling in the middle of the Washington Canyon when angler Josh Jasper hooked the big fish. He made fast work of it, getting it to the boat in only 35 minutes. That eyeball dominated the Heaviest

www.coastalfisherman.net Tuna Division as the only bigeye and finished in first place. It is also the Heaviest Bigeye caught so far this season! You can see our full coverage and results starting on page 60.

Outside of the tournament we heard of some other nice catches. The "Boss Hogg" released a white early last week in the Poor Man's. Bill 'Squidnation' Pino headed out with the crew on the "Blood Money" last Friday and reported 'one of the most exciting and unexpended days of fishing offshore of Ocean City, MD in 38 years'. 30 to 40 giant bluefin tuna were swarming around them all day. The "Reel Current" out of the Ocean City Fishing Center caught a wahoo in the Poor Man's Canyon on a skirted ballyhoo. This is only the 2nd one we have heard of this year so far.

Sharking is still going strong in the Delaware Bay, mostly brown sharks. 11 year old Lucia Perez caught her biggest fish ever when she landed an approximately 7 ft. sand tiger shark in the suds off of Assateague Island. A slow tuna bite usually results in an uptick of tile fishing, and we are seeing some pretty golden tiles on the scales. Many in the 40 lb. range, like the 48.5 lb. golden caught on the "Game Changer" in the Washington.

Lastly we have not gotten a report of a keeper cobia in the MD/DE area yet. Several small ones have been reported, some even in the Ocean City Bay. They are thick as thieves in the waters to our south, so we expect to get that First Fish Category filled soon.

Well, that about sums up last week, so until next time I will see you at the scales! §



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**Upcoming Tournaments** 

• The world's largest tuna tournament returns to the Ocean City Fishing Center on July 14-16. The **36th Ocean City Tuna Tournament** promises more action and big money payouts. Purses over the past 2 years have exceeded \$1M. Scales will be open from 4-8PM on Friday & Saturday and 4-7:30 PM on Sunday.

• The <u>19th Annual Marlin</u> <u>Club Kid's Classic</u> will be held on July 22-23. This event benefits the Wisha-Fish Foundation and is always a blast for the kids. You do not have to be a member to participate. More at OCMarlinClub. com.

• Marina madness is headed to the Talbot Street Pier as they host the <u>10th Annual</u> <u>Big Fish Classic</u> on July 28-30. Always a fun event with of course, big fish! More at BigFishClassic.com July 5, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 7



Saturday saw some beautiful weather with several anglers referring to the ocean as Late Atlantic. "Lucky Duck II" owners Art & Tina Boykin along with anglers Jacob Daniel, Donna Adams, Jake Adams and Matt the Italian took advantage of the weather for a nice trip to the 800/800 in the Washington Canyon. Capt. Eric Strauss with mate Sergio Pantuso set the troll and the crew caught 4 bigeye tuna and released a white marlin.

### The Hardcore Fisherman needs a Hardcore Fishing Machine!



Page 8 Coastal Fisherman July 5, 2023



This crew from the "Clean Slate" were all smiles after their trip to the Poor Man's Canyon. Doug Slate of Augusta, NJ with James Reinknecht of Howell, NJ and Ryan Slate from Raleigh, NC were fishing in 55 fathoms using a pink & white Joe Shute and Sterling Wide Trackers to land these 2 yellowfin tuna.



Tanner Adkins shows off some serious upper arm strength holding out this 40" red drum! He released the beast after catching it on live mullet near the Rt. 50 Bridge.

# REARYLAND · DELAWARE · VIRGINIA CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES

	MD	DE **	VA		MD	DE **	MD
Atlantic Spadefish	24"		8 lbs. or 22"	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"	35 lbs.
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	80 lbs. or 46"	Weakfish	24″	3 lbs. or 20"	30"
Black Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	5 lbs.	White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29″	16 lbs. or 36"	SHARK:			
Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size	Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Cobia	44″	45 Lbs. or 48"	55 lbs. or 50"	Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Croaker	18″	3 lbs. or 19"	3 lbs. or 20"	Thresher*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Dolphin	45″	15 lbs. or 41"	25 lbs.	Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Flounder	24″	7 lbs. or 25"	6 lbs. or 26"	Swordfish	47"	Any Size	100 lbs.
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	30 lbs.	2.1.0.0.00	10.00		6.5.6000000
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14″	1 lb. or 13"	1.5 lb. or 16"				
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	20 lbs.	TUNA:			
Red Drum*	36"	45″	· •	Longfin Albacore	e 36"	30 lb. or 32"	40 lbs.
Sailfish*	Any Size	i i	-	False Albacore	24″	12 lbs. or 26"	32″
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	10 lbs. or 24"	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	4 lbs. or 26"	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"	100 lbs. or 60"
Speckled Trout	24″		5 lbs. or 24"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Striped Bass	40"	44"	44″	* Only released fish	are eligible	in Maryland progra	m
Tautog	24″	7 lbs. or 25"	9 lbs. or 23″	* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program ** DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release *** Use curved-fork-length measurements eregulations.com			



Page 10 Coastal Fisherman July 5, 2023

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This is a catch 11 year old Lucia is bound to remember for a lifetime! She was fishing off of a Delaware beach with her father Nick Perez when she connected with this sand tiger shark using a whole bluefish. The team did a nice job keeping the approximately 7' shark in the water while removing the hook before it was released.





surge in visitors over the past week as the summer season kicked into full swing. With more boats the water, fishing on pressure has increased, but fortunately, the fishing has been excellent for this early in the season. Anglers have found success by seeking out less crowded spots to catch keeper fish. Both nearshore wrecks and reefs and the back bays have been fruitful for anglers.

### Nearshore Wrecks & Reefs

The nearshore wrecks and reefs have become hot spots for flounder fishing with most anglers easily

Ocean City experienced a reaching their catch limits. surge in visitors over the The fish can be found on past week as the summer the down current side of season kicked into full wrecks and other bottom swing. With more boats structures like rocks and on the water, fishing shells.

> The "Angler" headboat reports a mix of sea bass and flounder on their trips, providing anglers with a satisfying dinner.

> The "Ocean Princess" had productive days of sea bass fishing, with calm weather creating ideal conditions. Flounder fishing has also picked up, with one angler catching an impressive 12 flounder on a single trip, although only one was a keeper.

Other notable catches in the area include



cutlass fish,red hake and triggerfish.

"Bad Wind Charters" targeted bluefish and spanish mackerel with much success, along with some nice flatfish.

The Fenwick Shoals and the area near the first lump have been particularly productive for spanish mackerel. Trolling small Clark spoons and using jigs near feeding schools has proven effective, and using smaller spoons increases the chances of a bite. Small bluefish have also been present but can be a nuisance when targeting Spanish mackerel.

"Fish Bound" charters had excellent fluke fishing, consistently bringing home limits of fish for their anglers. Spanish mackerel, bonita and bluefish were also caught during their trips. The weather is expected to calm down, providing favorable conditions for both anglers and captains.

Fishing at Great Gull or Little Gull is worth a try, as cobia should start showing up soon. A rare sighting occurred when a young angler caught a nice-sized cobia in the back bays while fishing on the headboat "Tortuga".

The area has also seen some impressive catches of flounder weighing over 5 pounds, providing exciting battles for anglers.

"Flip N Fins" had a successful trip, catching sheepshead, triggerfish and various other keepers. www.coastalfisherman.net

#### **Back Bays of OC**

The back bays of Ocean City have been on fire with big flounder being caught regularly. The "Tortuga" had a memorable trip, bringing home trophysized flatfish and creating smiles and good times for all on board. Wild ponies from Assateague Island often make appearances, adding a wildlife element to the fishing experience.

The "OC Bay Hopper" offered crabbing trips in the back bays, providing an opportunity for visitors to learn the art of crabbing from Captain Dave.

Anglers in the Thorofare area, such as Ken Bechtel and his wife Molly, have successfully caught three keeper flounder measuring 17.5, 16.5, and 16 inches.

The "Tipsy Tikis" boat, captained by Jeremy Michalski, had a great outing with his 9-year-old daughter Brooke, catching four keeper flounder up to 21 inches. Mario Simone caught a nice keeper fluke using minnows near 26th Street.

"Miss OC Fishing" consistently put anglers on respectable flounder throughout the week.

Notable catches outside of flounder fishing include a 16-inch striper caught by Nick Wojnowski from the surf using cut bunker and a massive 40-inch red drum caught by Tanner Adkins while fishing the Rt 50 Bridge with a live mullet—a remarkable trophy for this early in the summer.

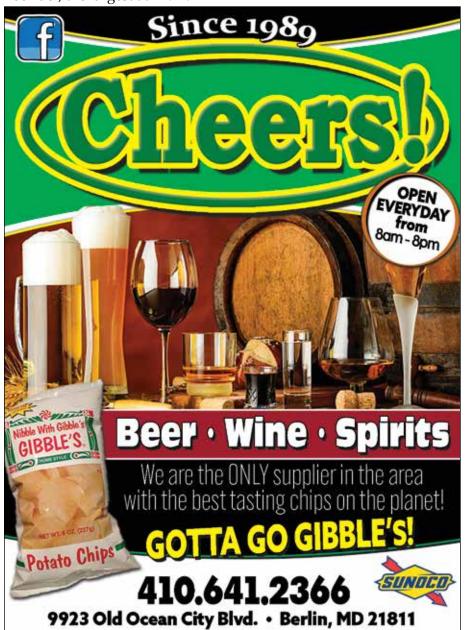
Looking forward to the next week of fishing adventures...

Tight Lines and Fins Up §

July 5, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 13



Ken & Molly Bechtel of Annville, PA were chasing sunshine daydreams and going where the wind goes. They were fishing in the Thorofare using a Fish in OC Chartreuse rig with white Gulp landing 3 keeper flounder, the largest at  $17\frac{1}{2}$ ".





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### RESTLESS LADY Capt. Todd Kurtz



### FISH BOUND Capt. Kane Bounds



### Capt. Chris Huk



### SKEETS Capt. Stu Windsor

July 28-30, 2023

ME OF THE



### FIN CHASER Capt. Dan Stauffer



Page 14 Coastal Fisherman July 5, 2023

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July 5, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 15



Page 16 Coastal Fisherman July 5, 2023

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Capt. Wayne Anderson on the charter boat "Just a Toy" out of Bahia Marina wacked some flounder on this trip to an ocean structure. The largest was 6 lbs.

JUST REDUCED, Trailer Included



Dustin Leichling from Long Neck, DE with fellow anglers Troy Nelson, John Leichling, Mike Coe, Tommy Muir, Jake Banda and Tim Smith covered the dock with their catch from the charter boat "Covered Up". Capt Keith Puller moved them around trolling over several nearshore lumps to get these 2 yellowfin tuna and some blueline tilefish & sea bass.

**2018 Coyote Trailer Included** 



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Eamonn 'Irish' Carey used his big forearms to hand crank this golden tilefish from 800 feet in the Poor Man's Canyon. He was on "Double Trouble" charters using fake glow octopus baits.





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July 5, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 17

Page 18 Coastal Fisherman July 5, 2023

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A REPORTED TO THE COASTAL FISHERMAN - TIES GO TO FIRST FISH REPORTED. HOCK & LINE ONLY							
Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE		
Bluefish	May 19 Rich Daiker OC Jetty 14.5 lbs.	June 8 Dexter Long Indian River Inlet 12 lbs.	Thresher Shark				
Black Drum	April 4 Tom Berry Assateague 19 lbs.	May 19 Eric Feinauer Delaware Bay 53 lbs.	Bigeye Tuna	June 20 Bren Mayhew 800/800 225 lbs.	June 19 Crew "5 Figure" Wilmington Canyon 200 lbs.		
Cobia			Bluefin Tuna	May 29 Crew "Marli" Baltimore Canyon 216 lbs.			
Summer Flounder	June 21 Haleigh Davis Ocean Structure 7 lbs.	June 6 John Wilkins Lewes Canal 8 lb. 10 oz.	Longfin Tuna				
Sea Bass	May 20 Wayne Small Ocean Structure 5 lbs.	May 22 Richard Krauss Ocean Structure 4.3 lbs.	Yellowfin Tuna	For Swoka Rockpile 55.5 lbs.			
Sheepshead	June 11 JC Dennis Ocean City Inlet 9 lbs. 8 oz.	June 23 Dave Houser Outer Wall 9.51 lbs.	Dolphin	Bill Doherty Washington Canyon 19 lbs.			
Striped Bass	June 1 Buddy Martin Rt. 50 Bridge 12 lbs.	May 22 Chic Stearrett Bethany Beach 18.7 lbs.	Swordfish	June 16 Crew "Wrecker" Poor Man's Canyon 100 lbs.			
Tautog		May 6 James Milano Ocean Structure 22.9 lbs.	Blue Marlin				
Wahoo			White Marlin	to coastalfisherman			

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July 5, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 19



We almost had a report of the first keeper cobia for the season in MD or DE! Capt. Chris Mizurak on the headboat "Angler" took the group offshore for one of his 6.5 hour trips where they caught this 39" man in the brown suit, just 1" too short.



Tracy Schur from Ocean City found herself one fat flounder! She was fishing on the "Flat Lander" using a Flat Daddy Flounder Rig with red Gulp at an ocean structure. Once ashore the flatfish measured  $24\frac{3}{4}$ " and weighed 5.52 lbs.



Page 20 Coastal Fisherman July 5, 2023





The charter boat "Boss Hogg" continued it's hot streak with a trip to the Poor Man's Canyon last week. Capt. Alex Beane with mate Jack Hannum put the crew onto 8 chunky yellowfin tuna and one white marlin release.

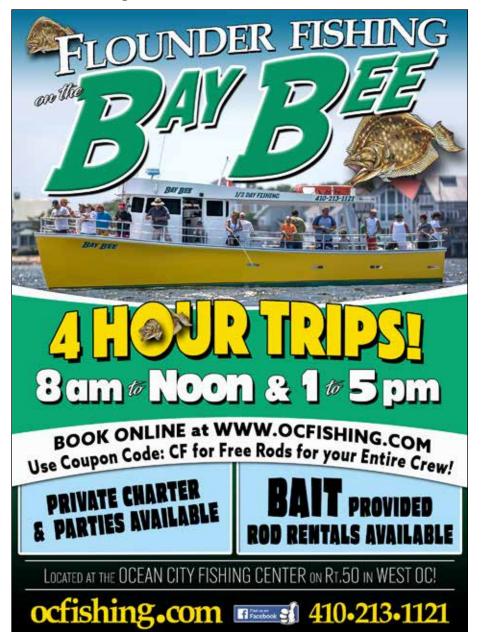


July 5, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 21





Kevin Lee and Seirra Lee got some daddy/daughter time while fishing on the headboat "Capt. Bob II" out of the Indian River Marina. Capt. Chris Adams put the pair and his other anglers over an ocean structure where Kevin caught the flounder while Seirra hooked the sea bass.





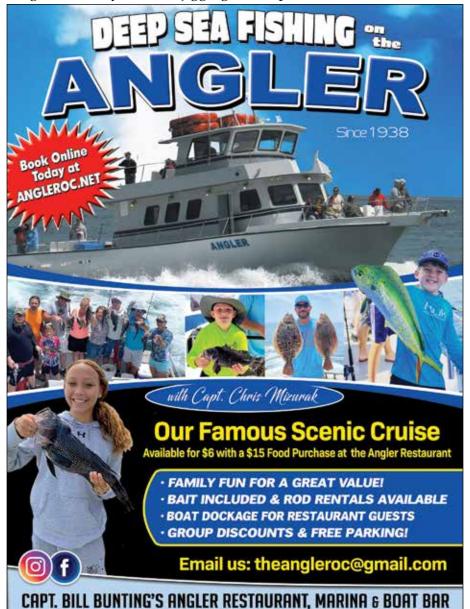
This young angler got a big surprise on his first fishing trip ever! He caught and released this cobia just south of the Rt. 50 Bridge while fishing on the headboat "Tortuga" based at Bahia Marina.







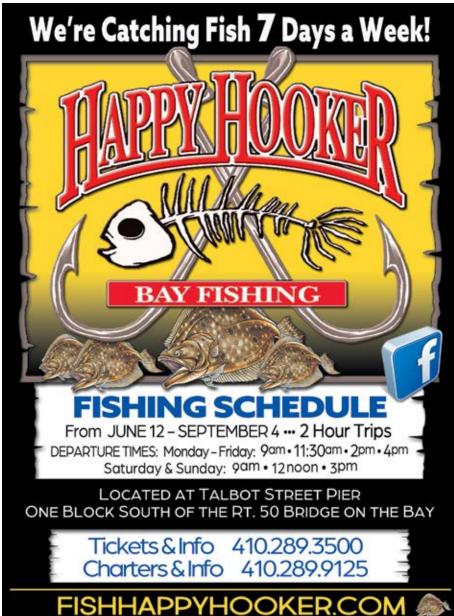
This young man brought some serious color on his fishing trip with Capt. Chris Mizurak on the deep sea fishing vessel "Angler"! He was on one of the 6.5 hour trips and found beautiful weather and caught this hefty sea bass jigging with squid.



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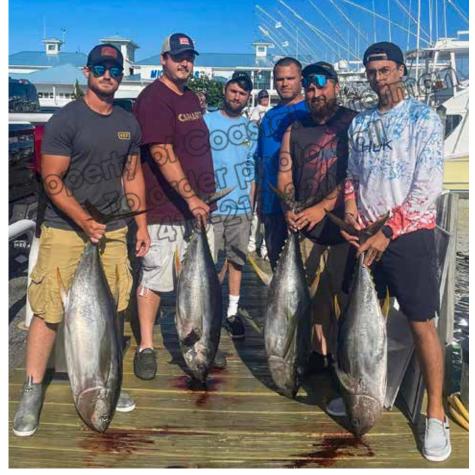


Team Caiola saw a lot of action during their annual father/son fishing trip. Father Dan with Raymie, Wyatt, Jace and Colton trolled the Poor Man's Canyon with Capt. Chris Little and mate Jacob Bialk on the charter boat "Talkin' Trash". They managed to get 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> yellowfins in the box!



July 5, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 23





Last week saw some tough days for tuna fishing, however Capt. Chris Watkowski along with mate Chase Porter got these anglers onto 4 yellowfin tuna from the Washington Canyon. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



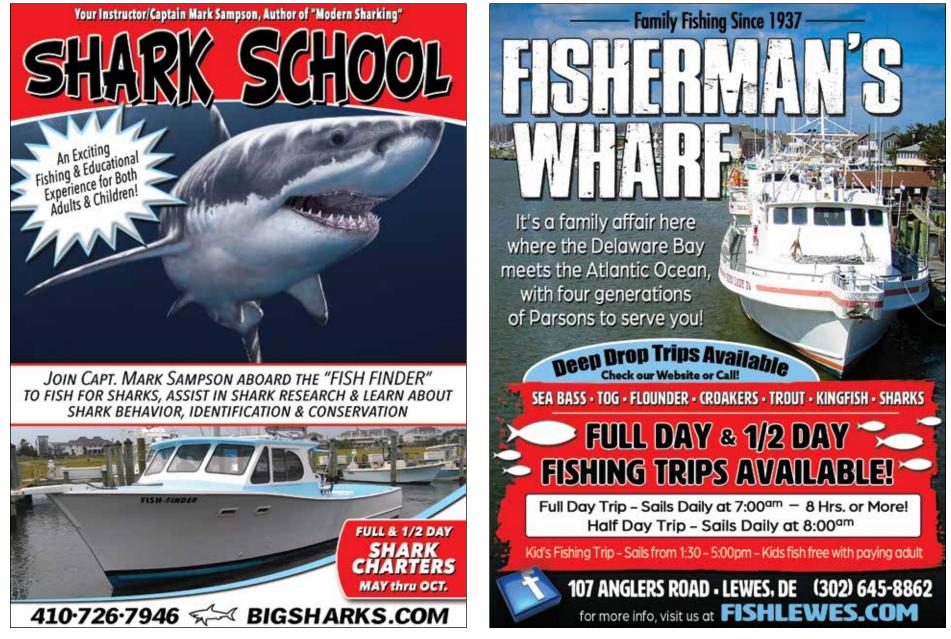
The headboat "Judith M" reported several good days of fishing last week. Thursday's two 5 hour trips were both full of action with a few keeper sea bass and triggerfish. Lots of undersized fish however kept the action non-stop. 8 and 10 hour trips are offered on the weekends.







Capt. Brin Parsons from the Fisherman's Wharf in Lewes, DE reported an excellent day offshore last Thursday. On that full day trip the anglers caught over 40 keeper flounder and over 60 keeper sea bass. They also had all the undersized catch action they wanted!



July 5, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 25





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TUNA BONUS \$\$\$

W FOR 2023!

SWORDFISH BONUS SSS SMALL BOAT BONUS SSS

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

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

www.coastalfisherman.net



Nick Collins from Jessup, MD, Todd Herman of Hanover, PA, Tom Maduskuie from Ocean View, DE and David Lawrence down from Frederick, MD caught eight keeper flounder and 4 keeper sea bass near A Buoy. They had to work through 20+ throwbacks along with many, many sea bass "shorts". Lady luck was with Nick as he caught the biggest flatfish of the day at 21" on his first flounder trip ever. All fish were caught on a combo of Gulp and minnows or squid.



Page 28 Coastal Fisherman July 5, 2023

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I guess when you don't know what to catch, you just catch everything! Jeff & Dave Weeks from Ocean City along with Jim Weller of Towson, MD headed about 9 miles offshore on the "Turn Me Loose" and caught spanish mackerel, bluefish, bonita and sea bass using spoons, jig heads and high/low rigs with Gulp.



Capt. Chris Ragni on the charter boat "Bill Slayer" had his high school buddies Ryan Toohey, Zach Millman, Pete Wham, Patrick Thompson, Matt Barker and Justin Sharadin out for some tuna fishing in the Poor Man's Canyon. After a slow morning they put in some extra effort going 7/9 on yellowfin.



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#### EPIRB's

An Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon or EPIRB is a critical part of safety equipment for most coastal boaters.

An EPIRB is an electronic transmitter used to alert search and rescue agencies in the event of an emergency. This is accomplished by the self-contained EPIRB, a small, battery powered, waterproof floating communication device that transmits an electronic message signal on the 406 MHz distress frequency orbiting satellites. to These same satellites then communicate to Mission Control Centers (MCC) who then relays the event to the closest Rescue Coordination Centers (RCC).

Modern EPIRB's are required to meet international standards and can be used around the world with global coverage. There is no cost to register your EPIRB and there is no "subscription" cost to ensure that your EPIRB transmission will be acted upon. The only costs involved are the purchase and maintenance of your EPIRB.

the USA, every new In or used EPIRB must be registered with NOAA (National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration), this is a Federal requirement. If you change any information on your registration (such as phone number, address, bought a new boat, etc.) you must update the registration with NOAA. Also, if you sell your EPIRB please notify NOAA that you have done so; inform the buyer that they must register the beacon for themselves. Registration with NOAA is easy, using the internet or mailing a registration form. The world's most advanced

EPIRB, the ACR GlobalFix V6 has just received authorization from the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and

approval from the U.S. Coast Guard. The previous model ACR GlobalFix V5 with AIS was approved earlier in 2023. Already Cospas-Sarsat approved, the beacons exceed new International Maritime Organization (IMO) Maritime Safety Committee **EPIRB** regulations for vessels under SOLAS regulations.

These two new models,



V5 and V6 have a 10-year battery life, includes GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) positioning, 406

www.coastalfisherman.net MHz Cospas-Sarsat distress signals with MEOSAR compatibility and 121.5 MHz local homing signal. They are compatibility with the ACR Return Link Service (RLS) alerting ensures the beacon owner will receive a notification to confirm that the international satellite system has received the distress message and location.

By incorporating AIS within its beacons for the first time in the GlobalFix V5 model, ACR Electronics can now offer EPIRB owners additional method an of communicating their location so that other nearby vessels will also be alerted in an emergency and can respond with immediate assistance.

The GlobalFix V5 and V6 include NFC (Near Field Communication) with the free ACR mobile app, delivering a new way for beacon owners to monitor their beacons, review selftest results, view GNSS test locations, and monitor beacon performance and maintenance. These new EPIRB's have an infrared strobe, as well as visible light, to facilitate rescue in





poor visibility or at night.

When it comes to choosing an EPIRB, there is often confusion between the category I vs category II versions of each model.

The differences are in the deployment and not the activation.

Category I EPIRB Deployment is automatic. The EPIRB is stored inside a plastic case with a hydrostatic release. This is designed to be mounted on the exterior of a vessel in an unobstructed area that will allow the EPIRB to float free after it is submerged 10-15 feet underwater. Once the case's hydrostatic release opens the housing, the EPIRB will float to the surface of the water and begin transmitting automatically or can be manually switch on if needed. Category II EPIRB is deployed manually; this type of EPIRB is usually mounted in a convenient location to the crew near the helm or other easily accessible area, where it can be located in an emergency.

Some boaters store their EPIRB in a "ditch bag" – any location is good if you can quickly get to it in the event of an emergency. The EPIRB will begin transmitting automatically if floating on

July 5, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 31 the surface of the water or it can be manually switched on if needed.

> All EPIRB's are required to activate automatically when they are wet, (floating in the water). An EPIRB in its case or mounting bracket will not automatically activate. All EPIRB's also have an "on" switch, allowing you to manually activate the EPIRB.

> The EPIRB antenna system is designed to use the water as part of its ground plane (antenna system) and works best when floating upright in the water. If needed due to sea conditions the EPIRB can be brought aboard and held or secured upright, though keep your hands and body away from the antenna and do not let any objects touch the antenna to maximize the transmission signal. Once activated, do not turn it off until the rescue authorities have arrived on scene. The signal from the EPIRB is used by satellites and local rescue assets, such as airplanes, helicopter, and boats.

> An EPIRB is an important safety device for all boaters. Street prices begin at \$600 for a modern EPIRB. §



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Page 34 Coastal Fisherman July 5, 2023

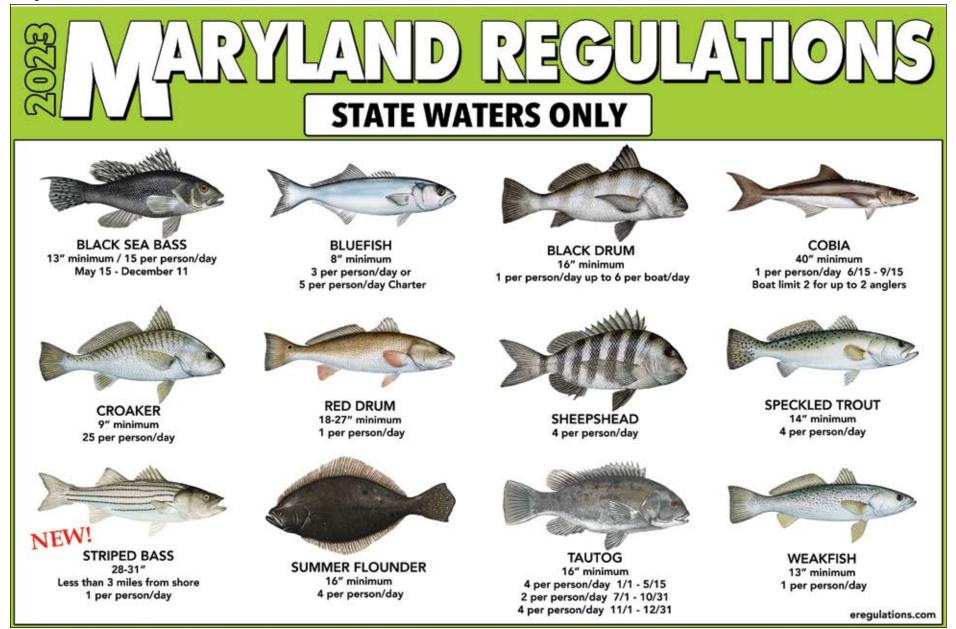
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There is always something to catch with Capt. Nick Clemente on the charter boat "Get Sum". Katie, Cameron and Ryan Music from Annapolis, MD came back to the docks at the Ocean City Fishing Center with 2 keeper flounder they caught in the North OC Bay using white Gulp and a basket of crabs.



James Mack caught a perfect 'in the new slot' 30" rockfish from the Indian River Inlet last week using live eels. Given the new limit of only 28" to 31" stripers can be kept, this one was perfect. Measured at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.



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The charter boat "Restless Lady II" based at the Talbot Street Pier is having a solid season so far. After releasing the first white marlin of the year and lots of tunas caught, Capt. Chris Huk set out for their first deep drop of the season. It did not take long to connect with this swordfish in the Poor Man's Canyon.



DELANARE FISHING REPORT by Capt. BJ Pietryak

The past week in Delaware witnessed a series of storms, an increased presence of boats on the water, and more substantial catches of fish both near shore and in the back bays. Particularly, the back bays have experienced a surge in flounder activity, with occasional appearances redfish and of croaker. Nearshore, sea bass fishing has shown slight improvement, although challenges persist. However, flounder fishing has significantly intensified over the past week, with numerous anglers easily reaching their catch limits. Notably, the Fenwick Shoals area is teeming with tunny tuna, spanish mackerel, and bluefish.

### Nearshore Reefs & Coral

During the past week, the Old Grounds and A buoy areas have become highly active. The charter boat "Jay Sea 2" ventured out to the coral reefs and wrecks, returning to Lewes Harbour Marina with impressive limits of flounder and a few sea bass for their customers. The crew reported consistent bites throughout their trips and even after they hit their limits. Brian Marine managed to bring home two sizable flatfish for a delicious dinner. Captain Chris Adams and Captain Roger Meekins, operating the "Judy V" and "Captain Bob" respectively from Indian River Marina, delighted anglers with coolers brimming with fish. Both captains noted the effectiveness of squid and Gulp baits for fluke, while squid proved particularly successful for sea bass. Many trips were focused on the coral grounds near the Old Grounds. For vacationers, the head boats available at Lewes Harbour Marina and Hook'em & Cook'em Tackle at the Indian River Marina offer an excellent choice for a funfilled fishing day. These boats provide rental rods, bait, and do not require fishing licenses. The helpful mates on board ensure that even novice anglers have a productive and enjoyable experience. The captains have reported exceptional flounder fishing and occasional sea turtle and dolphin sightings. Brett McKune shared an outstanding report of catching a threeman limit, releasing around 50 additional flounder for another day. He described the start of the year as "awesome" and anticipates even better fishing ahead. Mike Lewes from Ocean

View brought two impressive doormat flounder to Hook'Em & Cook'em Tackle. Fishing the Old Grounds with Gulp-tipped Spro bucktail, his largest catch weighed 9.6 lbs. and measured 28.5 inches, while the second fish weighed 6.5 lbs. and measured 25 inches. Shawn Hastings from Frankford, DE had a successful outing, reeling in a significant stringer of flounder using live minnows on his trip from the Indian River Marina. Michelle Gehman Edwards and Barry Edwards enjoyed their time on the coral grounds, returning to the inlet with five keeper fish. Tom Parisi experienced two fantastic fishing days, filling the coolers with an abundance of delicious flatfish. Matt Hamm, Kortlyn Hamm, Dennis Hamm, and Tom Sprigle ventured to Site 11 and the Old Grounds on the "Kortlyn Jade" boat, bringing home a bountiful catch for a scrumptious dinner. At the Fenwick Shoals, Spanish mackerel and blues have made noteworthy appearance. а Jeff Weeks, along with Dave on the "Turn Me Loose" boat, successfully targeted spanish mackerel, numerous blues, and king mackerel. They employed high-low rigs, spoons, and jigs.

www.coastalfisherman.net It is recommended to fish the Fenwick Shoals in the early morning or late evening, as midday fishing tends to slow down with the sun high in the sky. A good strategy is to troll the shoals at dawn and transition to the Old Grounds when the sun gets high, targeting the large flounder being caught there. The "Capt. Ike 2 Sportfishing" boat encountered many undersized fish but managed a nice load of fluke, some weighing up to seven pounds. Keith Bently and his family embarked on "Savannah Lynn" and the boated over 50 sea bass and two flounder. David Crosby and John Friedfild experienced a successful day fishing around ocean structures, bringing home fish weighing up to five pounds. Lastly, John Coffiey achieved a five-man limit by 11 am on the coral grounds, acknowledging the loss of several nice fish but the crew pushed through to get more fish to the boat.

### Back Bays & Inlet

Flounder fishing remains consistent along the rocks at the inlet and Massey Ditch. Jamie Brown, while drifting for flounder, managed to catch an impressive 25-inch red drum in the inlet. It's noteworthy to see these fish appear early in the year. The area behind the IR Power Plant has historically been an excellent spot later in the summer for puppy drum. Using bright swim baits and paddle



tails along the grass banks, anglers often find success. The early morning, particularly two hours before a flood tide, tends to be the optimal time for bites as long as there is a moving tide.

Dylan Patrick had an eventful day fishing in the Lewes Canal, although he lost a large fish that snatched his Gulp bait, he still managed to reach his catch limit. He observed that the fish had empty stomachs, indicating their high appetite and readiness to bite.

Young Josiah Powalski caught an impressive 22.5" fluke while fishing at Massey Landing, checking it in at Rick's Bait and Tackle.

Samantha Whitby and her father, John, returned from the canal with two keeper fish, caught using Gulp and minnows. David Price battled the conditions but successfully filled his cooler with a catch limit. Additionally, Tony Walls caught a nice 16.5-inch tog off the rocks at the inlet, albeit they had to be released as the season is closed.

#### Surf Fishing

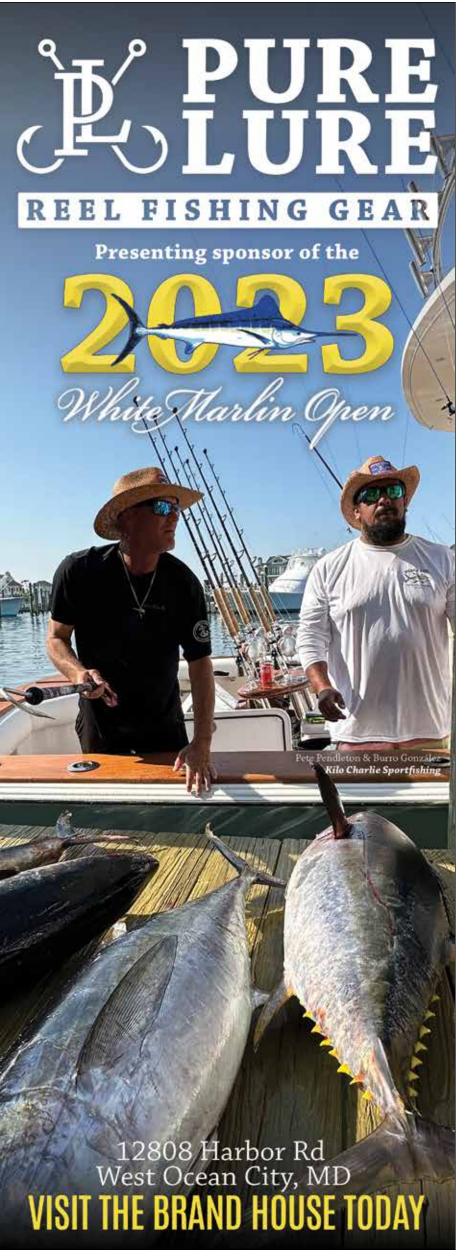
The beach has been productive for catching nice kingfish, particularly using Fishbites. Melissa Smyth reported success with red Fishbites, landing a few nice kingfish. Chase Haugh not only caught kingfish but also encountered a large sandbar shark. Augie from Delaware Surf Fishing shared catching a keeper fluke on a minnow.

Lastly, Josh Ellwood caught a rockfish just under the size limit from the beach.

Until next week, Tight Lines and Fins Up §



Hershey, PA anglers Chris Concz, Don Guinn, Kevin Pope, Brenda Roberts and Kiera Pope caught a boat limit of flounder and 20 sea bass on the charter boat "Capt. Ike II". They were fishing at the Old Grounds with Capt. Dave Collins and mate Alex Neiss. Pictured at the Indian River Marina.



Page 38 Coastal Fisherman July 5, 2023

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53' John Yank Capt. Bruce Coffiey 302-593-9372 Capt. Gary Martosella 215-681-5864 Michaeldfishing@aol.com



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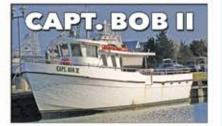
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# THE CALL EVALUATION OF Christine

Blackened Tuna Bites with Sweet Pickle Dipping Sauce

Ingredients:

Sweet pickle dipping sauce:

1/2 cup sour cream

1/2 cup mayonnaise

2 tablespoons sweet pickle relish

2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley

2 teaspoons lemon juice Tuna bites:

1 1/2 pounds fresh tuna, cut in 1 inch cubes

1 tablespoon paprika

1 teaspoon garlic powder

1 teaspoon onion powder

1 teaspoon dried thyme

1 teaspoon dried basil

teaspoon dried oregano
 teaspoon kosher salt
 teaspoon cayenne pepper
 teaspoon pepper
 tablespoons salted butter
 Lemon wedges for serving



Directions:

Make the dipping sauce. In a small bowl combine the sour



#### cream, mayonnaise, sweet pickle relish, parsley and lemon

pickle relish, parsley and lemon juice. Set aside.

Prepare the tuna bites. In a medium sized bowl, combine the paprika, garlic powder, onion powder, dried thyme, dried basil, dried oregano, kosher salt, cayenne pepper, and pepper. Add the tuna and toss to thoroughly coat each piece with the spice blend.

Melt the butter in a large sauté pan over medium heat. When the butter begins to foam, add the tuna in a single layer. Cook for 30 seconds to 1 minute per side. The lesser cooking time is for tuna that will be slightly rare on the inside and the longer cooking time is for more well done tuna.

Remove the tuna from the pan to a platter. Serve with the dipping sauce and lemon wedges.

#### The BEST Lobster Rolls

Ingredients:

1 pound frozen lobster meat , thawed, or cooked meat from two 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 2 pound live lobsters

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup minced celery

¼ cup mayonnaise

1 tablespoon minced chives

1 tablespoon lemon juice

1 teaspoon lemon zest

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> teaspoon kosher salt 4 split-top brioche, New England style hot dog buns with sides trimmed off

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

4 tablespoons butter , divided Directions:

Rinse the lobster meat and pick through for any loose shells. Drain throughly so the mayo sauce doesn't get watery. Chop or tear into large chunks and set aside.

In a large bowl, mix the celery,



mayonnaise, chives, lemon juice, lemon zest, kosher salt and ground black pepper. Taste for seasoning.

In a large skillet over medium heat, melt 2 tablespoons of the butter and add the lobster meat. Cook, stirring for 2 minutes until warmed through and buttery all over. Use a slotted spoon to dish the lobster meat into the mayonnaise mixture and toss to coat. Discard butter and juice released from the lobster and wipe out the skillet. Melt the remaining butter in the skillet over medium heat; toast the buns on the cut sides about 2 minutes each side until golden and toasty.

Load each bun equally with lobster meat and garnish with more chives if desired. Serve with potato chips.

#### Sweet Teriyaki Sheepshead

Ingredients:

2 lbs. sheepshead fillets

1 lime

Black pepper

Salt

Butter

 $1/2\,{\rm cup}$  low sodium soy sauce

1/2 cup brown sugar

3 Tablespoons honey

1/2 cup water

3 cloves of garlic, minced

Directions:

The first preparation you will do is start making your sweet

teriyaki sauce. This process will happen on your stove top. In the pot off the stove, add your water, low sodium soy sauce and sugar and mix it all together. Place the stove top burner on medium heat and place the pot with your mixed ingredients on it.

Begin stirring with the heat on and add your honey and minced garlic. Continue to stir until it reaches a boil.

Once it reaches a boil reduce the temperature on the stove to a low heat and allow for your sauce to reach a simmer. Continue to stir every now and then to ensure it does not burn.

Cook for about 10 minutes until it reduces down. It is ready for your fish.

Get a baking sheet and make an aluminum foil bowl to hold



the fish. Coat the foil bowl with butter to help ensure no sticking at the end.

Place the fillets onto a baking sheet in an aluminum foil bowl. Cut your lime in half and squeeze all the juice over the fillets. Salt and pepper both sides of the fillets.

Cover the fillets with your teriyaki sauce while it is still warm. Cover the aluminum foil bowl to ensure the fillets will maintain their moisture.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees and place the fillets in for cooking.

Bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until fish is cooked.

Remove from oven and serve.

This recipe is one the family will love. It is a good fillet to place on a bed of white rice. Drizzle warm teriyaki sauce over it to complete this dish.

#### **Buttery Tilefish**

Ingredients:

1 tilefish fillet

2 tablespoon butter

1 clove garlic

- 1/3 cup chopped green onions 1/2 lemon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Freshly ground black pepper Directions:

Season fish with salt and pepper. Melt butter in the pan.

Add fillet and chopped green onions to the pan and sear over medium heat for about 2-3 minutes.

Flip the fillet and add chopped garlic and lemon juice to the butter.

Scoop some butter on to the fish while cooking (tip the pan if needed).

If fillets are very thick, cover the pan with the lid for 1 minute. Notes:

Do not add garlic early, because it will burn. Add with lemon juice after you flip the fish.

Make sure there are no bones and no scales left in the fillets.

Cook on medium heat.



Add lemon zest too if you like lemony flavor.

Store leftovers in the fridge for up to 3 days, covered. Reheat in the microwave or in the oven.

#### July 5, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 41

Pasta with Mussels

Ingredients:

2 cups dry white wine

4 bay leaves

4 pounds small mussels, scrubbed and debearded

Pinch of saffron threads

3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

4 large garlic cloves, thinly sliced

1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

3/4 pound artisanal Italian spaghetti or linguine

Kosher salt

Freshly ground black pepper Directions:

In a large pot, combine the wine with the bay leaves and bring to a boil. Add the mussels, cover, and cook over high heat, shaking the pan a few times, until the mussels open, about 5 minutes. Drain the mussels in a colander set over a medium bowl. Pour the mussel broth into a glass measure. Crumble the saffron into the mussel broth.

Discard any unopened mussels. Remove the mussels from their shells and place in a bowl. Pour the melted butter over the mussels and toss to coat. Cover with plastic wrap.

Heat the extra-virgin olive oil in a large, deep skillet. Add the thinly sliced garlic and cook over low heat just until golden brown, about 4 minutes. Add the crushed red pepper and cook for 1 minute longer. Slowly pour in the reserved mussel broth, stopping when you reach the grit at the bottom of the glass measure. Add the lemon juice and simmer over moderately high heat until the sauce is reduced to approximately 1 cup, about 8 minutes.

In a large pot of boiling, salted water, cook the spaghetti just until al dente. Drain the pasta





well.

Add the buttered mussels and the hot spaghetti to the mussel sauce and toss over low heat until the pasta is uniformly coated. Season with salt and pepper. Transfer to warmed shallow bowls and serve at once.

#### Make ahead:

The recipe can be prepared through Step 3 and refrigerated separately overnight.

#### Suggested pairing:

A buttery yet lighter style of

Chardonnay will echo the creamy texture of the sauce and stand up to the briny mussels in this pasta.

#### **Blackened Swordfish**

Ingredients:

- 2 swordfish fillets, 6 ounces 1 tablespoon melted butter
- tablespoon blackening 1⁄2 seasoning
- 1 lemon
- Directions:

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees

and spray the baking dish with **Notes**: cooking spray.

Put the swordfish fillets in the baking dish and brush them with the melted butter.

Generously sprinkle the fish with the blackening seasoning.

Bake for 10-15 minutes or until the fish is opaque and flakes with a fork. Do not overcook it.

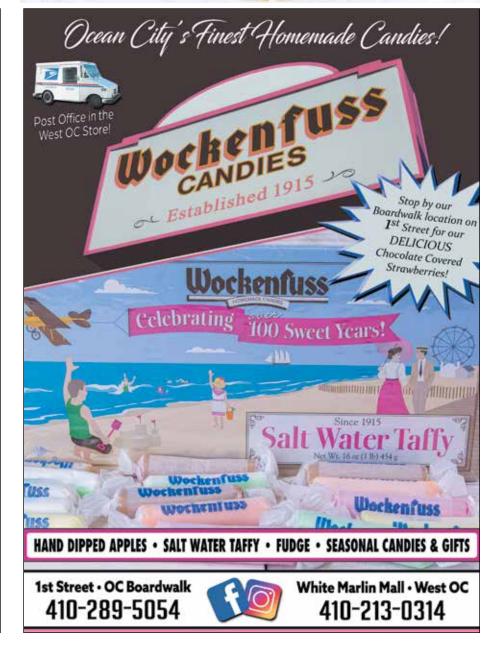
Squeeze with lemon and serve immediately.

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The amount of time it takes to cook the fish is dependent on how thick the fillet it. The rule is it takes about 10 minutes to cook each inch thick of fish including swordfish.

This recipe is best fresh out of the oven, but leftovers can be stored in an airtight container in the fridge for up to three days. §







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Capt Phil Lyons Jr on the "Reel Blessed" reported a tough bite last Friday. Still he and Phil Lyons Sr, Craig Moore, Ken Seelinger, Xander Bauguess, Todd Saulbach and Steve Mattson managed to go 5 for 7 on yellowfins using 353 Custom Tackle and Sterling bars. They also put blueline tilefish an sea bass in the box.

July 5, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 43



We like this way to show off your catch! OC Capt. Jeremy Michalski of the "Tipsy Tikis" fished at the African Queen on the "Bound and Determined" on a beautiful Friday morning and caught these 4 keeper flounder. The largest was 21". His 9 year old daughter Brooke stepped up to help with the display!



Page 44 Coastal Fisherman July 5, 2023

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Tom Vogel of Ocean View, DE and his grandson Derek Gogov found a couple of nice fish at Site 11. Capt. Tom reports the water was very clean, but only 67°s. Despite the cooler water the sea bass snapped the lines with their largest at  $18\frac{1}{2}$ " and one keeper flounder at  $17\frac{1}{2}$ ".



This crew from Delaware headed to West Ocean City to fish on the mighty charter boat "Rhonda's Osprey" with Capt. Joe Drosey. They fished the Poor Man's Canyon and got these two good sized yellowfin tuna in the box. Pictured at Lewes Harbor Marina where they had them cleaned.



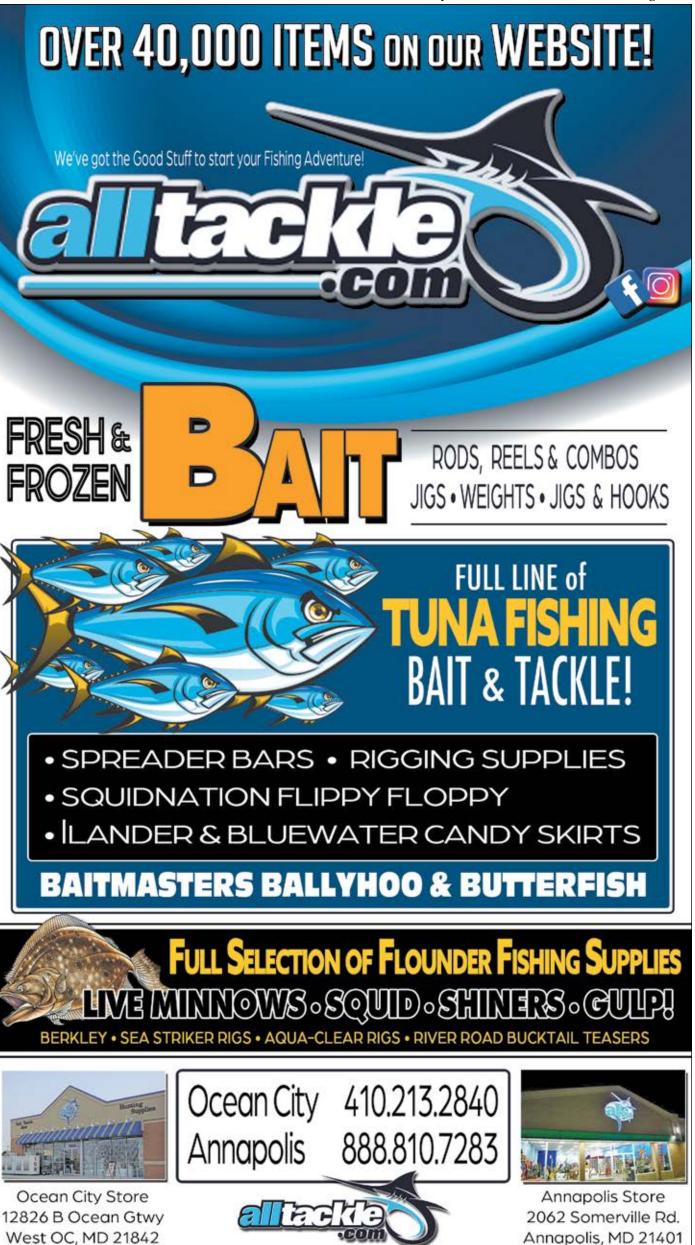
July 5, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 45

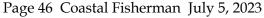


Young Atlas Bilal of Media, PA caught and released this young 12" sheepshead bayside in Fenwick Island, DE off a dock using shrimp Fishbites.



Payton Berger from Dagsboro, DE is having a great summer fishing. She caught this 44" and 26 lb. cobia off of Cape Charles, VA on cut bunker (her first one!). She also caught the heaviest rockfish during the Indian River Kid's Catch All Tournament!







During the summer I doubt that a week goes by that someone aboard my boat doesn't ask, "How far out do you have to go before you loose sight of land?" Often, before I have a chance to respond to the question, another member someone else will speak up and rattle off some kind of distance such as seven, twelve, or eighteen miles, and while I don't like to bluntly contradict my clients, whenever I hear such a common mistake of the facts being passed around my boat I can't help by being blunt and saying "no, you're wrong about that," and then go on to set the record straight about the subject. The fact is there's no "one" correct answer to the question of, "how far out do you lose sight of land?" because there are a number of variables that come to play that determine the distance in question. Visibility over the water, or over the land for that matter, is restricted by the curvature of the earth, and even though this ball we live on is so large that it might seem that the arch shouldn't really affect visibility within the "relatively" short distance we might typically try to see across the water, it actually does make a difference.

Although distance of visibility

due to the curvature of the earth can be very precisely calculated, there is no one answer to the question, "how far?". The answer is so very dependent upon the height of the object being viewed as well as the height of the person doing the viewing. To better understand this one should imagine standing on the bank of calm lake looking at a piece of paper floating on the surface. From the bank you might be able to see the paper from 100-yards away, but if you were to get down into the water to where your eyes were just a couple inches off the surface you'd likely lose sight of the paper when it's just a few feet away. Similarly, even with your eyes close to the water, if the paper was lifted up out of the water you would be able to see it from much farther away.

So for us boaters "how far" is a factor of how high our eyes are off the water and how tall or how high whatever it is we're trying to see is at the time. Obviously how high up we are depends upon our vessel. The guy paddling around in a kayak is going to have nowhere near the view as the fellow riding 30-feet up in the tuna tower of a big sport-fishing boat. I've never been much for big tall boats, but when you're trying to see something "height" is everything!

But depending upon what's being viewed, the guy in the kayak might not be disadvantaged at all if whatever it is he's trying to see is high enough above the water or land. From 20-miles out even a swimmer will be able to spot land if there are mountains on the horizon. To a mariner, knowing "how far" can be more important than just satisfying a curiosity. Look at any chart one will see that the height is given for many tall structures such as towers, water tanks, lighthouses, and other aids to navigation. Knowing the height and how far away they might be able to see these objects can help mariners figure out where they are (or at least where they "aren't") at a give time. If a lighthouse is 100-feet tall and you happen to know that for your given height off the water you must be within 15-miles to see a 100-foot object, seeing its light at night you would know that you must be at least within 15-miles of it.

How far something can be seen can be determined by using a "Geographic Range Table" which is basically just a couple columns of numbers that show www.coastalfisherman.net

how far something can be seen given the height of the eye and the height of the observed object. From this table I can tell you that if your eyes are 5-feet of the water you can see a 20-foot tall object from about seven and a half miles away. Or, to answer the question that so many of my clients ask "how far can you see land?" let's assume you're on a good size boat and your eyes are 10-feet off the water and looking for signs of Ocean City while heading home. Assuming that the tallest high-rise condos are about 200-feet tall, using the chart one can calculate that under ideal conditions from just about twenty miles out someone should be able to start making out the onshore structures. Of course that's the buildings - not the land. If the tallest trees on or behind Assateague Island are 70feet then nothing is going to be seen south of the inlet until that same boat comes within thirteen and a half miles.

But since the Geographic Range Table takes into account only the curvature of the earth, the ranges given assume perfect viewing conditions without allowances for hazy kind of weather we so often encounter on a typical hot summer day. Humidity alone can reduce visibility by more than half, add to that, illusions created by heat waves as well as each person's unique vision impairments and it should be easy to see that there's no stock answer to the question "how far?" §



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July 5, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 47



In Season

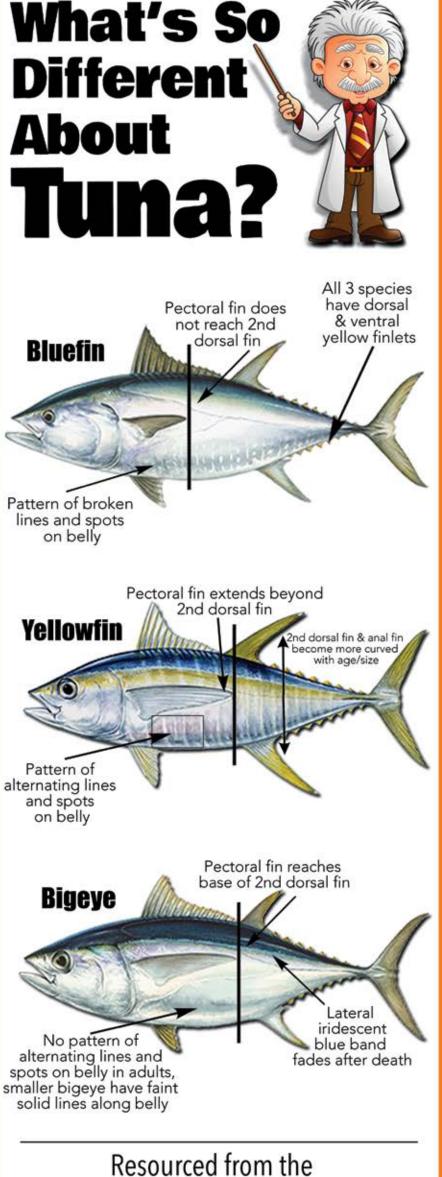
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South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown July 5-8 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177 36th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament July 14-16 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1613 AC Quest for the Ring July 16-23 • Atlantic City • www.QuestfortheRingAC.com

19th Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic July 22-23 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

Cape May Marlin Tournament July 27-30 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177 10th Annual HUK Big Fish Classic July 28-30 • Talbot Street Pier • 410-213-0325

## AUGUST

Marlins for Mason August 4-5 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1613

15th Annual OCMC Ladies Tournament "Heels & Reels" August 5-6 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

16th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament August 5 • Ocean Pines Yacht Club • 410-641-5306

50th Annual White Marlin Open August 7-11 • Harbour Island Marina • 410-289-9229

Paradise Grill Flounder Pounder August 16-20 • Long Neck, DE • www.FlounderPounderOpen.com

30th Annual Capt. Steve Harman Poor Girl's Open August 17-19 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

The MidAtlantic August 20-25 · Cape May, NJ & Ocean City, MD



65th Annual OCMC Labor Day Tournament September 1-3 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

For complete tournament coverage results, pick up the Coastal Fisherman every week from May through September or go to our website at www.coastalfisherman.net



The "Savannah Lynn" out of the Lewes Harbor Marina took Mr. Brittingham and friends from Georgetown, DE out to the Delaware Bay for some shark fishing. Overall they caught and released 14 brown sharks and got some awesome pics like this one!



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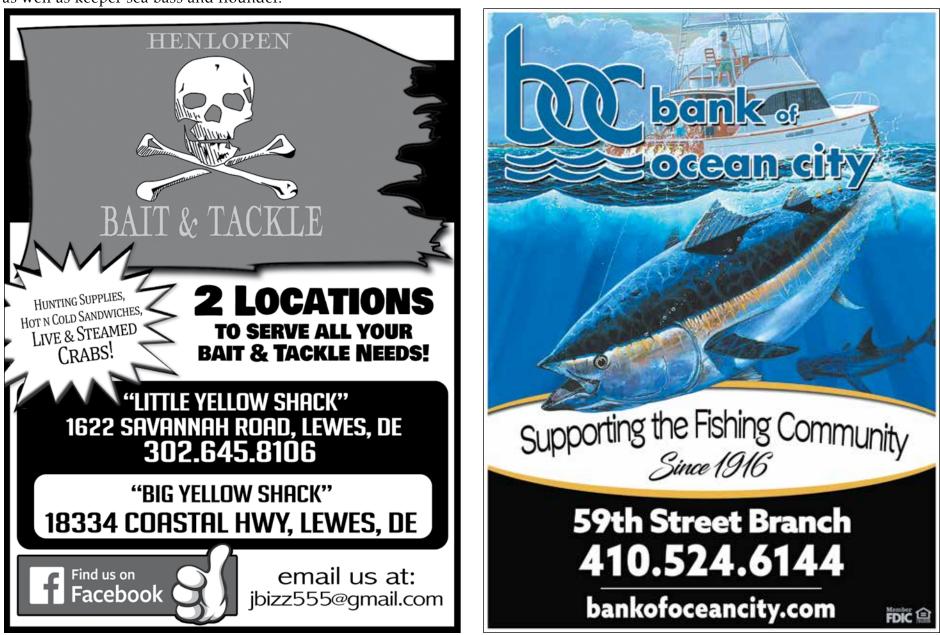
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July 5, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 49



The crew of the headboat "Judith M" had a moment to snap this picture as they headed under the Rt. 50 Bridge on their way back to Bahia Marina. Val, Dana and Steve Graham of Silver Spring, MD caught these cool triggerfish, while others aboard also got triggers as well as keeper sea bass and flounder.



Page 50 Coastal Fisherman July 5, 2023

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Page 52 Coastal Fisherman July 5, 2023

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The "Reel Current" out of the Ocean City Fishing Center brought only the 2nd wahoo we have seen so far this season. They were trolling in the Poor Man's Canyon and raised 4 yellowfin tuna. The speedster however hit on a ballyhoo with a Sea Witch skirt.





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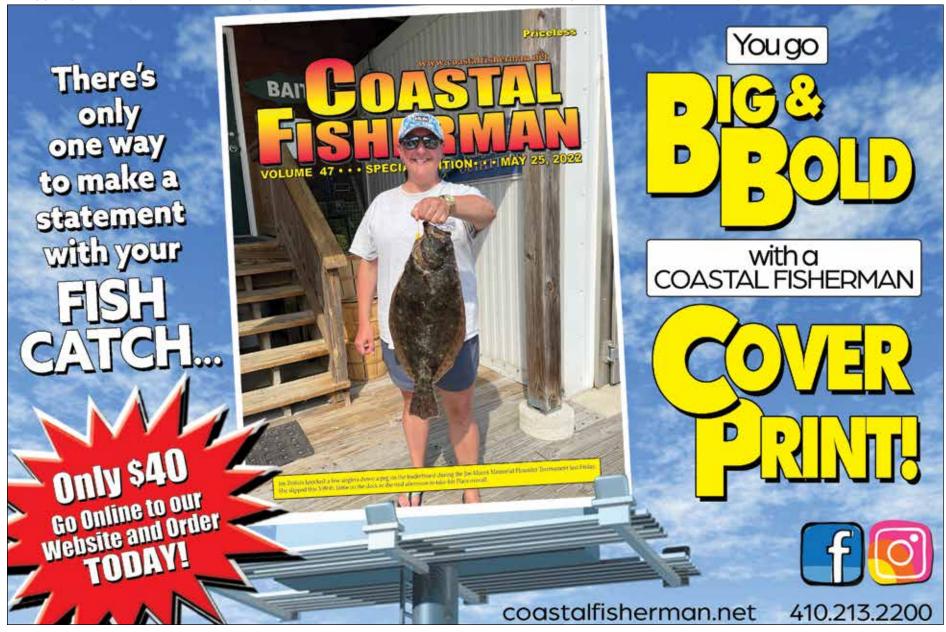
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Page 54 Coastal Fisherman July 5, 2023



These boys from the private boat "Bar South" with Capt. Raul Gonzales sure had a good time on the rip last week. While most were struggling to find yellowfins, these guys hit the dock at Sunset Marina with two huge eyeballs and a pair of yellowfins.



July 5, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 55





Hot weather, warm water, and the smell of smoke from burgers on the grill (or some other Canadian wildfire) tells us summer is here and it's heating up. Hopefully, the fishing follows suit where the action and good times rival the fireworks of the fourth!

The latest news from the serene sanctuaries of the Chesapeake comes from anglers sporting grin. Scrappy "sheepish" а sheepshead have been successfully sought out in the structures and reefs from the CBBT all the way up to the Tangier Sound. The striped drag strippers have keyed in on chunks of crab deployed on a variety of bottom rigs and sweeper style jigs. These fish hold tight to structure and seem to become more active around the change of tide. There have been several monstrous toothy trophies brought over the gunwale. In fact, my friend Brian Wright had a massive 26.5 inch fish that stretched his line while creating a catch of a lifetime memory.

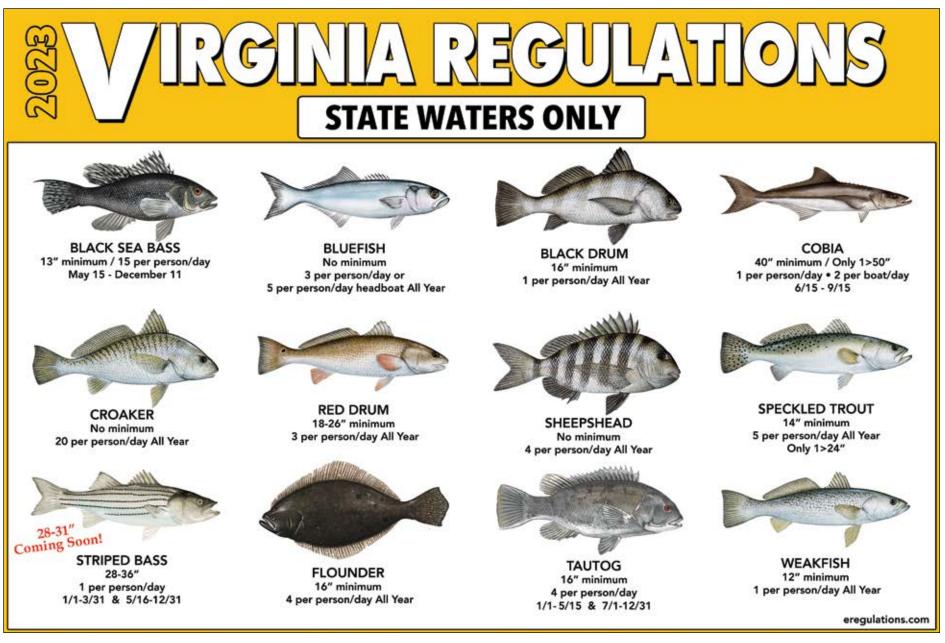
Elsewhere in the Chesapeake, nice blues have taken up residence around bay structures like the Watts Island rocks and the Tangier Target ships. These fish have been coerced into the net by casting and trolling rap-10's as well as other baitfish imitating lures. Farther south, anglers have trolled Clarke and Drone spoons behind #1&#2 planners or trolling sinkers for spanish mac's. Soon these fish will move into the central bay and even in the nearshore waters of the Atlantic off the ESVA.

The cobia bite continues to be fairly consistent. Bait fishermen who have fished fresh bunker chunks on fishfinder rigs with 7/0-9/0 hook's have had bent rods and big smiles. The sharks in the mid bay have not been terribly overwhelming, so a chum bucket dropped to the bottom off your anchor line may improve your chances. However you decide to dance with the man in the brown suit, it's sure to be a wild ride!

The sometimes illusive Eastern Shore Flounder have graced us with their presence on the dinner plate thanks to clearing water. The last of the flood and the first of the ebb have provided the best opportunity to partake in this frenzy of flatfish. The areas around the inlets have been the scene of the hottest action. A gulp tipped jig with a minnow or silverside get credit for finagling finicky flounder on the fillet board and into to the freezer. If you desire a deeper water setting, the blackfish bank reef along with other structures off the coast of the ESVA have provided pullage as anglers use top and bottom style rigs and jigs to lure monsters out of their lair.

The offshore waters have seen a uptick in activity as anglers have trolled up some yellowfin and a few whites. Most of the successful reports hail from the Canyons. However, at the store we've started to move some butters so an inshore bite hopefully is in the making.

www.coastalfisherman.net This past week I had the privilege of taking a friend of mine (who used to work with me at Sea Hawk when he was in high school) fishing. He had called with news that he was coming home from Texas and wanted to show a family member from back in the desert how we fish on the coast. My instructions were to put them on a bunch of big fish...a very tall order. So I thought what would be a memorable experience for a young man getting ready to go into the tenth grade? So we grabbed some bunker, chum and some 8/0 wire hooks and headed to Wachapreague. In no time at all my friends were cranking on some big sharks that would alleviate the need too jump overboard for a cooling dip even on the hottest of days. That young man got to pull his heart out on toothy critters to over 6' in length, making lasting memories, and even get the chance for an oyster sandwich at the carnival on the way home . The fact is, sometimes we take opportunities for granted and get caught up with trophy expectations. But what we must remember is that having fun and fellowship is what counts while enjoying this wonderful place we call home. §



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Delaware's Bubba Hastings stopped by Old Inlet Bait & Tackle to pick up some fresh bunker before heading down to Cape Charles, VA. The bait did the trick as Bubba used it to fool this 53" cobia!



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July 5, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 57



This serious bunch of anglers had a good day targeting flounder! David Crosby and John Friedfeld from Dagsboro, DE with Brad Stauch of Berlin, MD fished a natural bottom offshore jigging with Gulp and cut bait. Their largest flounder was 5 pounds and they got some sea bass too!







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July 5, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 59

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The fishing was tough last Saturday, so I was surprised when Bahia Marina owner Shawn Harmon sent me this pic! The charter boat "Obsession" with Capt. Mark McCormack was trolling just north of the Washington Canyon on the edge of the shelf when angler Bren Mayhew connected with this bigeye tuna. At 225 lbs. it is the heaviest caught to date in MD! They also put a 50 lb. yellowfin in the box and had 2 other bites that did not come tight.

#### August 7-11, 2023 Ocean City, Margland World's Largest and Richest Billfish Tournament

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Page 60 Coastal Fisherman July 5, 2023

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It was a tough weekend of fishing for the crews during the 41st Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Canyon Kick Off! The bite was slow, however, this crew on the "Undertaker" of Bill Doherty Jr., Sean McDevitt, Christopher Walus, Chris Whitfield, Kevin Donalds and Bill Doherty with Capt. Corey Kennington and mate Will Kennington fished deep in the Washington Canyon over their two days and raised 2 white marlin and a 19 lb. mahi. The 2 marlin released earned them 1st Place in the Billfish Release Category and the 19 lb. mahi they found on a weed line locked in the top spot in the Dolphin Division.

#### 41" Annual CANYON KICK OFF TOURNAMENT RESULTS June 30 - July 2, 2023

#### **BILLFISH RELEASE**

1ST PLACE -	<b>"UNDERTAKER"</b>	200 PTS.
2ND PLACE -	"CHRISTINE MARIE"	200 PTS.
<b>3RD PLACE -</b>	"LOOSE KNOT"	150 PTS.
	TUNA	
1ST PLACE -	"FISH ON"	219 LBS.
2ND PLACE -	"MAKENZIE RAE"	55.5 LBS.
<b>3RD PLACE</b> -	"BARBARA ROSE"	51.5 LBS.
	MAHI	
1ST PLACE -	"UNDERTAKER"	19 LBS.
2ND PLACE -	<b>"REEL ESTATE "</b>	15 LBS.
<b>3RD PLACE</b> -	"READY OR NOT"	11 LBS.
SMALL E	BOAT WINNER	TAKE ALL
1ST PLACE (TI	E] - "WALLHANGERS	& HOTLINE"
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1ST	PLACE - "READY OR NO	от"
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**34 Boats Entered** 



The "Makenzie Rae" set the bar for heaviest tuna on the 1st day of the 41st Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Canyon Kick Off. Angler Ron Snoka caught a 55.5 lb. yellowfin at the Rock Pile that held the top spot until day 3 when it slipped to 2nd Place overall. He was fishing with fellow anglers Antonio Santoiemma, Taylor Santoiemma, Brian Kadjeski Jr., Jeremy Connor and Richard Jones with Capt. Brian Kadjeski and mate Andrew Clothier.

July 5, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 61

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Anglers Lynette Catha, Steve Summers, Chrissy Summers, Morgan Summers, RL Marshall and Tim & Stacey Will were focused on marlin fishing during the 41st Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Canyon Kick Off. Day 1 of the event saw them release a white marlin. On day 2 Capt. Brian Behe returned to deep in the Norfolk Canyon where they released their 2nd white in 1200 fathoms for a tournament total of 200 points. That secured them 2nd Place in the Billfish Release Division.



The crew of the "Ready or Not" secured a couple of awards during the 41st Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Canyon Kick Off last weekend. On day 1 Capt. Matt Groff headed to the Washington Canyon with anglers Chase Groff, Dave Hertel and David Hertel. Chase released a white marlin and the crew also boated an 11 lb. mahi. The release earned the crew the Small Boat Release award and the dolphin held on to take 3rd Place in that division!



Page 62 Coastal Fisherman July 5, 2023

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Capt. Richard Harpel caught a mess of fish at a wreck down by the Fenwick Shoal. He caught a mix of trigger fish, sheepshead and flounder using a top & bottom rig with Fishbites.

flounder using a top & bottom rig with Fishbites.			
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	MOON F	HASES	
WED. JULY 5	High 10:04 am High 10:47 pm	Low 04:01 am Low 03:50 pm	
THUR. JULY 6	High 11:01 am High 11:38 pm	Low 04:53 am Low 04:48 pm	
FRI. JULY 7	High 11:59 am High	Low 05:46 am Low 05:51 pm	
SAT. JULY 8	High 12:30 am High 01:00 pm	Low 06:40 am Low 06:56 pm	
SUN. JULY 9 3rd Qtr. Moon	High 01:23 am High 02:05 pm	Low 07:32 am Low 08:02 pm	
MON. JULY 10	High 02:20 am High 03:15 pm	Low 08:24 am Low 09:07 pm	
TUE. JULY 11	High 03:18 am High 04:21 pm	Low 09:15 am Low 10:12 pm	
WED. JULY 12	High 04:15 am High 05:21 pm	Low 10:07 am Low 11:15 pm source: usharbors.com	
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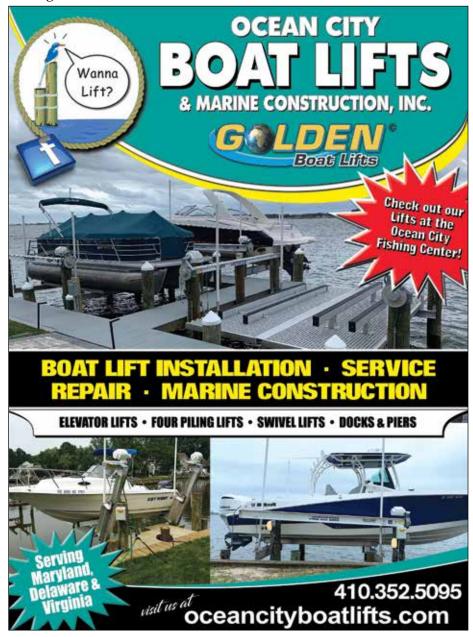
Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge. Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high tide Delaware Bay Entrance - subtract 1 hour 25 minutes to high tide - subtract 45 minutes to low tide

Wachapreague, VA - add 4 minutes for high tide - 21 minutes for low tide Quinby Inlet, VA - subtract 6 minutes for high tide

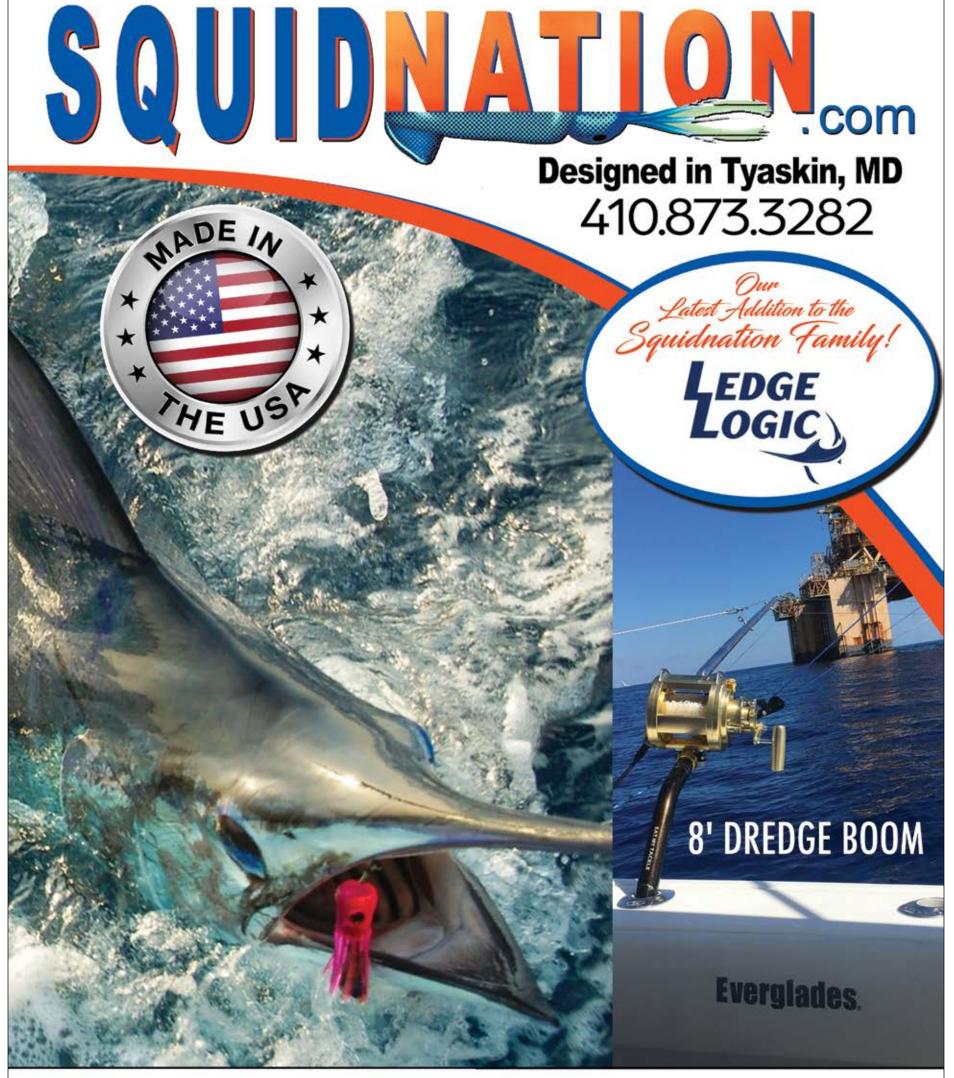
These tides are only meant to be a guide, as tides can be affected by storms and weather fronts.



8 year old Bryn Hermann's of Ocean Pines joy is contagious in the picture! She caught this 16.5" keeper flounder all by herself using a jig just off the western embankment of the Rt. 50 Bridge. She was fishing with her dad Allen.



July 5, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 63



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