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Windy and rainy conditions along the Delmarva coast have been far too common this year, but that didn't stop Roger Wilson from Williamsport, PA from heading to the beach on Fenwick Island, DE last week for some surf fishing with Dakota Smith. Roger ended up catching and releasing this 39 1/2-inch, 23 lb. 8 oz. striped bass after hooking it on a chunk of bunker.





Big Bird Cropper has been fishing hard this spring and last week he was rewarded with a nice catch of 6 bluefish. The choppers were hooked on Roy Rigs around the South Jetty. Pictured at the Coastal Fisherman office on Sunset Avenue in West Ocean City.



Danny Cox of Ocean City, MD was fishing with minnows in the Thorofare when he hooked into this 22-inch, 4 lb. 9 oz. flounder.

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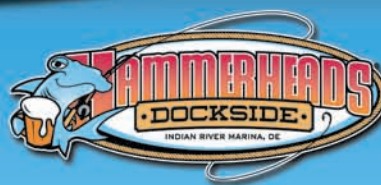


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# OCEAN CITY FISHING REPORT

by Larry Jock



Last weekend was practically a 100% washout with the sun never appearing until mid-day on Sunday. The rain was so heavy and so prolonged that we saw flooding in areas rarely seen before and unfortunately it didn't bode well for water clarity in the bay. As a believer that "everything evens out in the long run", maybe this means we will have an extra good summer season!

With the minimum size increasing for mako sharks this year from 54-inches to 83-inches, it will be a rare sight to see one arrive at a local scale, but the first one was released on May 17th by Zach Rhoad while fishing at the Sausages.

There has also been a rumor going around the dock for several weeks that NOAA was going to possibly

reconsider the dramatic minimum size increase and take it down to the low-70's. I guess the guys up in New York and New Jersey are really pitching a fit. It looks like if a change is made, it won't be until next year. A source at NOAA said that the emergency rule is in effect until August 29th. There wouldn't be any changes until then, and, for changes to occur, comments would need to raise issues/concerns that hadn't been considered in the rule and environmental assessment. Even if they were to make changes to the emergency rule, they would not reduce the size limit for females to 71-inches as the ICCAT recommendation doesn't allow for that. They hope to have the draft Amendment 11 out for public

comment in late July or early August. That proposed rule could consider changing the size limit in the emergency rule, but even if it were the preferred alternative, it wouldn't go into effect until March 2019.

The sea bass season opened on May 15th, and a decent day allowed boats to hit their favorite ocean spots. It was hit-or-miss, with some boats reporting a slow bite and others returning with boat limits. Compared to last season's weak opening, I think most anglers were happy with last week's bite. Most boats headed to the San Gil wreck, the Marine Electric and the Jackspot and used clams and squid for bait. Delaware anglers had good luck last week at the DelJerseyLand reef and the Dry Docks.

Before the tog season closed on May 16th, anglers were able to find some big fish on ocean structure such as Jim Papaccio's 28-incher at the African Queen.

Anglers continue to peck away at flounder, mainly in the Thorofare, when conditions are acceptable. Slow trolling or bump trolling has been the successful technique so far this spring. Some anglers have even equipped their boats with small trolling motors to assist them with this method. Local flounder sniper, Danny Cox caught a 22-inch, 4 lb. 9 oz.

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flounder early last week while fishing the Thorofare.

Fishing in the Ocean City Inlet and around the South Jetty has mainly produced catches of bluefish. Most were medium-size, but a few choppers were caught as well. Big Bird Cropper continued to terrorize the blues while tossing Roy Rigs around the rocks. Bird said that he had bluefish on top with schoolie strippers underneath.

Those looking to stock up on bluefish in the bay were able to also find them during the incoming tide around the Rt. 50 Bridge and in the East Channel.

Surfcasters continue to be frustrated with the lack of migrating stripers that hug the coast this time of year. Last week, those fishing off Assateague found some chopper bluefish, striped bass and black drum interested in their offerings of bunker, crabs and clams.

## Upcoming Tournament

This weekend is the Ocean City Marlin Club Memorial Day Bluefish Tournament. Although it is billed as a bluefish tournament, there is a Heaviest Tuna calcutta with several levels. You DO NOT have to be a Marlin Club member to fish in this tournament. Anglers may fish 1 of 2 days on Saturday or Sunday with weigh-ins at Sunset Marina from 4:30 to 7:00 PM.

Next weekend is the Mako Mania Shark Tournament on June 1st, 2nd and 3rd at Bahia Marina, a great place to get close to the action.

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

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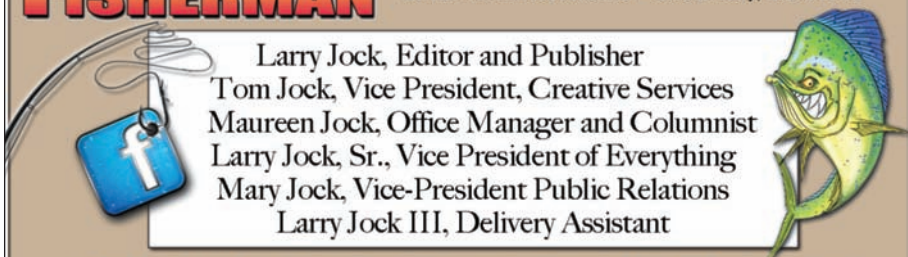


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Jim Papaccio of Ocean City, MD caught a 28-inch tautog while fishing with green crabs and clams at the African Queen. Jim and his crew caught their limit of 8 tog during the trip aboard the "Sweetie" with Capt. Brian Perry.

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If it's sea bass season then there is an above average chance you will see the guys on the "Jezebel" working some ocean structure and on this day, they headed to the "San Gil" where they captured 30 sea bass while fishing with squid and clams in 56-degree water. Fishing with Capt. Chester Sadowski, III were Roland Hubbard, Chester Sadowski, Jr., Keith Hines, Jason Courtney and Don Riggins. Pictured at Sunset Provisions in West Ocean City.

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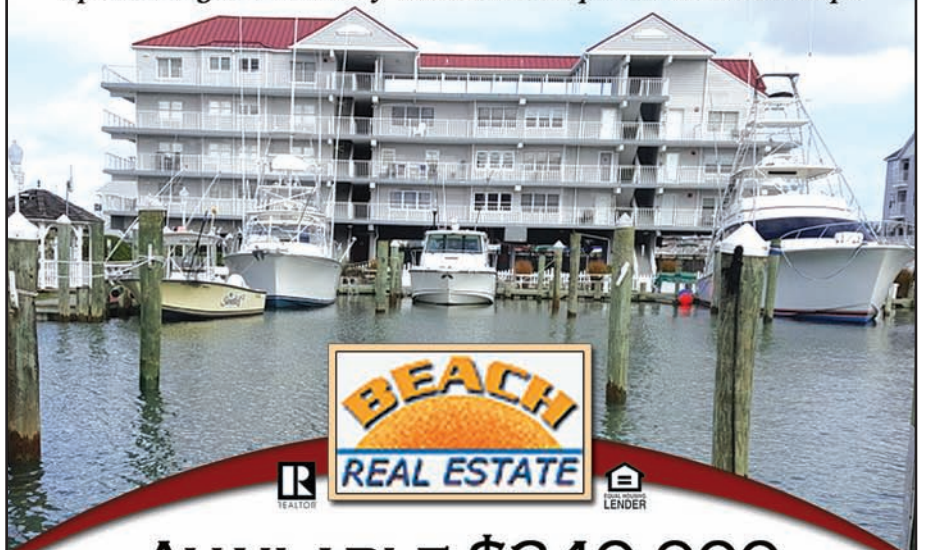
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With the minimum size requirement for mako sharks increasing dramatically to 83-inches, we won't be seeing many being brought to the scales this season. On May 17th, Zach Rhoad caught and released the first mako of the year while fishing with mackerel at the Sausages. Joining Zach was Brian Gay, Michael Hammond and Jacob Krametbauer. The anglers also caught 47 sea bass at the Jackspot during their trip.



Frank Steuernagle of Millsboro, DE was drifting in the Thorofare with Eric Steuernagle on the "Just Got Reel" when he hooked this 19-inch flounder on a 4-inch white Gulp Swimming Mullet. The duo then headed to the bay behind Assateague where they released 6 flatties near the Duck Blinds.

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Last Friday, anglers on the charter boat, "No Limit" managed to get some black drum fishing in before the storms rolled into our area. They ended their trip with 5 good size black drum in the box after fishing with clams near Slaughter Beach. The boomers weighed 40.5, 44.5, 50.0, 50.5 and 53 lbs. Pictured back at Lewes Harbour Marina are Capt. Jon Azato, Jimmy Coffey, Trampas Henderson, Nick Coffey and Mike Baumgartner.

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Forest Otto (left), pictured with Colton Otto, caught this 22-inch flounder while drifting minnows north of the Rt. 90 Bridge.



This 3 lb. black sea bass fell at the hands of Brett Silar of Wrightsville, PA while fishing on the headboat, "Thelma Dale". The fish was fooled with a chunk of clam and weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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The first time I ever used circle hooks was down in the Florida Keys back in the late 1980's. Tarpon were the quarry and if you know anything at all about those fish you're probably keen to the fact that they have a very large, hard and bony mouth that's tough enough to get a hook to stick into - let alone stay-put during what is often a long fight highlighted by a lot of jumps, head shakes, runs and double-backs. Getting a tarpon to bite was enough of a challenge, but even though we'd sharpen our hooks to perfection, not pulling the hook within the first 30-seconds was always the greatest challenge.

Then I started hearing that some guys were using what folks were calling "Japanese long-line hooks" that were designed to latch over the jaw and not be thrown so easily,

particularly when there is slack in the line. I had to search around a bit to find a tackle shop that carried the unique hook, but even when I did I was not quite sold on the prospect of using what the guy in the store called a "circle hook."

With a full circle, a point projecting inward, and what appeared to be an unusually small gap between the point and the shank, I just couldn't see how in the world a fish could be hooked on such a creation. More than a couple times I asked the guy behind the counter to confirm that these were indeed the same hooks that folks were using to catch tarpon. Upon his insistence that they were the right hook and, despite their awkward appearance, they would catch fish, I bought a half dozen. Fortunately, before I

left the store the clerk offered two bits of advice; "You'll want to leave the hook as exposed as possible, so don't clump the bait up all over it. And when you get a bite - don't set the hook".

The next morning I was anchored up under the old Seven-Mile Bridge, drifting live pinfish and mullet back in the current and waiting for a tarpon to bite. Not quite ready to put all my eggs in one basket, I only had circle hooks on two lines. The other two had the more traditional live bait J-hooks. When the morning was over the score was one mutton snapper and two jumped-off tarpon on the J-hooks and one (caught) tarpon, a blacktip and a big grouper landed on the circle hooks. While I still didn't quite understand how the fish were getting hooked, I was certainly impressed enough by their performance that, since that day, circle hooks have been the only thing I've used when tarpon fishing with bait.

In the same way that circle hooks helped tarpon fishermen

down south, fishermen here in the mid-Atlantic, and up in the northeast, have reaped the benefits of using circles rather than J-hooks when chunking for tuna. In fact, the use of circle hooks is so prevalent in the tuna chunking fishery that today you'd be hard pressed to find anyone who doesn't use them. Likewise, anglers have found out how deadly effective circle hooks are when properly rigged in natural baits trolled for billfish or floated back for sharks.

Of course by now, we all know that the effectiveness of circle hooks and the advantages of using them is not reserved only for jumbo-size fish. With the old "Japanese longline hook" now available in just about any size you could ask for, anglers are effectively using them in both fresh and saltwater for even the smallest of fish. I know that for a lot of anglers this is not new information. You've probably been using circle hooks for a while now and are quite aware of their effectiveness. But, like most fishing products or

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techniques, there are some general guidelines that anglers should try to follow that will help ensure that the hooks work to their fullest potential.



Everyone is familiar with Rule #1 that tells us "don't set the hook," and we know the reason for this is because circle hooks are not designed to impale the fish by a sharp jab, but simply to lock onto the fish's jaw as it slips out of the mouth. A sharp jab could pluck the bait and hook right out of the mouth. The mechanics of how a circle hook works is that when a fish takes the bait and begins to feel an increasing pull from the line it will usually turn and swim away from the angler. With the fish swimming away, pressure from the drag pulls the leader along the corner of the fish's mouth from the inside of the mouth (or even the stomach) to the opening of the jaw. The leader can then make the u-turn from inside the mouth, around the jaw and back past the gill - but the hook can't. As the eye of the hook passes over the jaw the hook naturally rotates the gap of the hook into the corner of the fish's mouth where the point finds a place to imbed - and the fish is hooked!

With all that in mind we should see that there's a little

more to getting the most out of circle hooks than just following Rule #1. For one thing, the fact that the hook needs to rotate in the fish's mouth to properly lock over the jaw should be an indicator that a free-swinging hook on line or leader will outperform one that's rigidly tied, such as one that's snelled or tied with a clinch or Palomar knot. Some sort of loop-knot might not always be the best knot for the job, but I always try to use them when I can.

Since the hooking process works best when the fish is moving away, in situations where anglers are able to actually observe a fish take a bait, they should not attempt to come tight on the fish until seeing that it has turned and is pointed away from them or they could pull the hook right out of its mouth. This situation is not uncommon for anglers who fish for sharks or troll for billfish.

While braided line offers anglers a lot of advantages over monofilament, including increased sensitivity, thin diameter and abrasion resistance, because circle hooks ease their way into the corner of a fish's mouth rather than being snatched in place in the way that a j-hook is, braid provides no real advantage when it comes to setting the hook. In fact, because of the stretch factor of monofilament, I actually prefer using monofilament over braid when using circle hooks.

We've all spent a lot of time dragging files or stones over our hooks to get them as sharp as possible so that we don't miss the right fish for the wrong reason. While I still like to have hooks that are "sticky" sharp at the point, because of the way a circle hook holds on to a fish primarily by latching over the jaw, I've found that it's not as critical to have a cutting edge on the blade part of the larger hooks. Once the tip of the hook finds a place in the jaw it will work its way deeper into place without having to cut its way through.

The options and designs of circle hooks these days are endless. There is still not much uniformity in sizes or design from one manufacturer to the other and some hooks are labeled as being circle hooks, but besides a little bit of an inward bend at the point, they don't look much different from a standard j-hook. When buying hooks I'll rarely pay much attention to what the packaging says, opting instead to just look at the hooks themselves until I find ones that have the features and dimensions that fit the type of fishing I'll be using them for. One thing to watch for, however, is whether circle hooks are "offset" or "non-offset". Non-offset hooks are flat (barb is in-line with shaft) and offset hooks have a bend in them that allow the hook a greater chance of deep hooking a fish that swallows the bait.

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Since deep-hooking a fish is a "bad thing", anglers should never use offset circle hooks. Fortunately, the offset can be easily bent "out" of a hook with a pair of pliers.

Finally, if there is one design problem with circle hooks it's that they are so effective at holding their place in the corner of the mouth that sometimes anglers have trouble removing it from the fish when it's time to do so. We know that with a j-hook it is usually a simple matter of pushing the hook in the opposite direction of the point, but circle hooks are best removed by using a pair of pliers to "rotate" the hook out. Smashing down the barb will help anglers unhook fish more easily without affecting the ability of the hook to hold onto the fish during the fight.

Whether by choice or by regulation, nowadays anglers are using circle hooks more than ever, and within each new fishery that they're used it always takes a little time for anglers to figure the best way to rig and fish them before they become enthusiastically embraced by the majority of fishermen.

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

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Emmy Fiebelkorn caught this 49 lb. black drum at the Coral Beds in the Delaware Bay during a trip with her husband, Capt. Beau Fiebelkorn on the "Skipjack II". Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Last season, the DelJerseyLand reef site was a hot spot for sea bassing and it looks like it is picking up right where it left off. Anglers Tom Schanno, Alex Maiss, Ed Martin and Mike Babcock brought back a load of knotheds on opening day after jigging with clams and squid. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em.

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## New Chesapeake Bay Striped Bass Regulations Effective May 16

The opening of regular striped bass season May 16 coincides with new conservation-minded regulations pertaining to the use of bait, gear and hooks.

The Maryland General Assembly Joint Committee Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review Committee recently approved Maryland Department of Natural Resources regulations, which will be effective through Oct. 12, 2018.

Beginning May 16, 2018, in Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries:

- Anglers must use non-offset circle hooks when live-lining or chumming;

- Anglers must use circle hooks or "J" hooks when using fish, crabs or worms as bait, or when using processed baits.

- The minimum size for striped bass is 19 inches.

"The new rockfish regulations seek to address the shared concerns of anglers, charters and conservationists who have reported high mortality rates of sublegal rockfish," Fishing and Boating Service Director David Blazer said.

While the emergency regulations are in effect, the department is also moving forward with regulations aimed at making them permanent through the remainder of the 2018 and 2019 fishing seasons. Public comment is being accepted through May 29, 2018, with a public hearing scheduled for 6 p.m. May 17 at the Annapolis Friends Meeting House.

Staff have begun a proactive education and public relations campaign to ensure that anglers, bait-and-tackle shops, charter boat captains and the Maryland Natural Resources Police understand the new striped bass minimum size and gear requirements.

After the regulations sunset in 2019, the department will use new stock assessment data to determine if the new conservation actions were preventing mortality as designed and intended.

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Karl Maier caught and released this 17 lb. tautog after fooling it with a green crab in 45-feet of water. Karl was fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. The "Fish Bound" is docked at the Talbot Street Pier.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Dan Hudock of Ocean View, DE was tossing a spoon off the rocks at the Indian River Inlet when he hooked this 24-inch bluefish.



Chris Vann can usually be found handling mate responsibilities on the charter boat, "Katydid" in Lewes, DE, but on his off-day he ventured down to Ocean City to fish on the charter boat, "Reef Chief" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mate Rich Fouts. He ended his day with a personal best, 17 lb. 8 oz. tautog hooked on a white crab at an ocean wreck. The "Reef Chief" can be found at Capt. Bill Bunting's Angler Dock in Ocean City, MD.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



It was a solid day of sea bass fishing for this group of anglers on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. Casey Schaffer, Scott Kuntz, Shawn Stevens, Cory Lednum, Scott Shockley, Bill Kuntz and Bobby Layton all ended their day with knotheads in the cooler after fishing with clams and squid on natural bottom and ocean wrecks. The "Morning Star" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center in West Ocean City, MD.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Sam Glick caught this 3 lb. 11 oz. sea bass while fishing with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mate Dean Lo on the headboat, "Angler". The action took place at an artificial reef where Sam used a strip of squid to fool the knothead. The "Angler" is docked at Capt. Bill Bunting's Angler Dock in Ocean City, MD.



While drifting a bucktail tipped with a Gulp artificial bait in the Indian River Inlet, Tom Rolando of Bethany Beach, DE captured this 21-inch, 3 lb. 2 oz. flounder.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



That is one cool looking dog! Wayne Kennedy of Ocean View, DE, pictured with his sidekick, Zeus, caught 4 bluefish while tossing finger mullet in the suds at 3R's Road. Photo courtesy of Hook'em & Cook'em Tackle Shop in the Indian River Marina.



James Feder, Zach Markel, Cole Payne and Dylan Dunkle, all from West Virginia, jumped on a good black drum bite in the Delaware Bay, keeping 2 and releasing 8, after hooking them on chunks of clam. Their two keepers weighed 12 lbs. and 26 lbs. on the scale at Hook'em & Cook'em.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Wayne Diaz caught the first reported sea bass of the season on May 15th during a trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. The fish measured 18-inches.



When the boat is named after you, catching fish is a requirement and that is exactly what little Ivy Clemente did while fishing on the charter boat, "Ivy Sea" with her parents, Capt. Nick and Michelle Clemente. Ivy hooked the bluefish on white spec rigs by the Rt. 50 Bridge. Her largest fish measured 19-inches. The "Ivy Sea" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Charlotte Hughes caught a 3 lb. 10 oz. black sea bass while fishing on the charter boat, "Katydid" with Capt. Brent Wiest and mate Chris Vann. The fish was hooked on a chunk of clam over ocean structure and weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Jeff Waxman, Ben Jacobs, Chris Hong, Kim Richard, Ji Youn, Soo Kim and Lee Lee returned to Hook'em & Cook'em with a good catch of tautog after a trip aboard the headboat, "Capt. Bob II".

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Gary and Shirley German of Ocean City, MD visited Key Largo, FL early this year and did some fishing on the "Sea Time". The duo caught barracuda, rainbow runners and black fin tuna.



Tony Conway from Wilmington, DE was tossing a black and purple Daiwa Salt Pro Minnow from the south side of the Indian River Inlet when he hooked a pair of 9 lb. striped bass. The largest fish measured 34-inches. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



During a trip to the Dry Docks aboard the charter boat, "Karen Sue" on opening day of black sea bass season, Tryo Bockius, Jason Mullen and George Bockius caught their limit of fish while using clams and squid for bait. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em.



Stellios Gatanas took the trip from North Jersey to Ocean City to fish on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. Stellios ended up catching this 16 lb. tautog while using green crabs for bait in 65-feet of water. The "Fish Bound" is docked at the Talbot Street Pier.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Mike Couch of York, PA caught this pair of thin flounder, totaling 3.3 lbs., while drifting minnows on the south side of the Indian River Inlet. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.



Lex Robertson of Lewes, DE was fishing at the DelJerseyLand reef site when he caught this 25-inch, 6 lb. 8 oz. Atlantic cod. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Chuck Wenzel of West Ocean City, MD is all smiles after catching this 16 3/4-inch flounder on a white Gulp Swimming Mullet while drifting in the Thorofare. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center in West Ocean City, MD.



Matt Stauch took a trip to the lower Florida Keys and spent a day fishing with Capt. Mark Sampson. Matt was rewarded with this barracuda that he hooked while casting a cuda tube.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Rich Ressler from Long Neck, DE boated a pair of 18-inch flounder while drifting shiners in the VFW Slough. Pictured at Rick's Bait & Tackle.



Jed Fickes, Martha King and Donna and Raymond Eichelberger found some black drum interested in their offerings at the Coral Beds while fishing on the "Grizzly". Their fish weighed 28.5, 36 and 41.5 lbs. on the scale at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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This 61 lb. black drum lost the battle with Jessica Healy at the Coral Beds in the Delaware Bay. Jessica fooled the fish with a chunk of clam and weighed her catch at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Opening day of black sea bass fishing was hit-or-miss for most anglers, but Ken Yuen took a different route and ended up catching this 13 lb. 8 oz. tautog while fishing on the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Dean Lo and Rich Fouts. Ken fooled the blackfish with a green crab on an ocean wreck.

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## Bang Bang Shrimp

2 cups panko bread crumbs  
2 TBSP. extra-virgin olive oil  
1 tsp. garlic powder  
Kosher salt  
Freshly ground black pepper  
2 large eggs  
1 lb. shrimp, peeled and deveined  
1 cup all-purpose flour  
2 TBSP. mayonnaise  
2 TBSP. sweet chili sauce  
1 TBSP. Sriracha sauce  
Juice of 1 lime  
1 tsp. honey  
Chopped fresh cilantro, for garnish

Preheat oven to 400-degrees.

In a medium bowl, whisk together panko, olive oil and garlic powder.

Season with salt and pepper.

In another medium bowl, whisk eggs.

Using tongs, dip shrimp first in flour, then egg and then panko mixture.

Continue until all shrimp are coated.

Place shrimp on a parchment-lined baking sheet and bake for 12 to 15 minutes, until the coating is crispy and golden.

To make the sauce, whisk mayo, chili sauce, Sriracha, lime juice and honey in a small bowl until combined.

Season with salt.

Drizzle sauce over shrimp and garnish with cilantro.

## Crab Cake Stuffed Deviled Eggs

12 large eggs  
1/3 cup mayonnaise  
2 tsp. Dijon mustard  
3/4 tsp. lemon juice  
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce  
1/4 tsp. hot sauce  
3/4 tsp. Old Bay  
2 tsp. chopped flat leaf parsley  
1/4 tsp. Kosher salt  
1/8 tsp. ground black pepper  
8 oz. lump crabmeat  
Salt and pepper, to taste  
1/4 cup Panko breadcrumbs  
Lemon zest, optional

To hard boil eggs, in a saucepan add eggs and enough water to cover by 1-inch.

Bring to a boil over medium heat.

Cover and remove from heat.

Allow to sit 13 minutes for large eggs.

Drain and rinse eggs with

cold water immediately.

To stop eggs from continuing to cook, transfer them into a large bowl filled with ice water.

Peel while warm and refrigerate until ready to eat.

Prepare stand-up eggs by using a sharp paring knife to slice a small sliver off the bottom of the large end of egg, so it will stand upright.

Slice off the top 1/3rd of hard boiled egg.

For traditional deviled eggs, use a sharp paring knife to cut the egg in half lengthwise.

Remove yolks from all the eggs and transfer to the bowl of a food processor.

Add the mayonnaise, mustard, lemon juice, Worcestershire, hot sauce, old bay, parsley, salt and pepper.

Process until smooth, stopping to scrape down the sides of bowl if necessary.

Add in the crab and pulse until incorporated.

Add additional mayonnaise, 1 TBSP. at a time

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if thinner consistency is desired.

Transfer the deviled egg mixture to a piping bag affixed with the star attachment or a Ziploc bag with corner snipped off.

Pipe mixture into egg whites, filling generously.

Garnish with toasted panko, parsley and lemon zest.

### Sheet Pan Shrimp Boil

Kosher salt

1 lb. red bliss potatoes, quartered

1 1/2 lbs. shrimp, peeled and deveined

2 ears of corn, cut crosswise into 4 pieces

2 smoked andouille sausages, thinly sliced

2 sliced lemons

2 tsp. garlic powder

1 TBSP. Old Bay seasoning

2 TBSP. melted butter

2 TBSP. extra-virgin olive oil

Freshly ground black

pepper  
2 TBSP. chopped fresh parsley leaves

### Dipping Sauce

1/2 cup mayonnaise

1 tsp. garlic powder

2 TBSP. finely chopped chives

1 tsp. Dijon mustard

Juice of 1/2 a lemon

1 tsp. lemon zest

Preheat oven to 425-degrees.

In a large pot of salted boiling water, cook potatoes until just tender, about 10 minutes. Drain.

In a large bowl, combine cooked potatoes, shrimp, corn, sausage, lemons, garlic powder, Old Bay, butter and olive oil.

Season with salt and pepper.

Toss to combine and divide between two large baking sheets.

Bake until the shrimp is cooked through and the corn is tender, 13 to 15 minutes.

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During an early season sea bass trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins, angler Mark Curry from Kilmarnock, VA muscled in this 21 1/2-inch, 4 lb. knothead after hooking it on a strip of squid over an ocean wreck. The "Morning Star" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Sprinkle with fresh parsley.

To make dipping sauce, combine mayonnaise, garlic powder, chives, Dijon, lemon juice and lemon zest in a small bowl.

Serve warm with dipping sauce.

## Crab Cake Poppers

### Poppers

2 oz. cream cheese, softened  
2 TBSP. mayonnaise  
1 egg, lightly beaten  
1 tsp. lemon juice  
1 tsp. Old Bay seasoning  
Dash Worcestershire sauce  
1 lb. lump crab meat  
1/3 cup shredded mozzarella  
2 TBSP. finely chopped chives, divided  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 1/2 cups panko bread crumbs, divided  
Kosher salt  
Freshly ground black pepper  
Vegetable oil, for frying

### Aioli

1/2 cup mayonnaise  
1 TBSP. lemon juice  
1 tsp. Old Bay seasoning

In a large bowl, combine cream cheese, mayonnaise, egg, lemon juice, Old Bay and Worcestershire sauce.

Mix until smooth.

Fold in crab meat, mozzarella cheese, chives, garlic and 3/4 cup bread crumbs.

Season with salt and pepper.

Roll mixture into 1-inch balls.

Coat in remaining panko.

Freeze until firm, about 30 minutes.

In a large, high-sided skillet over medium heat, heat 1/2-inch of vegetable oil.

Working in batches, add crab cake poppers.

Fry until all sides are golden, using tongs to gently turn balls, about 3 minutes per side.

Drain on a plate lined with paper towels.

To make aioli, whisk together mayonnaise, lemon juice and Old Bay until smooth.

Serve poppers warm with aioli.

## Spicy Potato and Tuna Salad

1/4 cup olive oil  
8 small hot red chiles  
1 lb. fresh tuna  
1/2 lb. small red potatoes  
1/2 lb. small blue potatoes  
1/2 lb. small golden potatoes  
1/4 cup white-wine vinegar  
1/4 cup lemon juice  
2 tsp. sugar  
3/4 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. ground cumin  
3/4 cup ripe olives  
3 cup mixed salad greens  
1 red chile pepper

In large skillet, heat oil and chile halves over low heat until they start to brown -- about 5 minutes.

Strain oil into large bowl

and set aside; discard chiles.

In same skillet, cook tuna over medium-high heat, turning once, until lightly browned on outside and just cooked on inside - about 8 minutes in all.

In a 3-quart covered saucepan, cover potatoes and heat water to boiling over high heat.

Reduce heat to medium, cover, and cook until potatoes are tender -- 15 to 20 minutes.

Drain well.

Add vinegar, lemon juice, sugar, salt and cumin to chile oil in large bowl.

To make salad, break tuna into bite-size pieces with a fork and gently stir into chile-oil mixture along with potatoes and olives.

Set salad aside to cool slightly.

Cover and refrigerate until cold, about 1 hour.

To serve, arrange greens on serving platter and spoon salad into center.

If desired, chop 1 red chile and sprinkle over salad.

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Top with remaining red chile.

## Killer Fish Tacos

- 1/4 cup canola oil
- 1 jalapeño pepper
- 1 small red onion
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 can black beans
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- Salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup mango chutney
- 2 limes
- 2 TBSP. hot sauce
- 3 TBSP. honey
- 1 handful fresh cilantro
- 1/2 head red cabbage
- 4 mahi-mahi fillets
- 1 TBSP. grill seasoning
- 8 corn tortilla taco shells
- 8 flour tortillas
- 1 cup Crème fraîche

Heat a TBSP. of the oil in a skillet over medium heat.

Add the jalapeño, finely chopped red onion and garlic.

Cook for 3 to 4 minutes, then add the beans and cumin and mash together.

Season the beans with salt

and pepper and fold in the chutney.

Reduce heat to low to keep warm, stirring occasionally to keep them from burning.

If the beans dry out before you are ready to use them, add a splash of water.

Zest one of the limes and set aside.

Combine the juice of both limes, the hot sauce, honey, 2 TBSP. of the canola oil, salt and pepper with the sliced onions, cilantro and shredded cabbage.

Toss to combine.

Heat an outdoor grill to medium or preheat the broiler.

Season the fish with the remaining TBSP. of oil, 2 tsp. of lime zest and the grill seasoning.

Cook on the grill with the lid closed or under the broiler for 8 minutes total, until cooked through, turning once.

Crisp the taco shells and blister the tortillas on the grill or in the oven.

Glue the softened flour tortillas onto the crisp taco

shells with a few spoonfuls of mashed black beans.

Fill each tortilla-wrapped taco shell with half a piece of flaked fish and top with some cabbage slaw and crème fraîche.

Serve.

## Oven-Roasted Sea Bass with Couscous and Warm Tomato Vinaigrette

- 1 green onion
- 2 TBSP. olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 cup chopped tomato
- 3 TBSP. fresh lemon juice, divided
- 1 TBSP. sherry vinegar
- 1 tsp. kosher salt, divided
- 1 1/4 cups chicken broth
- 2/3 cup uncooked couscous
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh chives
- 4 sea bass fillets
- 1/4 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 8 slices lemon, halved

Whole chives (optional)

Preheat oven to 350-degrees.

Cut green onion into 3-inch pieces, and cut pieces into julienne strips.

Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat.

Add garlic; sauté 30 seconds or until garlic begins to brown.

Add the tomato and onions; reduce heat to medium, and cook for 1 minute.

Remove from heat; stir in 2 TBSP. lemon juice, vinegar, and 1/2 tsp. salt.

Keep warm.

Combine 1 TBSP. lemon juice, 1/4 tsp. salt, and broth in a medium saucepan; bring to a boil.

Gradually stir in couscous and chopped chives.

Remove from heat; cover and let stand 5 minutes.

Fluff with a fork.

Cover and keep warm.

Sprinkle fish with 1/4 tsp.

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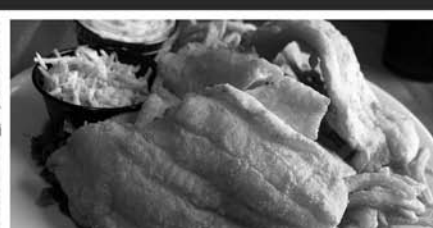
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salt and pepper.

Place fillets in an 11 x 7-inch baking dish coated with cooking spray.

Place 4 halved lemon slices on each fillet.

Bake for 20 minutes or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork.

Serve over couscous, and top with vinaigrette.

Garnish with whole chives.

### Creole Striped Bass

1/2 tsp. chili powder  
1/2 tsp. paprika  
1/4 tsp. dried thyme  
1/8 tsp. garlic powder  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. freshly ground black pepper, plus more, to taste  
1/4 tsp. freshly ground white pepper  
4 striped bass fillets  
2 TBSP. olive oil  
Juice of 1 lemon  
2 TBSP. unsalted butter

In a small bowl, combine the chili powder, paprika,

thyme, garlic powder, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1/4 tsp. black pepper and white pepper.

Place the fish fillets on a plate and season on both sides with the spice mixture.

In a large fry pan over medium heat, warm the olive oil.

Add the fish and cook until well browned underneath, about 4 minutes.

Turn the fish over and cook until opaque throughout, 2 to 4 minutes more, depending on thickness.

Transfer the fish to individual plates.

Wipe any oil from the pan with a paper towel.

Return the pan to medium heat, add the lemon juice and 2 TBSP. water. Stir, scraping up any browned bits from the pan bottom.

Stir in the butter and season with salt and black pepper.

Spoon the sauce over the fish and serve immediately.

Serves 4.



Steve Lednum won largest fish honors during this trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. The 20 1/2-inch sea bass ate a chunk of clam over an ocean wreck. The "Morning Star" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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The Lewes Canal was the right place to be for this group of anglers last Saturday. Although their fish weren't big enough to place in the Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament, J.R. Brullo, Cody Brullo, Troy Kohl and Dave Runk still managed to end their day with 4 nice flatties in the box.

## SOUTH JERSEY TOURNAMENTS 2018 EVENT CALENDAR

### GET IN ON THE ACTION!

#### 38th Annual South Jersey Shark Tournament



**June 6-9, 2018**

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#### The MidAtlantic Tuna Tournament



**June 20-24, 2018**

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Doc Peoples, Kenny Vincent, Harry Lewis and Lex Robertson had a good opening day of black sea bass fishing, returning with 35 lbs. of fish from the DelJerseyLand reef. The anglers used clams and squid for bait. Lex also caught an Atlantic cod during the trip. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em in the Indian River Marina.

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## MAFMC releases black sea bass fact sheet

### Summary

The black sea bass stock from Maine through Cape Hatteras, North Carolina is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. Abundance has increased and is currently very high, particularly off southern New England. As a result, recreational catches have been relatively high, even under restrictive regulations.

Fishery managers are required to set catch and landings limits to prevent overfishing. Current stock assessment information and catch estimates indicate that catch can't increase beyond recent levels without an increased risk of overfishing.

### Stock Status

The most recent stock status information comes from the 2016 stock assessment. Spawning stock biomass (i.e. the abundance of mature females and males) was estimated to be 48.9 million pounds in 2015, which is 2.3 times the target spawning stock biomass level. A recent increase

in spawning stock biomass was driven by the 2011 "year class" (fish that spawned in 2011), which was nearly three times the 1989-2015 average.

### Recreational Management

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission cooperatively develop fishery regulations for black sea bass. Annual recreational harvest limits (RHLs) are set based on projections of abundance in future years and are intended to prevent overfishing. Recreational bag limits, fishing seasons, and minimum fish sizes are used to help ensure that recreational harvest does not exceed the RHL each year. Despite best efforts to set appropriate management measures, recreational harvest exceeded the RHL for much of the last decade.

The 2016 stock assessment allowed for a substantial increase in the 2017 and 2018 RHLs, compared to 2016, and brought the RHLs more in line with recent harvest levels. However, the 2018 RHL (3.66 million pounds) is about 15% lower than the 2017 RHL. Biomass projections based

on the best available science indicated that spawning stock biomass would decline from 2017 to 2018 due to the declining influence of the large 2011 year class - over time many of those fish died of natural causes or were harvested by fishermen. Given this projected decline in abundance, catch and harvest limits must also decrease to prevent overfishing.

Managers use the prior year's harvest to determine whether regulations should be changed. Recreational fishermen harvested 4.16 million pounds of black sea bass in 2017 - about 14% above the 2018 RHL of 3.66 million pounds. As a result, any increase in harvest in 2018 compared to 2017 would cause the 2018 RHL to be exceeded and would increase the risk of overfishing. Recreational bag limits, fishing seasons, and minimum fish sizes in state and federal waters were modified to allow coastwide recreational harvest to achieve, but not exceed, the 2018 RHL.

### Next Steps

The Council and Commission are working on several ways to improve fishing opportunities for recreational fishermen while

continuing to ensure that overfishing does not occur.

- Stock Assessment Update: An update to the stock assessment is planned for early 2019. This new information will be used to set catch and landings limits for 2019-2021.

- February Fishery: The Council and Commission provided states the opportunity to open their recreational black sea bass fisheries in February 2018 and will consider for 2019.

- Eliminating the Fall Closure: Starting in 2018, there will be no recreational black sea bass fall closure in federal waters for the first time since 2008.

- Alternative Management Strategies: The Council and Commission are considering the use of conservation equivalency for black sea bass, the potential use of slot limits and recreational transit provisions in Block Island Sound.

- New Analysis Approaches: The Council and Commission's Monitoring and Technical Committees continue to improve the way recreational harvest and fishery performance are analyzed and evaluated when developing management measures.

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SAT 6/23	BLIND WIND
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FRI 8/17	DANNY DOLAN DUO
SAT 8/18	AARON HOWELL
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# FISH STORIES

by Capt. Franky Pettolina



Stop the presses and hold the phone! Not because I am late getting this article in (although I am by several hours). Something much more important happened and I need to share the news with the world! For the first time since Christmas Eve and for the first time in 2018.... I WENT FISHING!!!! Woohoo!!!

This past weekend I scampered to the west and took part in a Chesapeake Bay Trophy Rockfish Season trip aboard the charter boat "Maverick" with Capt. Andrew Aus out of Queen Anne Marina on Kent Island. The "Maverick" is a well outfitted, 46-foot Markley that is perfectly set up for harassing rockfish (and other species) on the Chesapeake Bay. I have known Capt. Andrew for a few years now and I have always been impressed with his laid back demeanor. He is a younger man than I am, but he has been fishing the Bay his whole life and started working as the first mate on the "Maverick" (actually a previous incarnation of the

"Maverick") in 2004. He purchased the boat from his captain in 2012 and has been the owner and operator since then.

During Trophy Season, the mate aboard the "Maverick" is none other than my numero uno amigo, co-captain of the "Last Call", Mr. Chris Evans. For those of you that do not know Mr. Evans, he is pretty laid back too, so it is a very casual atmosphere aboard the "Maverick", and that is just the way I like it. Joining me on this adventure were my favorite ladies, my wife and hardcore fish slayer Jen, the sister I never wanted (and also spousal unit to Mr. Evans) Missy, and the keeper of the peace at "Last Call Charters" and my favorite angler.... my mother Maddie. We also had a special guest mate for the day, Captain Andrew's lady, also named Jen. We had our quota for Jen's aboard the boat that day.

We were fishing the afternoon half-day trip aboard the boat. On their morning trip they had caught a few rock, but had some bad luck with a few getting away



that shouldn't have, and they also missed out on the best part of the morning bite because their anglers showed up a little late. Don't let Andrew's laid back personality fool you, he wants to fill the boat with fish and I could tell that he was a little peeved that his party was late. They did manage a few though, and when Mr.

Evans was done changing out of his stinky, fish-blooded clothes from the morning trip (he had to be spiffy and not as stinky as usual since his bride was on the boat), we tossed the lines and made our way out to the grounds.

Andrew has a large network of friends running charters on the Bay and he got a good tip that there was a

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decent bite further south than where he had fished in the morning, so we made the run further down the road. Once we got down around Bloody Point (my Jen was a fan of that location for some reason), Chris and Andrew set to the task of deploying the spread. The name of the game during Trophy Season is trolling with planer boards. The boards are designed to run a hundred yards, or more, off to each side of the boat on heavy monofilament cords. The baits are run down the cords on release clips with carabiner shackles. Those of us that are used to fishing on the ocean side where trolling quickly spreads of six to ten rods are the norm, find out that the technique on the bay is a little more involved. It is not unusual for boats to troll 15 or more rods at one time! Andrew and Chris put out a spread of twenty three. Yup, that's right. Twenty three rods. We were pulling rubber shads on umbrella rigs, tandem parachute lures with rubber shads and even a trusty old spoon. I figured the fish didn't have a chance!

We were fishing just long enough for me to ask Chris a few stupid questions about waterfowl that are indigenous to the Chesapeake Bay (I believe I was inquiring as to whether cormorants mated for life and also wanting to know why some were flying east and some were flying west) when

we got our first bite. One of the rods on Andrew's side was ripping drag and my wife semi-quickly donned her fighting belt and it was GAME ON! A short while later the oversized landing net was securely wrapped around a 42 1/2-inch rockfish. Jen was quite thrilled to have harvested such a beautiful fish. Andrew reminded us that in trips gone by we had named our catch, so we quickly dubbed Jen's fish with the moniker of "Fingers".

A short while later we had a missed bite, or so we thought. Chris cranked in the lure so he could reset it in the spread only to discover an undersized rock had come quite peaceably to the transom. It was that fish's lucky day and it was set free to grow up and hopefully meet us again in the future. Some time after that we had another solid hook-up and this time Andrew's girl was on the rod. We figured it was fitting for our second fish to go to the other Jen on the boat. When the spray settled we had another 42-incher in the fish box. Following tradition, other Jen named her fish. "Tacos" had joined "Fingers" for the ride back to Kent Island. We only had one more bite and Maddie was hooked up briefly to what, by all indication, was another decent rock. Unfortunately, the rubber shad had fouled around the hook and provided a quick escape route

for what we all planned to be the most majestic rockfish of the day. "Imperial" had gotten away.

It was an awesome day on the water. I enjoyed some cold beverages with good friends. We had tasty snacks and brought even tastier snacks home with us! Fishing wasn't red hot, but it was good enough. And I learned that Chris has no idea about the mating habits of cormorants or their flight patterns.

Good luck to everyone fishing the 9th Annual Marlin Club Memorial Day Tournament. Since I am writing this more than a week

May 23, 2018 Coastal Fisherman Page 41  
away from sign-ups, I can only hope for good weather and great fishing. The tournament benefits the Catherine and Charles Kratz Memorial Park and Scholarship Fund ([www.kratzmemorialfoundation.org](http://www.kratzmemorialfoundation.org)) and signals the start of the 2018 OCMC Tournament Season. You can check out more details at [www.ocmarlinclub.com](http://www.ocmarlinclub.com). I hope to see y'all at the scales!

*Capt Franky Pettolina is Co-Captain of the charter boat, "Last Call", owner of Pettolina Marine Surveying, Inc. and multi-term President of the Ocean City Marlin Club.*

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Although opening day of the black sea bass season was hit-or-miss for boats heading to ocean structure, Capt. Dave Collins on the charter boat, "Capt. Ike II" hit paydirt at the Dry Docks. Capt. Dave's anglers returned with a boat limit totaling 142 lbs. with all the action coming on clams and squid. Pictured are anglers Matt Merrick, J.C. Dennis, Ryan Harris and Buddy Patton. Not pictured are Greg Sizemore and Bruce Vincent. Photo courtesy of Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.



Alex Cortezio shows off a pair of 9 lb. tautog caught on May 13th during a trip aboard the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. Both fish were hooked on green crabs on a shallow, inshore reef.

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Tom DiSalvo and Linda Lewars are all smiles after catching some bluefish off the Cape Henlopen Pier while using bunker for bait. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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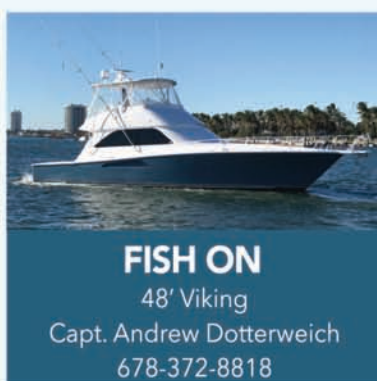
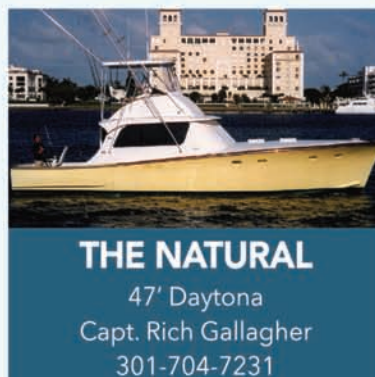


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# DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

by Larry Jock



Every week we hold out hope that this spring will get better and the bad weather is behind us, but so far it hasn't materialized. Last weekend was a 99% washout with the sun not peaking through until mid-day on Sunday. People are going stir crazy!

Last Friday, over 200 anglers did brave the dreary conditions and fish in the Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament. With that many anglers fishing, some flatties were bound to be weighed. Steve Friend took top honors in the tournament with a 3.91 pounder and second place was won by Jeff Semans with a 3.77 lb. flounder. Keith Stevenson rounded out the top three with a 3.03 pounder. The real winner of the tournament was the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network that will receive a donation for over \$4,500.

Tommy at Lewes Harbour Marina reported good size bluefish, in the 30-inch range, being caught by anglers fishing at the Cape Henlopen Pier. They also saw several black drum come in from the

Coral Beds. Jessica Healy caught her very first black drum, a 61 pounder, while fishing with clams last Tuesday.

At Hook'em & Cook'em, Deanna said that the rockfish bite was good over the weekend and into Monday morning. Anglers fishing the south side of the Indian River Inlet during the overnight incoming tide caught several nice linesiders with a 32 pounder coming into the tackle shop on Monday morning. Anglers striper fishing in the Indian River Inlet this spring have had good luck tossing black and purple Daiwa Salt Pro Minnows.

A few nice size stripers were caught by surfcasters soaking bunker in the suds last week including this weeks cover shot of the 39 1/2-incher caught and released by Roger Wilson while surf fishing off Fenwick Island. Remember, we still have the striper regs in effect that only permit fish between 28 and 37-inches and/or 44-inches and above to be kept.

The black sea bass season opened up on the 15th and headboats returned with some nice catches of knotheads from the DelJerseyLand reef and the Dry Docks. A few boats also had good luck while fishing at the San Gil wreck and out at the Jackspot.

Tautog season is closed right now until July 16th.

Not much happened for flounder fishermen in the Indian River Inlet or back bays with dirty water conditions making it tough to get a bite.

The only other notable action near Indian River came from anglers fishing in the surf off Conquest Road where several black drum were hooked on clams.

Capt. Mike Behney at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck said that the black drum bite is improving at the Coral Beds in the Delaware Bay with the better bite coming in from the New Jersey side. There were also some boomers caught by surfcasters fishing at Broadkill Beach with clams last week. Mike's customers

reported that schoolie-size striped bass were in the Indian River Inlet last week and a few bluefish, slightly larger than a snapper, were hooked around the Seaside Pier in Pots Net. Fresh bunker was the bait of choice.

With the minimum size of mako sharks increasing from 54-inches to 83-inches, it is unlikely we will see many, if any, makos hit the scale this season, but the first one was released on May 17th by Zach Rhoad at the Sausages.

Offshore, the ocean was angry on many days, keeping boats at the dock. At least one headboat that I know of headed out on Sunday and decided to turn around. The other problem has been that the bad weather on weekends has prevented folks from being able to work on their boats.

Rumblings over the weekend had reports of some good offshore water down off the Norfolk Canyon and folks were hoping that it was moving north and going to be in good position for boats this coming weekend.

Until next week (when we hope to see a dramatic improvement in the weather and fishing), have fun and tight lines!

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Last Friday, Lewes Harbour Marina held their annual Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament. Even though it was a rainy day, over 200 anglers competed in the 1-day event, raising over \$4,500 for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. Steve Friend (left) took top honors in the tournament with a 3.91 pounder and Jeff Semans won 2nd place with a 3.77 lb. flattie.

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In the Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament last Friday, Keith Stevenson caught this 3.03 lb. flounder while drifting in the Lewes Canal to win 3rd place in the tournament.



Chris Smith hooked this 2.81 lb. flounder to win 4th place in the Joe Morris Memorial Flounder tournament.

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 <b>CROAKER</b> 8" minimum No daily limit	 <b>RED DRUM</b> 20" - 27" 5 per person/day	 <b>SHEEPSHEAD</b> No limits in State Waters	 <b>SPECKLED TROUT</b> 12" minimum No daily limit
 <b>STRIPED BASS</b> 28" - 37" and 44" and greater 2 per person/day <small>catch &amp; release only on spawning grounds</small>	 <b>SUMMER FLOUNDER</b> 16.5" minimum 4 per person/day	 <b>TAUTOG</b> Closed 5/12-7/16	 <b>WEAKFISH</b> 13" minimum 1 per person/day





Despite rainy weather, over 200 anglers competed in the Joe Morris Memorial Flounder Tournament. Jess Steel took 5th place with a 2.66 lb. flounder while Jackson Ostroski won 6th place with a 2.4 pounder and Matt Mitchell finished in 7th place with a 2.27 lb. flattie.

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Chris Beachy and Ivan Miller were part of a 5-person group that returned to Bahia Marina on opening day of sea bass season with 105 in the box of the "All In". The fish were caught on squid at the "San Gil" and the Marine Electric wrecks. Capt. Scott Stapleford was at the wheel and mate Jimmy Bunting was in the pit.

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## Electric Fishing Reels

The current selection of electric fishing reels would certainly amaze the inventors from over 100 years ago when the first electric fishing reel was patented in 1913. Today's electric fishing reels are used for deep dropping, downriggers, teasers, dredge fishing and more.

The first known electric fishing reel seems to be the 1913 McCluer & Munn (Patent #1,062,488). With a few other patents issued along the way, it wasn't until a 1949 patent for the Coit Electric Reel that introduced anglers to the first successful, mass-produced electric fishing reel.

Just like today, fishing was a popular activity around the world, even for the Italian automotive legend Ettore Bugatti, whose 1940 US patent for an electric powered, big game fishing reel demonstrated that anglers were looking for the accessories to help them catch more fish.

In his patent application, Bugatti noted that "the

catching of a relatively big fish lasts for several hours, and despite all that has been done up to the present time, this work soon becomes exhausting to the fisherman and it lasts certainly much longer than it would be necessary if the fish, after having been hooked, were played, or tired out in a systematic manner". So true 78 years later.

### Different reels for different fishing.

Maybe you are buying your first electric reel or you are adding a purpose built electric reel to your collection, there are a lot of choices in today's marketplace.

While the large and expensive reels seem to gather the most attention, a thorough review will help you select the best reel for the job and your budget.

When it comes to sportfishing, the largest and most powerful electric reels are most often used for dredge fishing. This is not the commercial practice where a dredge cage is dragged across the sea floor. A sportfish dredge entails the use of

large, hookless "teasers" often made from fresh mullet, ballyhoo or artificial lures towed behind the boat to attract gamefish. Often more than one of these dredges are connected together, resulting in 36 or more baits on the end of the dredge line. Towing this at 6 knots through the water and you have a tremendous load on your gear.

When the dredge does its job and raises a gamefish, it is time to quickly retrieve the dredge to get it out of the way of the hooked fish (and boat). Without an electric reel to retrieve this dredge, it becomes an extremely difficult, if not impossible task.



One of the most popular electric reels used for dredge fishing is the tournament proven Lindgren Pitman (LP) S-1200 and also the newest models the SV-2400 and SV-1200 both variable speed. These reels are strong and powerful and include one of the most useful features, an adjustable electronic stop. The

captain/mate predetermines where the dredge should stop when retrieved to fight a fish and the digital counter on the reel is set to zero for that stopping point. After deployment, a quick simultaneous press of two buttons will automatically retrieve the dredge to the exact pre-determined "stop at zero" point, allowing the mate to perform other tasks while the dredge(s) are automatically retrieved. The power, speed and durability of these reels are unmatched in the industry. These LP reels also have the ability to quickly swap spools, making them easily adaptable for other types of fishing. The same qualities that make them a number one choice for dredge fishing also keep them at the top of the list for deep dropping.

What makes a good electric reel for deep dropping? Power! Depending on where you fish, a strong current could require 10 to 15 lbs. of weight. Just bringing this up without a fish can be a time consuming and tiring task, therefore a powerful and fast electric reel is a necessity. The reel also needs to be compatible with the appropriate fishing rod and have the capacity for the fishing line in use, often 1,000 or more yards of line and up to 200 lb. test mono or braided



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line. Lastly, the reel needs to have a good drag system that won't overheat or fail when the big one is on the line. The LP and Kristal brands of electric reels are the most popular for deep dropping.

The bridge teaser reels, once a resting place for old fishing reels, is now home to high-tech electric reels. This is where reel manufactures like Miya Epoch have done an outstanding job of designing a powerful, compact and reliable reel that can easily be fitted overhead in most boats to deploy and retrieve teasers with accuracy and reliability. Oftentimes, the Captain at the helm is the sole person on-board responsible for the teasers and he/she needs to be able to easily and quickly operate the reel and at the same time drive the boat and watch the hooked fish. The Japanese built, Miya Epoch reels are not an overnight sensation. They displayed their first electric reel in USA at a 1969 fishing gear show. In

1994 Miya Epoch established their USA branch - Technotren Inc. With over a dozen different reels and special US versions it can be confusing on what to buy, though it seems that you can't go wrong with the popular US-9 series.

There are many other types of fishing that can benefit from the use of electric reels, like bottom fishing, balloon, kite and jigging. While some types of reels can be used for multiple applications, some are best suited for one particular type of activity. Many electric reels incorporate a manual crank handle that can be used for back-up if there is an electrical problem or when manual control is desired.

The most important part of operating an electric reel is getting the proper type and amount of electricity to the reel. As an example, LP provides a detailed electrical drawing showing the exact materials needed to properly

install the wiring. Obtaining electrical specifications from other manufactures is not as easy, though you do need to be sure your boat is wired properly to handle the electrical load to ensure the proper performance and prevent damage to the reel components. Most reels are available in 12 or 24 volt. It is best to select the reel voltage that matches the boats voltage. If you have an outboard powered boat running on 12 volts, using 24 volts reels are a possibility, but may be more complex and expensive than planned.

On a large sportfish boat where most components

May 23, 2018 Coastal Fisherman Page 53  
operate on 24 volts, using 12 volt reels may require another set of batteries, transformer or other devices to get the correct power to the reels.

Once a luxury, electric reels are now found on most sportfish boats and have been proven to help assist with catching fish and winning tournaments. Be sure to research your choices and select the best reel for the task.

*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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Please join us for the 2nd Annual Hunter's Ride! Hunter was 19 years old when he passed away in his sleep of a cardiac arrhythmia on March 24, 2016. He is greatly missed by all that knew him and this ride gives us a chance to celebrate his life. Proceeds will go to help various local charities.



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While surfcasting off the Virginia side of Assateague Island, Matt Ferenschak caught and released this 37-inch striped bass while using fresh bunker for bait.



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## 2018 Schedule

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Top Gun Water Sports The Windrow Group - R. Erik Windrow  
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**9th Annual Memorial Day Tournament\***  
To benefit the Catherine & Charles Kratz Memorial Foundation & Scholarship Fund  
Registration: May 25, 6:30 PM  
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 26 & 27  
Awards Banquet: May 27, 6:30 PM

**39th Annual Small Boat Tournament\***  
Registration: June 15, 6:30 PM  
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 16 & 17  
Awards Banquet: June 17, 6:30 PM

**36th Annual Canyon Kickoff\***  
FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS  
Registration: June 28, 6:30 PM  
Fishing Days: (2 of 3) June 29 & 30 July 1  
Awards Banquet: July 1, 6:30 PM

**14th Annual Kid's Classic\***  
To benefit Wish-A-Fish Foundation  
Registration: July 20, 6:30 PM  
Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 21 & 22  
Sunday Carnival & Awards: July 22, 5:00 PM

**10th Annual OCMC Ladies' Tournament "Heels & Reels"\***  
To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund  
Registration: August 2, 6:00 PM  
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 3 & 4  
Awards Banquet: August 4, 6:30 PM

**60th Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament\***  
FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS  
Registration: August 30, 6:30 PM  
Fishing Days: (2 of 3) August 31 September 1 & 2  
"with overnight option Friday/Saturday or Saturday/Sunday"  
Awards Banquet: September 2, 6:30 PM

**3rd Annual OCMC vs. OCLTC Shoot-Out**  
Angler Meeting: September 6, 7:00 PM  
Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 7, 8 & 9  
Awards Banquet: September 9, 6:30 PM

**40th Annual Scott Smith & Charles Kratz Challenge Cup**  
Registration: September 12, 7:00 PM  
Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 13, 14 & 15  
Italian Night: September 14, 6:30 pm  
Awards Banquet: September 15, 6:30 pm

**6th Annual OCMC Rockfish Tournament\***  
To benefit the Jimmy Fund  
Registration: December 7, 6:00 PM  
Fishing Days: (5 of 9) December 8-16  
Awards Banquet: December 16, 5:00 PM

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**NASSAWANGO RD.** - 123.51 Tract in Snow Hill Md. Prime agricultural land with 67+/- of clear crop land and 56 acres of mature woodland. Quality hunting for deer and duck. Adjoining 20 acre tract with homesite and dock permitted on Pocomoke River for sale. \$550k MLS# 516532



**STAGG RD.** - 97.78 Acre premium hunting tract located of Stagg Rd. in Snow Hill, Md. Property has been managed for quality deer hunting for 17 years. The property has multiple road access, Food plots, fresh water ponds and diverse habitat for both whitetail and turkey. Close to public boat ramp that has untouched back water bays for both crabbing and fishing. \$289k MLS# 509405



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While fishing on the charter boat, "Reef Chief" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mate Rich Fouts, angler Dan McCready caught and released this 13 lb. 12 oz. tautog after hooking it on a white crab at an ocean wreck. It was a heckuva trip, with Dan catching another tog that tipped the scale at 13 lbs. 8 oz. and Chris Vann boating one that weighed 17 lb. 8 oz.

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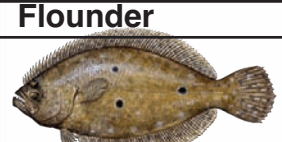













# 2018 Heaviest Fish of the Year

## COASTAL FISHERMAN

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



Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
<b>Bluefish</b> 	May 9, 2018 John Unkart Assateague Island 12 lbs.	No Weights Reported	<b>Mako Shark</b> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
<b>Black Drum</b> 	No Weights Reported	<b>NEW</b> May 15, 2018 Jessica Healy Coral Beds 61 lbs.	<b>Thresher Shark</b> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
<b>Cobia</b> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	<b>Bigeye Tuna</b> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
<b>Flounder</b> 	April 22, 2018 Allyson Airey Flats 7 lbs. 8 oz.	May 11, 2018 Sheila Stohler Delaware Bay 9 lbs. 13 oz.	<b>Bluefin Tuna</b> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
<b>Sea Bass</b> 	<b>NEW</b> May 19, 2018 Mark Curry "Morning Star" 4 lbs.	<b>NEW</b> May 15, 2018 Charlotte Hughes "Katydid" 3 lbs. 10 oz.	<b>Longfin Tuna</b> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
<b>Sheepshead</b> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	<b>Yellowfin Tuna</b> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
<b>Striped Bass</b> 	May 12, 2018 John Dilworth Assateague Island 21 lbs. 12 oz.	<b>NEW</b> May 16, 2018 Roger Wilson Fenwick Surf 23 lbs. 8 oz.	<b>Dolphin</b> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
<b>Tautog</b> 	April 18, 2018 Ron McClelland "Fish Bound" 23 lbs. 9 oz.	April 16, 2018 Paul Daisey Ocean Wreck 12 lbs.	<b>Wahoo</b> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
<b>Weakfish</b> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	<b>White Marlin</b> 	<b>Most Releases in 1 Day (trolling only)</b>	
				No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported

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





Matt, Michaela and Colton Nein from Lancaster, PA were fishing in the suds at Conquest Road when they hooked into a couple of black drum that weighed 9 lbs. 3 oz. and 15 lbs. Both were fooled with chunks of clam. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em.

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Andrew Rose and Harry Taylor were trolling parachute rigs in Tangier Sound when they captured this pair of striped bass that measured 42 and 43-inches.



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**FS:** 26 | **HFS:** 30, 32, 34, 38 & 43  
**EXPRESS:** 41  
**SPORT BRIDGE:** 41

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62, 66, 68, 72, 80 & 92 | **OPEN:** 44, 48 & 52  
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### 2018 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

**22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mako Mania**  
June 1-3

**25<sup>th</sup> Annual Capt. Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open**  
Aug 16-18

**13<sup>th</sup> Annual Flounder Pounder**  
Sept 9

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 <p><b>REEL GI</b></p> <p>35' Ocean Capt. Kevin Twilley 443-359-9537</p>	 <p><b>BARBED WIRE</b></p> <p>31' Mako Capt. Dean Metcalfe 717-404-3331</p>	 <p><b>OUTLAW X</b></p> <p>31' Rampage Capt. Mike Hutchins 443-871-7354</p>	 <p><b>ON THE RUN</b></p> <p>28' Parker Capt. Dave Caffrey 410-251-9645</p>
 <p><b>SALTWATER ADVENTURES</b></p> <p>25' Custom Capt. Tony Battista 443-235-9696</p>	 <p><b>BAYSIDE GUIDE SERVICE</b></p> <p>21' Carolina Skiff Capt. Wayne Blanks 443-944-5484</p>	 <p><i>Deep Sea Fishing</i> <b>JUDITH M</b> SEA BASS • TOG • LING • TROUT • CROAKERS 1/2 DAY FISHING TRIP 8:00AM - 12:30PM 1:30PM - 6:00PM Evening Cruise 7:30 - 9:00pm</p>	
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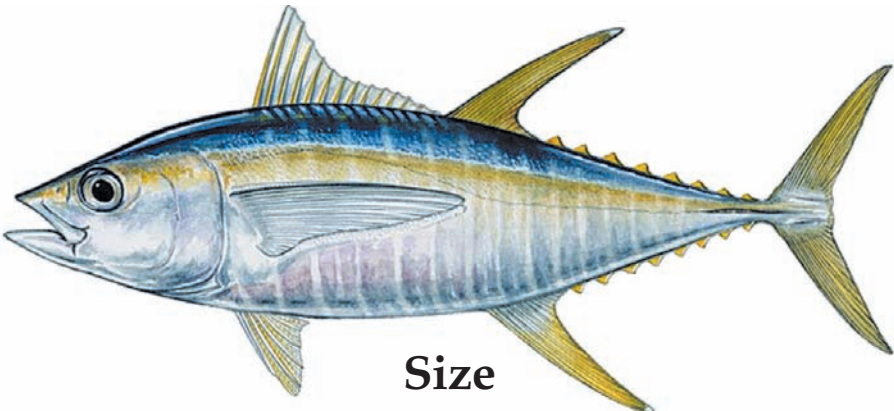
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# Yellowfin Tuna vs Bluefin Tuna



Size

Commonly 1.5-feet to 5.5-feet, up to 6.3-feet and can weigh greater than 350 lbs.

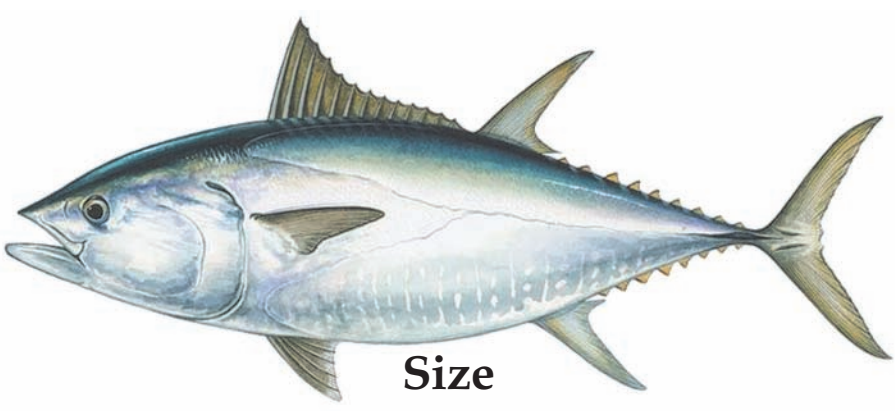
## Distinguishing Characteristics

- Second dorsal and anal fins are bright yellow, very elongated and get longer with age
- Pectoral fins are usually reaching beyond origin of second dorsal fin but not beyond base
- Finlets are lemon yellow with very narrow black margins
- Color dark blue above; silvery-gray lower sides and belly. Often have 20+ chains of white streaks and spots. Yellow-gold horizontal band on upper sides that fade after death
- Body more slender than bluefin or bigeye tuna

## Similar Species

**Bluefin tuna** - has shorter pectoral fins ending well before the origin of second dorsal fins.

**Bigeye tuna** - has large eyes and pectoral fins that reach origin of second dorsal fins.



Size

Commonly 1.5-feet to 6.5-feet, but can be over 10-feet and greater than 1,000 lbs.

## Distinguishing Characteristics

- Short pectoral fins, ending well before origin of second dorsal fin
- Finlets yellow with narrow black margin
- Second dorsal fin height greater than first dorsal fin height with reddish -brown color
- Anal fin dusky with some yellow
- Color dark blue to black with green iridescence above, silvery white lower sides and belly with gray spots and bands (sometimes resembling tree bark)
- Body stocky and robust
- Caudal keel black in adults, semi-transparent in juveniles

## Similar Species

**Yellowfin tuna** - have pectoral fins usually reaching to or beyond origin of second dorsal fins but not beyond base.

**Bigeye tuna** - have broad black margins on finlets and large eyes.

MARYLAND & DELAWARE CITATION SIZES			
Atlantic Coast			
	MD	DE	
Atlantic Spadefish	24"		
Black Drum	48"		
Bluefish	34"		
Blue Marlin **	Any Size		
Cobia	44"		
Croaker	18"		
Dolphin	45"		
Flounder	24"		
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"		
King Mackerel	40"		
Red Drum *	36"		
Sailfish *	Any Size		
Sea Bass	20"		
Sheepshead	20"		
Spanish Mackerel	22"		
Speckled Trout	24"		
Striped Bass	40"		
Tautog	24"		
Shark:			
Blue Shark *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	
Hammerhead *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	
Mako *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	
Thresher *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	
Tiger *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	
Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size	
Tilefish - Blueline		10 lbs. or 28"	
Tilefish - Golden		35 lbs. or 40"	
Tuna:			
Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lbs. or 32"	
False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"	
Bigeye ***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"	
Bluefin ***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"	
Yellowfin ***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"	
Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"	
Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"	
White Marlin **	Any Size	Any Size	

\* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program

\*\*\* Use curved-fork-length measurements

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



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## Number of overfished stocks in the U.S. reaches all time low according to NOAA Status of Stocks

The number of domestic fish stocks listed as overfished has reached an all-time low, with three species of West Coast rockfish rebuilt to sustainable levels, according to the 2017 Status of U.S. Fisheries report to Congress.

The Status of Stocks report provides an annual update on the status of U.S. marine fisheries.

The number of stocks on the overfishing list also remained near all-time lows, an encouraging indicator that the U.S. fishery management system is

achieving its long-term sustainability goals.

"Ending overfishing and rebuilding stocks provides two key benefits for the American people," said Chris Oliver, assistant administrator for NOAA Fisheries. "First, it strengthens the value of U.S. fisheries' contribution to the economy, which in 2015 exceeded \$208 billion dollars. Second, it supports the communities and marine ecosystems that depend on healthy fisheries."

Three West Coast stocks were rebuilt to target levels in 2017, bringing the total number of rebuilt U.S. marine fish stocks to 44 since 2000:

Bocaccio

Darkblotched rockfish

Pacific ocean perch

The overfishing list at the end of 2017 included 30 stocks, and the overfished list included 35 stocks.

### Overfished and Overfishing Stock Status 2017 by U.S. Region

■ 35 On Overfished List ■ 30 On Overfishing List

#### North Pacific

■ Blue king crab – Pribilof Islands

■ Coho salmon – Puget Sound

■ Skagway

■ Pacific halibut – Pacific

■ Sablefish – Eastern Pacific

■ Western Pacific

■ Striped mullet – Western

■ Central Pacific

■ Seamount groundfish

■ Complex – Hancock Seamount

■ Bigeye tuna – Western

■ Central Pacific

■ Gulf of Mexico

■ Greater amberjack

■ Gray triggerfish

■ Caribbean

■ Golden grouper

■ Nassau grouper

■ Queen conch

■ Sargassum and flatfishes

■ Complex – Puerto Rico

■ Caribbean spiny lobster

■ Puerto Rico

■ New England

■ Atlantic cod – Georges Bank

■ Atlantic cod – Gulf of Maine

■ Westslope darter – Gulf of Maine

■ Georges Bank

■ Witch flounder

■ Yellowtail flounder – Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine

■ Yellowtail flounder – Georges Bank

■ Yellowtail flounder – Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic

■ Thorny skate – Gulf of Maine

■ Atlantic halibut

■ Atlantic salmon

■ Atlantic wolffish

■ Ocean quail

■ Winter flounder – Southern New England

■ Red hake – Southern Georges Bank/Mid-Atlantic

■ Highly Migratory Species

■ Brachycephalus – Atlantic

■ Blue marlin – Atlantic

■ Dusky shark – Atlantic

■ White marlin – Atlantic

■ Scalloped hammerhead – Atlantic

■ Portage shark – Atlantic

■ Sandbar shark – Atlantic

■ Bigeye tuna – Atlantic

■ Shortfin mako – North Atlantic

■ Mid-Atlantic

■ Summer flounder

■ South Atlantic

■ Hogfish – Southeast Florida

■ Red snapper – South Atlantic

■ Bluefish – South Atlantic

■ Spotted seatrout

■ Weakfish

■ Red drum

■ Striped bass

■ Tautog – South Atlantic

■ Red grouper – South Atlantic

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Overall, 91 percent of U.S. marine fish stocks are not subject to overfishing and 87 percent are not overfished. A stock is on the overfishing list when the harvest rate – a direct result of fishing activities – is too high. A stock is on the overfished list when the population size of a stock is too low, whether because of fishing or other causes, such as environmental changes.

Six stocks were removed from the overfishing list:

Sailfish – Western Atlantic

Blue king crab – Pribilof Islands

Puerto Rico Wrasses Complex

Coho salmon – Puget Sound: Hood Canal


Winter flounder – Georges Bank

Witch flounder – Northwestern Atlantic Coast


(due to significant scientific uncertainty, the status of this stock cannot be determined following a 2017 assessment)

# Federal Size & Creel Limits


## 3-200 Miles




**BLUE MARLIN**  
99" Lower Jaw Fork Length  
No creel limit




**DOLPHIN**  
No minimum length  
10 per person/day




**YELLOWFIN TUNA**  
27" Curved Fork Length  
3 per person/day




**WHITE MARLIN**  
66" Lower Jaw Fork Length  
No creel limit




**WAHOO**  
No minimum length  
2 per person/day



**BLUEFIN TUNA**  
(Recreational)  
2 per vessel/day/trip  
27" to less than 47" CFL  
1 per vessel/day/trip  
47" to less than 73"  
  
(Charter Boat)  
3 per vessel/day/trip  
27" to less than 47" CFL  
1 per vessel/day/trip  
47" to less than 73"  
  
Southern Trophy Fishery closed



**SWORDFISH**  
47" Lower Jaw Fork Length  
1 per person / 4 per private vessel  
1 per person / 6 per charter vessel



**BIGEYE TUNA**  
27" Curved Fork Length  
No creel limit

### SHARKS

#### AUTHORIZED SPECIES

No Minimum Fork Length  
Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead,

-----

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

-----

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.

-----

83" Minimum Fork Length  
Shortfin mako

-----

#### Prohibited Sharks

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



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Six stocks came off the overfished list:

Yelloweye rockfish — Pacific Coast

Winter flounder — Georges Bank

Gray triggerfish — Gulf of Mexico

Red snapper — Gulf of Mexico

Pacific ocean perch — Pacific Coast

Bluefin tuna — Western Atlantic (due to significant scientific uncertainty, the status of this stock cannot be determined following a 2017 assessment)

“Rebuilding stocks to fully utilize our fisheries is one way NOAA can reduce our nation’s seafood deficit,” said Oliver. “We look forward to exploring innovative approaches to fisheries management and working with our partners to ensure America’s fisheries remain the world’s most sustainable.”



We have seen some good size tautog this year, including this 14 pounder that was caught and released by angler, Karl Mair of North Jersey. Karl was fishing on the charter boat, “Fish Bound” with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley when he hooked the big blackfish on a green crab in 60-feet of water. The “Fish Bound” is docked at the Talbot Street Pier.



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During the winter run, Mike Treier was fishing with Gordy Kautz off the coast of Delaware when he captured his first ever striper, a 46-incher, after hooking it on a trolled Stretch 25.



Local angler, Mike Lloyd took a trip to St. Augustine, FL to do some backcountry fishing and ended up catching a bunch of redfish, in the 25-inch range, while using shrimp for bait.

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# VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

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

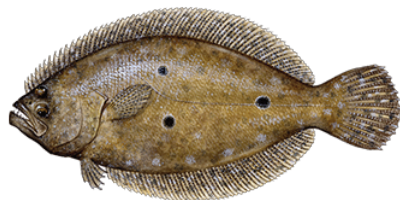


Summer is here, and the fishing season is in full swing!



One of our most anticipated and controversial species will enter the Chesapeake Bay this month. Cobia infiltrate into the bay early in the month and the action should continue to increase throughout June. The regulations on this popular gamefish have become very restrictive, so make sure you read them carefully. Cobia season begins on June 1st in local waters. This season, you can keep up to three fish per vessel at a minimum of 40-inches long, and one fish can measure over 50-inches. Gaffing is now permitted to

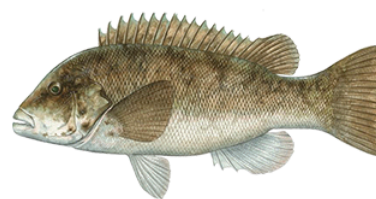
boat the fish. You must still obtain a free permit and report all catch results, which has not changed from last year.



Flounder action will become solid this month within lower bay waters. The Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel area is a hot spot for the bigger flat fish, with the 1st and 4th Islands often producing well for drifters. Boats working the structure and pilings with jigs and live bait will also experience good numbers of nice keepers. Many of these fish will top out at around 5 and 6-

pounds, but trophies are a possibility.

Anglers fishing in the inlets will also find some good luck this time of year, and the seaside inlets of the Eastern Shore along with Back River Reef are always good mainstays. You can keep up to four fish per person, at a minimum of 16.5-inches this year.



Tautog is off limits in June, but sea bass are still available on offshore and inshore structures this month. You can keep up to 15 fish measuring at least 12.5-inches. Always review the regulations before targeting

[www.coastalfisherman.net](http://www.coastalfisherman.net)  
sea bass, since they are subject to change.

Around mid-June, Spanish mackerel will peak in activity. Look for the best action along the Virginia Beach oceanfront, with quickly trolled small spoons on planers and in-line sinkers being the best technique. Their larger cousin, king mackerel, will also make a showing this month in the same vicinity. Trolling with spoons and ballyhoo, or slow-trolling with live bait works well for these toothy predators, especially along tide rips and water color changes. Plenty of sharks and bluefish will also cooperate in these same areas.



Although red drum are mostly old news by now, big reds will continue to hit along Fisherman's Island and along the Nautilus and the Nine

## Virginia Regulations Coastal State Waters Only



**BLACK SEA BASS**  
12.5" minimum  
15 per person/day  
05/15 - 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 boat/day  
6/1 - 9/30



**CROAKER**  
No limits



**RED DRUM**  
18" - 26"  
3 per person/day



**SHEEPSHEAD**  
No minimum size limit  
4 per person



**SPECKLED TROUT**  
14" minimum  
5 per person/day (only 1 > 24")



**STRIPED BASS**  
28" minimum  
1 per person/day



**TAUTOG**  
Closed 5/16-6/30



**SUMMER FLOUNDER**  
16.5" minimum  
4 per person/day

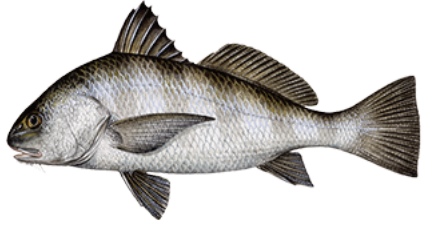


**WEAKFISH**  
12" minimum  
1 per person/day



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Foot Shoal areas for anglers who are bottom fishing. Many red drum catches will now become incidental by-catches for boats targeting cobia.



Black drum patterns have become less predictable in recent years, but these large fish can still be caught. These fish will likely migrate to other parts of the bay this month, such as around the four artificial islands of the Bridge Tunnel.



Spadefish will become more active in June. One of

the most popular hot spots for these hard fighters is still the Chesapeake Light Tower. Inshore and nearshore wrecks are also productive, along with the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. This bite will continue throughout the summer.



Sheepshead action is on the upswing this month, with fish over 10-pounds routinely coming from the pilings of the Bay Bridge tunnel. Grey triggerfish are also active in these same areas, with some fish pushing to about 3-pounds.

Croaker will continue to lurk around the James River Bridge, the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel, The Monitor-Merrimac Bridge Tunnel and off Ocean View, as well near the islands of the Chesapeake

Bay Bridge Tunnel. Croaker will also bite within the local inlets, along with spot, puppy drum and possibly some speckled trout. Some decent sea mullet will also take offerings, especially for local pier anglers targeting croaker and spot with bloodworms.

Amberjack activity will increase around the Southern Towers and on several offshore wrecks this month, which offer a challenging battle for anglers. Deep droppers can still catch a good variety of bottom fish in over 300-feet of water in the Norfolk Canyon including tilefish, black-bellied rosefish, seabass and grouper. Make

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sure you check out these regulations and obtain the proper permits.

The offshore scene will continue to build this month, with mostly yellowfin tuna and mahi as the target species. The occasional billfish could also make a showing, with blue marlin usually leading. Billfish action will evolve later in the summer.

*Dr. Julie Ball is the I.G.F.A. Representative for Virginia Beach, VA. For more information go to drball.com*



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Minit Market - 33rd St.  
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Dough Roller - 69th St.  
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All Tackle Ocean City - Rt. 50  
Starbucks - Rt. 50  
Ocean City Fishing Center  
Ocean City Marlin Club  
Harborside Bar & Grill  
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Larry's Trading Post - Rt. 611  
Optical Galleria - Rt. 611  
Southside Deli - Rt. 611  
Marlin Market - Rt. 611

### ANNAPOLIS, MD

All Tackle - Somerville Road

### BERLIN & PITTSVILLE

Walmart - Rt. 50 (both entrances)  
Berlin Post Office  
Buck's Place - Rt. 611  
Frontier Town - Check-In  
Frontier Town - Country Store  
Assateague Market - Rt. 611  
7-Eleven - Rt. 589  
Crabs To Go - Rt. 50  
Pittsville Ford

### FENWICK/SELBYVILLE

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

### BETHANY, OCEAN VIEW & MILLVILLE

Hook 'em & Cook 'em Outfitters - Rt.1  
G&E Supermarket  
G&E Hardware - Cedar Neck Rd.  
Hocker's Deli - Rt. 26  
Hocker's Supermarket - Rt. 26  
Bethany Auto & Marine - Rt. 26

### INDIAN RIVER

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

### DEWEY, REHOBOTH & LEWES

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

### LONG NECK

Short's Marine  
Rick's Bait & Tackle  
Yellowfin's Bar & Grill

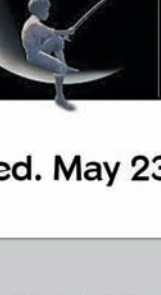




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# Tides & Moon Phases

## OCEAN CITY INLET

Wed. May 23	Low 09:45 am Low 10:03 pm	High 03:49 am High 04:24 pm
Thurs. May 24	Low 10:40 am Low 11:08 pm	High 04:51 am High 05:25 pm
Fri. May 25	Low 11:32 am Low -----	High 05:43 am High 06:18 pm
Sat. May 26	Low 12:08 am Low 12:20 pm	High 06:30 am High 07:06 pm
Sun. May 27	Low 01:01 am Low 01:04 pm	High 07:12 am High 07:49 pm
Mon. May 28	Low 01:49 am Low 01:44 pm	High 07:50 am High 08:28 pm
Tues. May 29 <b>FULL MOON</b>	Low 02:33 am Low 02:22 pm	High 08:28 am High 09:04 pm
Wed. May 30	Low 03:15 am Low 02:58 pm	High 09:06 am High 09:40 pm

Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge.

Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high tide

Delaware Bay Entrance - subtract 1 hour 25 minutes to high tide  
- subtract 45 minutes to low tide

Wachapreague, VA - add 4 minutes for high tide  
- 21 minutes for low tide

Quinby Inlet, VA - subtract 6 minutes for high tide

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

# Upcoming Tournaments

## .... MAY ....

**9th Annual Marlin Club Memorial Day Tournament**  
 May 26-27 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

## .... JUNE ....

**22nd Annual Mako Mania**  
 June 1-3 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

**38th Annual South Jersey Shark Tournament**  
 June 6-9 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

**60th Annual Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament**  
 Ladies Tournament - June 8 • Tournament - June 11-16  
 Moorehead City, NC • 252-247-3575

**39th Annual Marlin Club Small Boat Tournament**  
 June 16-17 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

**Canyon Club Overnight Tuna Tournament**  
 June 20-24 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

**10th Annual Pier Point Marina Flounder Tournament**  
 June 22-28 • Dewey Beach, DE • 302-227-2808

**4th Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament**  
 June 22-24 • Indian River Marina • 302-227-3071

**36th Annual Marlin Club Canyon Kick-Off**  
 June 29-July 1 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

## .... JULY ....

**South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown**  
 July 11-14 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

**Ocean City Tuna Tournament**  
 July 13-15 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

**14th Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic**  
 July 21-22 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

**4th Annual Big Fish Classic**  
 July 27-29 • Talbot Street Pier • 410-213-0325





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**Jimmy Fields**  
561-801-5720



**Steve Trattner**  
410-251-1817



**Jeff James**  
252-216-6913



**Charley Pereira**  
252-216-6291



**David Fields**  
561-779-0759



**Ronnie Fields**  
561-762-0096



**Joel McLeod**  
772-834-8549



**Rick Carney**  
443-235-3134



**Brian Speedy**  
561-685-2055



**Steve Hedrick**  
772-586-9841



**Dave Shockley**  
561-262-6726



**John Blumenthal**  
772-215-2571



**REEL RODEO** - 2008 70' Jarrett Bay Custom Sportfish - Call Jimmy Fields



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



**TRANQUILO** - 2011 57' Spencer Custom Carolina - Call Jimmy Fields



**COOKIE MONSTER** - 2007 74' Viking Call Rick Carney



**MAVERICK** - 1995 57' Ricky Scarborough Call Joel McLeod



**RUM RUNNER** - 2008 68' Viking Convertible - Call Jimmy Fields



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



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



**ODINSPEAR** - 2005 57' Dean Johnson Call Jeff James



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



**NATURAL** - 1978 52' Monterey Call Jimmy Fields



**DOUBLE EAGLE** - 2002 52' Viking Call John Blumenthal



**1988 58' Monterey** Call Jimmy Fields



**UP TIME** - 2005 38' Tiara Call Jimmy Fields



**KILLER WHALER** - 2008 34' Boston Whaler - Call Steve Trattner



**TAKIN A BREAK** - 1997 45' Ocean SS Call Steve Trattner



**GRANDE PEZ** - 1997 53' Ocean Call Rick Carney



**OLIVIA ROSE** - 2003 34' Composite Yacht Custom Sportfish - Call Jimmy Fields



**REEL NAUGHTY** - 1997 40' Ocean Call Steve Trattner



**CONSTANT THREAT** - 2001 Luhrs 400 Express - Call Jeff James



**IRISH WAKE III** - 2003 33' Wellcraft Coastal - Call Steve Trattner



**MATADOR** - 1974 41' Viking Call Steve Trattner



**OPPORTUNATY** - 2000 28' Albemarle Express - Call Steve Trattner

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