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# COASTAL FISHERMAN

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The weather was tough and the fishing even tougher during the 10th Annual Big Fish Classic. 68 of the 69 boats that entered the tournament chose the extended and last 32 hour window of Sunday to Monday at 3PM. While most returned to the scales with a single or a couple of fish, it was the "Port-a-Bella" out of Lewes, DE that brought 5 fish to be weighed, including a hefty bigeye. Anglers Richard Bellot, Herby Guest, Jeff Guest Jr., Dr. Phil Eckman, Joe Ruger and Mark Williams with Capt. Kevin Coolahan had a plan. Despite the weather they beat north to the Baltimore Canyon. After landing 4 yellowfin tuna, including a hefty 64 pounder, and with lots of other yellows around the boat, they stuck to the plan and headed to the Wilmington Canyon. At sunset they got a hard hit on the bridge line. The good news was that it was a bigeye, the bad news was it was on a 20 year old rod with 60# test and not much of it! Joe Ruger strapped in and fought for 2 hours to get the 228.5 eyeball to the boat, even after the reel's handle fall off several times. Once on the board, it remained unchallenged and took the title of Heaviest Fish as well as taking the prize money from the Billfish Purses since none were weighed. Also, when combined with their yellowfins, they had a stringer of 437 lbs. that placed in several tournament purses for a total payout of \$224,205! Pictured at Talbot Street Pier.





The "Gypsy Danger" out of the Ocean City Fishing Center had a good day on the rip. Capt. Lolo Gensler with anglers Brian, James & Robert Smack along with Alex Kasathsko and Ben Harding spent the day trolling in the Poor Man's Canyon. They all took turns on the reel to get this 68" and 200 lb. bigeye to the boat that hit on a skirted ballyhoo.



Ocean View, DE anglers Matthew Tribbit, Joey Pruitt, Nick Mudry, and Capt. Mathew Mudry had a good day drifting over an ocean wreck on the "Silent Partner". Matthew Tribbitt (pictured) caught this 25½" and 6¼ lb. flounder using artificial bait.





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The bigeye have been snapping and Capt. Jim Bunting with anglers Tom Henry, Trey Matthews and Tom Healy got in on the bite. They were trolling at the 000's on the "Elizabeth Ann" when they hooked this 224 lb. eyeball. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.



As they say at Lewes Harbour Marina, take a kid fishing! That is what the Allen family did when dad Dave Allen took brothers Cobie and Nash from Berlin, MD out for their first trip targeting spanish mackerel. They obviously had a great day catching 20 macks while trolling spoons at the Isle of Wight shoals.

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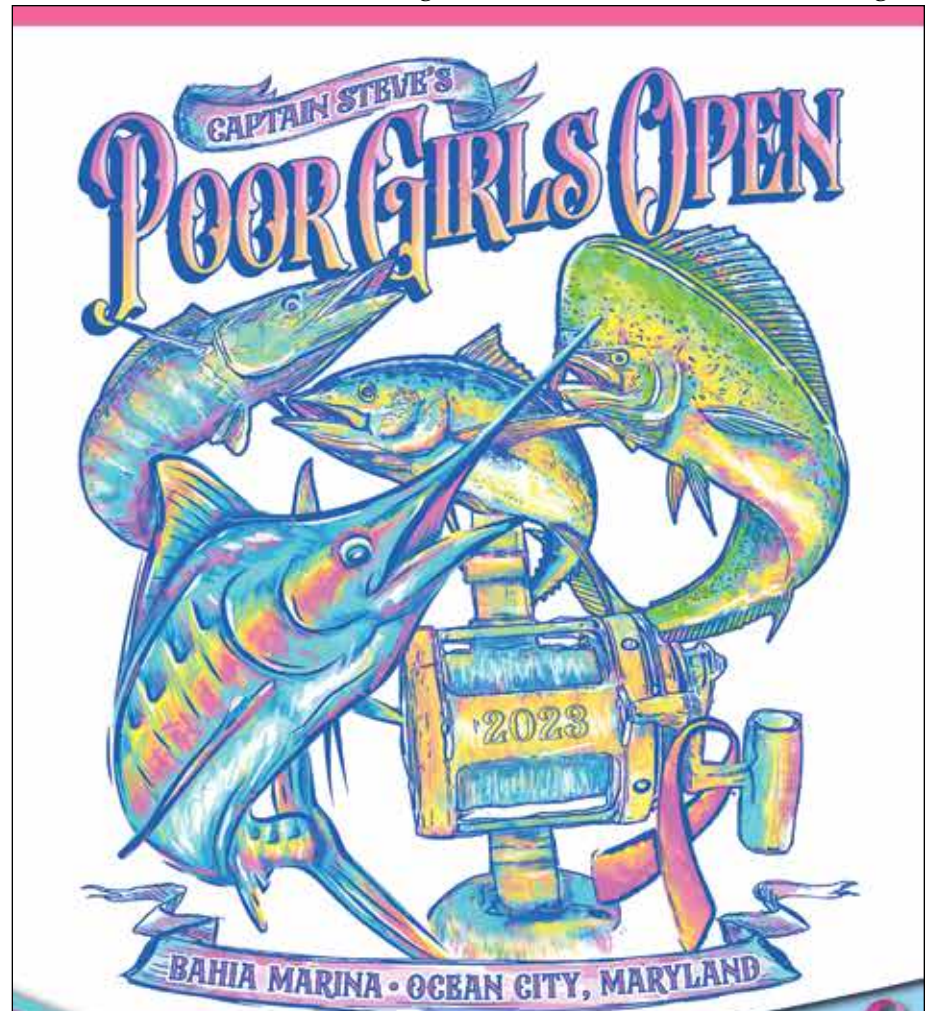
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Capt. Dave Caffrey of the charter boat "On the Run" set a personal best with this 28" and 8 lb. 4 oz. flounder! He was running a charter to an Ocean City Reef Foundation site when he caught this fattie using Gulp. Pictured at Bahia Marina.



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Last week offshore started with some tough winds and waves that certainly tested the metal of more than one crew. It was so bad that the Huk Big Fish Classic was extended by a day. Good thing it was as 68 of the 69 boats registered fished during that extended 32 hour window of July 30-31. Fortunately, the weather did settle earlier last week allowing boats to get out and scout for the several upcoming tournaments, including of course, the White Marlin Open. Tuna fishing remains hard even with the improved weather, however big allison yellowfin and bigeyes were in the mix and we even saw our first longfin of the season. The billfish bite has been improving and was strong during last weekend's Heels & Reels and Marlins for Mason tournaments. It is as if the marlin know the WMO is coming!

You also might notice something unusual about this issue, there are two covers! Since the Big Fish pushed a day, we could not get it included in our edition last week so we included them in this one as well as the winners from the 'Heels & Reels'. Let us know what you think on social media!

Monday of last week was the final day of the 10th Annual Huk Big Fish Classic. As mentioned, the event was extended and most took advantage of the extra window. Given 68 boats headed out, I was convinced we would be slammed at the scales based on my experience with this great event. However, the fish did not cooperate. Normally we would see some big blue marlins or hefty whites or swordfish on the scales, but this year's event was mainly about tuna. 25 boats came to the scales on that last

day, most with yellowfins in the 45-55 pound range. As it turned out, the big fish for this year was the big eye tuna. A total of 4 were weighed, but it was the 228.5 lb. one caught on the "Port-A-Bella" that ruled the day. The crew had a strategy for the tournament that they had put together earlier in the week. While the weather had most boats heading south, Capt. Kevin Coolahan kept to the plan, and they beat their way north starting in the Baltimore Canyon. They got 4 yellowfin tuna in the box and despite seeing lots more, they again stuck to the plan and beat further north to the Wilmington Canyon. This is where they hooked up with the bigeye at sunset. The hookup itself is a story, as the big fish hit on the bridge line which was a rod with a 20+ year old International II reel that had been grabbed last minute. It was also spooled with 60# test and not much of it! Still, angler Joe Ruger hopped on as the fish fought hard for the next 2 hours, despite almost being spooled and the reel's handle falling off several times! It was the Big Fish for the tournament, and when combined with the 4 yellowfins, created a 437 lb. stringer. The "Port-A-Bella" achieved a tournament first, winning both the Big Fish and Heavy Stringer Categories! The "Real One" took 2nd Place for Big Fish with a 171 lb. eyeball that 16 year old Peter Beall caught in the Washington Canyon. 3rd Place in that category went to the "Black Irish" for a 130 lb. swordfish they caught overnight while trolling

www.coastalfisherman.net in 1800 ft. in the Washington Canyon. The fish was on top when hooked and only took 30 minutes to get to the boat, very cooperative. In addition to 3rd Place overall, the "Black Irish" also took 1st Place in both the Small Boat Heavy and Stringer purses.

A big allison tuna dominated the Yellowfin Category. The "No Slack" only had one bite for their 32 hours on the rip. It was first thing Sunday morning in the Washington Canyon when they hooked up with a 99 lb. allison yellowfin on a dink rod taking just over 2 hours to land. The "All In" tried to challenge it with a big yellow from the Wilmington, but once on the scales it weighed 84.5 lbs. taking 2nd Place.

One of the more amusing and profitable stories from this year's Big Fish came from the "Take Em'. They were trolling outside of the Poor Man's in about 900 fathoms where they hooked into both a white and blue marlin, but they got off. The one bite they had that got tight was a peanut mahi! They didn't even bring the boat to the scales, and after much debate in their slip, a couple of them decided to drive the fish to the scales. The tournament minimum for mahi is 15 lbs. This little guy weighed in at 15.5 lbs. and as the only qualifying dolphin during the event earned over \$40,000! Always weigh your fish! Check out our full coverage and results starting on page 74.

The majority of reports we got last week before the weekend were from the Big Fish, however a few trickled in as most boats were prepping for the WMO. The "Boss Hogg" started the week with a bang, landing a 65 lb. mahi and two longfin tunas.

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 The "Spring Mix II" found a 191 lb. bigeye, a yellowfin and a bunch of mahi in the Washington Canyon. The "Gypsy Danger" shared the 200 lb. bigeye they caught in the Poor Man's on a skirted ballyhoo last Wednesday. Capt. Kurt Howell on the "Game Changer" brought in a 215 lb. swordfish from the Baltimore. Interestingly, the bigeye catches, while measured in the single digits for the week, were spread out from the Wilmington to south of the Poor Man's. While more quantity of yellowfins were reported, they too spanned the same range.

The weekend saw two tournaments on Friday and Saturday. The 15th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club's Ladies Tournament, 'Heels & Reels' and the new 'Marlins for Mason' Billfish Release Tournament to benefit Dravit Syndrome research were held concurrently at Atlantic Tackle in West OC. With 63 boats in 'Heels and Reels' and 68 in Marlins for Mason there was hope for action at the scales.

Day 1 at the scales for 'Heels & Reels' was miserable. While the weather during the day in the canyons was nice, as the boat were returning they had to navigate heavy rain inshore and at the scales. It was so wet that Renee from the Marlin Club could not use the tournament board to list the boat and catch as the writing just washed away! After 10 boats reported, Day 1 finished with the "Roll Groove" leading the Release Division with 3 whites and a blue. The top tuna for the day was from "Loose Knot" at 48 lbs. With the majority of boats headed out the next day, most of this leaderboard would not stand. The exception was Brianna Lynch, who took top honors in the Junior Angler Division for a white marlin she released on the "Kilo Charlie" just after 8AM.

Saturday saw sunshine and it was the "Cabana", fresh off of their Big Fish Classic win, that was first to the scales. Like they did at the Big Fish, they put up big numbers, reporting going 6 for 6 on white marlin in the middle of the Baltimore Canyon and taking first place in Billfish Release for the tournament. They

were followed by the "Lights Out" who trolled offshore of the Baltimore and hooked 3 whites and a blue!

The Meatfish Divisions were tight given the tough tuna bite. No bigeyes were caught and only two boats brought in more than 1 yellowfin to make a stringer. The "Chain Reaction" offered the first stringer with 3 tuna from the Hole in the Washington totaling 154 lbs., with the heaviest at 54.5 lbs. That earned the crew the 2nd Place Stringer title as well as 3rd Place for Heaviest Tuna. A little while later the "Slaughterhouse" returned from the Wilmington Canyon with 3 yellowfin as well. Their stringer total was 156 lbs. with the heaviest at 55.5 lbs. earning them the top spot for both Heaviest Stringer and Tuna! We have to give a shout out to the "Hall Pass" whose 55 lb. yellowfin from the Poor Man's threaded the needle between the two and took 2nd Place for Heaviest Tuna!

Only 3 mahi met the tournament minimum of 10 lbs. The "Buckshot" Team II found 2 in the Baltimore Canyon. Their 29.5 lb. and 12 lb. fish locked them into both 1st and 3rd Place. The "Talkin' Trash" slipped into 2nd place with a 14 pounder they caught on Friday outside of the Baltimore in 1000 fathoms.

Check out our full coverage and results starting on page 68.

In a good sign for the upcoming White Marlin Open, the Marlins for Mason tournament saw over 25 whites released and several blues. While we don't know how big they were, the sheer volume is encouraging. As I review the reports for billfish, a clear pattern emerged for last week. The Baltimore Canyon was the place to be, mostly outside in 700 to 1200 fathoms. The Poor Man's was a close second, also mainly outside. As I write this on Monday, 378 of 400 boats headed out for their chance at fame and fortune in the 50th White Marlin Open with a tournament and world record payout of \$10.M dollars! I suspect many are headed to deep water outside of the Baltimore!

Well, that sums up a busy week, with another just ahead. §



One of the biggest swordfish we have seen lately was from the "Game Changer" out of the Ocean City Fishing Center. Capt. Kurt Howell and mates Ricky Adkins & Molly Helms caught this 78" & 215 lb. sword on a custom JPR Sword-Fishing Rod in the Baltimore Canyon.

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Ryan Schlesner from Denton, MD headed to the Rockpile with Capt. Rudi Schlesner, his father Tim and cousin/mate Will on the "Kelly Jean". He used squid to hook this Maryland Citation sized 34" & 18 lb. blueline tilefish.



Mike Snook, Rick Snook, Butch Filbert, Mike Egge, John Mitchell and Dale Reynolds from Tuckahoe Campgrounds joined up to land 5 yellowfins and release 1 white marlin while trolling in Poor Man's Canyon on the charter boat "Capt Ike II" with Capt Dave Collins and mate Alex Neiss.

# 2023 FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

## 3-200 Miles

 <b>BLUE MARLIN</b> 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit	 <b>YELLOWFIN TUNA</b> 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day	 <b>BIGEYE TUNA</b> 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit	 <b>GOLDEN TILEFISH</b> No minimum • 8 per person/day
 <b>WHITE MARLIN</b> 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit  NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit	 <b>BLUEFIN TUNA</b> 27" to <47" curved fork length 2 per vessel/day or trip 47" to < 73" curved fork length 1 per vessel/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 3 per Charter/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 6 per Headboat/day or trip 47" to < 73" curved fork length 2 per Headboat/day or trip	 <b>SWORDFISH</b> 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter) 1 per person / 15 per Headboat	 <b>BLUELINE TILEFISH</b> 5/1 - 10/31 3 per person (Recreational) 5 per person Uninspected (Charter) 7 per person Inspected (Charter)
 <b>DOLPHIN</b> No minimum Length Boat Limit 54 Charter Limit Daily 10 per angler	<b>SAILFISH</b> Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit	 <b>WAHOO</b> No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day	

<h3>SHARKS</h3> <h3>AUTHORIZED SPECIES</h3>	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	NOTE: Only 1 shark from the lists above may be retained per vessel per trip. In addition, 1 Atlantic Sharpnose, 1 Bonnethead and 1 Oceanic Whitetip may be retained per person per trip. If a hammerhead shark is retained, no tunas, billfish or swordfish may be retained.	<h3>PROHIBITED SHARKS</h3> Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, <b>Shortfin Mako</b> , Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White
	Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov		



# FACTS ABOUT ... WHITE MARLIN



## Key Distinguishing Markings:

- The white marlin's upper jaw is twice as long as its lower jaw.
- The upper jaw forms a bill, which is long and slender in comparison to many other billfishes.
- The body is dark blue above and silvery white below, with brown spots on the sides of the white portion.
- In some specimens, many rows of blurred white lines may run the length of the body.
- The first dorsal fin, which runs almost the length of the body, is dark blue with many black spots, although these may fade towards the back of the fin.
- The second dorsal and pelvic fins are dark blue.
- First anal, first dorsal, and pectoral fins are blunt or rounded at tips.
- The pectoral fins and caudal fin are blackish brown; the long pectoral fins may be tipped in white.
- The body has a dense covering of bony scales.
- The lateral line is distinct, and with the exception of a single curve over the origin of the dorsal fin, runs straight along the body.

## Size:

- The white marlin is smaller than many other billfish.
- The maximum length for the white marlin is 110 in and maximum weight is approximately 180 lbs.
- More commonly, white marlin range from 51-83 inches in length.

## Habitat:

- Its distribution varies seasonally, reaching higher latitudes in both the northern and southern hemispheres only during the respective warm seasons.
- White marlin are considered oceanodromous, that is a migratory fish that migrates within the seas only.

## Spawning:

- Once a year, white marlin migrate into subtropical waters to spawn, with peak spawning occurring in early summer in deep oceanic waters.
- The spawning areas are found in deep and blue oceanic waters, generally at high temperatures ranging from 68° to 84°F.
- In the western North Atlantic, spawning grounds have been identified northeast of Little Bahama Bank, northwest of Grand Bahama Island, and southwest of Bermuda.

## Fishing Tips:

- The white marlin is a popular game fish, which can be caught trolling at or close to the surface.
- The largest fishery for this species occurs in the summer, between Cape Cod, Massachusetts and Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.
- Baits including ballyhoo, mullet, mackerel, herring and squid as well as lures, such as green machines, can be successful in getting a white marlin to bite.
- When fishing for white marlin, it is advisable to wear protection on your hands when handling your catch since they are capable of inflicting serious wounds due to the roughness of the bill.
- A furious battler when hooked, white marlin engage in tail-walking and fantastic leaps into the air.
- The Highly Migratory Species Division (HMS) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) manages Atlantic highly migratory species including Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish, billfish (blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish and longbill spearfish) and Atlantic swordfish to ensure long-term, sustainable fisheries for these species. Owners of vessels used to fish recreationally (i.e., no sale of fish) for Atlantic HMS (billfish, swordfish, sharks and tunas) are required to obtain an HMS Angling category permit from NMFS.

## Fun Facts:

- While swimming, they commonly display a technique known as "tailing," in which only the dorsal lobe of the caudal fin is visible above the surface of the water.
- White marlin are generally not considered a schooling fish and most often appear solitarily or in pairs.
- Small schools of 5 to 12 fish are occasionally seen feeding on schools of bait, or tailing; however, loose aggregations of numerous fish scattered over fairly large areas are most typical.
- The Maryland state record for white marlin is 135 lbs, taken in Poor Man's Canyon in August 1980.
- The I.G.F.A. World Record was set by Steve Bass in 1980 when he captured a 99 pounder.
- White marlin live to be 25-30 years of age.
- Tagged white marlin have been recaptured after being at liberty for almost 12 years.

Source:  
maryland.gov



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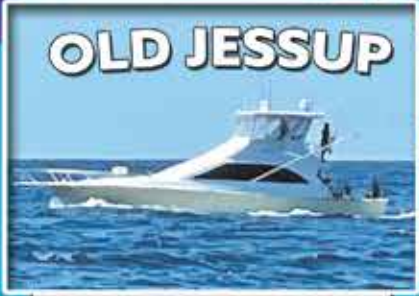
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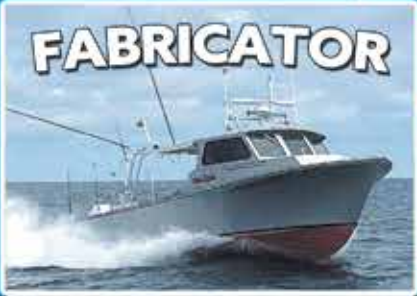
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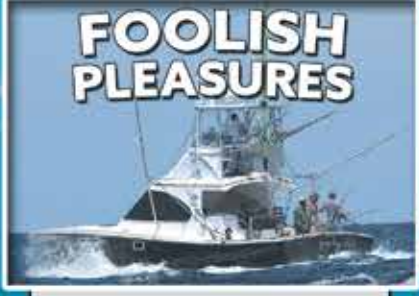
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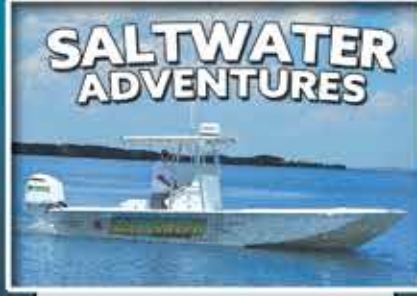
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# OCEAN CITY

## FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This past week in Ocean City, we enjoyed calmer seas and, despite a few storms, very comfortable fishing weather. The hot bite continued to be flounder, with many wrecks and reefs holding numerous fish eager to be caught on anything the angler throws. Spanish mackerel were spotted along the near shore humps as well as the Fenwick Shoals. Additionally, a few cobia were being caught on the near shore lumps as well as just outside the inlet.

### Near Shore Reefs & Snags

The near shore reefs are alive with triggerfish, flounder, and even a few small croaker. Squid and Gulp are accounting for most of the catches, with fresh clam coming in as a close second. Capt. Dave Allen had the pleasure of taking his family out for the first time trolling along the Isle of Wight Shoal for spanish mackerel with his sons Cobie and Josh. They both caught their first macks using small spoons. What a great way to introduce the young ones to fishing when you can incorporate trolling along with bottom fishing. Great job, dad! Aiden

Webster, along with Garrett Elder from Monkton, MD and Richard Hoenes from OC, went to the second lumps to troll and returned with 6 ribbon fish along with 4 spanish mackerel. The fish were caught on small spoons trolled in 54 feet of water that was 72 degrees. Sav Mo was out at Great Gull and used an inline 4 ounce weighted Clark Spoon to hook several spanish before the cutlass fish tore them up and halted the bite. The "Wolf Pack" said they had the best luck for macks trolling silver spoons on a #2 planer at 5.5 miles per hour. David Ditch also had good luck with the Clark Spoons about 3 miles outside of the Inlet. Kevin McNelis went out for a quick trip and returned with a few fluke up to 4.5 pounds. Later in the week he had family in from Louisiana, and despite the tough conditions, managed some big keepers and roughly 30 throwbacks. Kevin fished with Cole Ranun and Brian Ranum. The "Angler" Deep Sea Fishing Vessel out of the Talbot Street Pier boat was out all last week, and although the sea bass were

picky at times, the quality of the ones they caught were very good. The crew also put their anglers on some very nice-sized flounder. "Morning Star Fishing" caught a few nice flounder along with a few sea bass this past week on their trips. The "Ocean Princess" had their biggest doormat of the season this past week that measured 23 inches. They also caught triggerfish and even a few spadefish. Lamont Hilbert was on his boat, the "Seabum," and fished squid at Russell Reef. Lamont brought home a 19.5", 20", and 22" fluke along with a triggerfish. Young Cameron Ball of Salisbury MD caught his first keeper flounder while fishing a Trigger Rig out at the African Queen Site. "Topsy Tiki" Captain Jeremy Michalski and Big Cam also fished on this trip and brought home another 6 fluke, with the largest being 21 inches. The group used bluefish strips as well as Gulp. Congrats to little Cam on his first keeper.

### Back Bays & Inlet

Thirteen-year-old Aiden Webster from Baldwin, MD was fishing squid near the OC Airport on a fast drift and landed 2 fluke measuring 15" and 16 inches. Aiden also caught his first weakfish. Joe "The Fish Slayer" Koziol of OC used Gulp near the Coast Guard Station and hooked a 16<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" fluke while fishing aboard the "Hookin School" with Capt. Allen Timmons. Jeff Fox also had his share of good luck while fishing behind the OC Airport

www.coastalfisherman.net and landed a 17" and a 19.5" fish using 4" white Gulp Swimming Mullets. The "Miss OC" boat had several good trips last week, bringing home nice doormat flounder for their clients. The "Bay Bee" was out on the back bays and reported it was family week. They had several larger groups of families with both adults and children reporting a great time catching fish and having fun. For those visiting OC that have younger kids, these bay boats are a great way to entertain the kids and give a unique view of Ocean City from the back bays. The trips are shorter than most headboat trips and often allow anglers to see both dolphins as well as the wild horses of Assateague Island. The waters are pretty calm, and the captains and mates are well-versed in helping the anglers catch fish and have an enjoyable trip.

"Get Sum Charters" was out in the back bays catching their share of fish as well as showing many families how to clam and crab the back bay waters. They brought home some big crabs and a basket of clams for their clients to enjoy. "Ocean City Guide Service" had several successful days out on the water and even landed a huge southern ray this past week. Rays, even the smaller ones, will put up a hell of a fight on any tackle and are a blast to bring to the boat. The wide wings give it the pulling power of a fish three times its size.

The Ocean Pines Flounder Tournament was held on Saturday with 237 anglers hitting the bays of OC in search of the biggest fish and the \$1,000.00 prize. The top 3 fish were only separated by 3/4 of a pound, but it was Ty Hubicki who ruled the day

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www.coastalfisherman.net with a 24.25 inch flounder weighing 5.31 pounds. Ty is the grandson of Ron Fischer who started the tournament 16 years ago making the win even more special. The winning fish was caught just outside of the inlet in 37 feet of water. 2nd and 3rd place were a father and son duo. In second place was Kevin McNelis Jr. with a 24" fish weighing 5.04 pounds, and in third place was his father, Kevin McNelis Sr., with a 24" flounder weighing 4.58 pounds. They were fishing at Kelly's Reef using Gulp. The crew was fishing with Kevin Jr's fiancee, Dani, who got bumped from the leaderboard. The junior angler winner was Chase Neumayer with a 21<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> " fish weighing 3.96 pounds. Chase is 11 years old and was fishing live spot at the Coast Guard station in 30 feet of water with his dad. Congrats to all the winners and contestants. On a side note, all the winners today, including the junior angler, have been mentioned multiple times this year in the inshore reports. These guys always seem to know where the fish are located.

### Surf Fishing

Assateague Island has had its ups and downs this week, with several anglers getting skunked while fishing the beach. A few big red drum have been reported along with the normal summer sharks, rays, and skates. Kingfish and spot are in the surf for anglers who want to have fun catching multiple fish. Rich Jones got a nice-sized triggerfish from Assateague Island on Thursday, while Lee Ireland reported a few bluefish making their way up from the deep to bite the hook.

Until next week...  
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Sunshine, boating and fishing are a great combination. Jenny Mahaffey of Ocean View, DE got all three on this trip fishing with Capt. Gus. The fishing part was a 22" flounder caught using chartreuse Gulp south of the Old Grounds.



There have been some big yellowfins hitting the docks lately. This 132 lb. Allison caught by the "Fish Whistle" in the Norfolk Canyon is the Heaviest Yellowfin to date for a Delaware based boat and will be hard to beat! Congrats to the crew of Capt. Charlie Horning, John Horning, Matt Mundorf and Trent McMahon. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em.



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Capt. Alex Beane with mate Jack Hannum have been prepping for the upcoming White Marlin Open. Late last week they got these anglers onto 4 white marlin releases from a for now secret location!



Capt. DJ Churchill and this crew on the charter boat "Double Trouble" based at the Talbot Street Pier experienced the tough tuna bite during the 10th Annual Huk Big Fish Classic. They did not however come to the scales empty handed putting 2 nice golden tilefish on the scales at 33 and 41 lbs. as well as boating a few blueline tiles that were below the tournament minimum.

# 2023 DELAWARE REGULATIONS

## STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p><b>BLACK SEA BASS</b> 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - December 11</p>	 <p><b>BLUEFISH</b> No minimum size 3 per day / 5 per day Charter</p>	 <p><b>BLACK DRUM</b> 16" minimum 3 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>COBIA</b> 37" Minimum • 1 per person or vessel</p>
 <p><b>CROAKER</b> 8" Minimum • No Limit</p>	 <p><b>RED DRUM</b> 20-27" minimum 5 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>SHEEPSHEAD</b> No limit</p>	 <p><b>SPECKLED TROUT</b> 12" minimum No creel limit</p>
<p><b>NEW!</b></p>  <p><b>STRIPED BASS</b> 28-31" except 20-25" only from 7/1 - 8/31 in DE Bay 1 per person/day Catch &amp; Release only from 4/1 - 5/31 on Spawning Grounds</p>	 <p><b>SUMMER FLOUNDER</b> 16" minimum 4 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>TAUTOG</b> 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31</p>	 <p><b>WEAKFISH</b> 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

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# HEAVIEST

## Fish of the Year

2023



(AS REPORTED TO THE COASTAL FISHERMAN - TIES GO TO FIRST FISH REPORTED. HOOK & LINE ONLY)

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
<b>Bluefish</b> 	May 19 Rich Daiker OC Jetty 14.5 lbs.	June 8 Dexter Long Indian River Inlet 12 lbs.	<b>Thresher Shark</b> 		
<b>Black Drum</b> 	April 4 Tom Berry Assateague 19 lbs.	May 19 Eric Feinauer Delaware Bay 53 lbs.	<b>Bigeye Tuna</b> 	July 10 Crew "Ro Sham Bo" Washington Canyon 246.4 lbs.	July 1 Crew "Reel Passion" Washington Canyon 234 lbs.
<b>Cobia</b> 	July 8 Nick Smallwood Little Gull 39 lbs.		<b>Bluefin Tuna</b> 	May 29 Crew "Marli" Baltimore Canyon 216 lbs.	July 31 Eric Widland 19 Fathom Lump 89 lbs.
<b>Summer Flounder</b> 	June 21 Haleigh Davis Ocean Structure 7 lbs.	June 26 Mike Lewis Old Grounds 9.6 lbs.	<b>Longfin Tuna</b> 		
<b>Sea Bass</b> 	May 20 Wayne Small Ocean Structure 5 lbs.	May 22 Richard Krauss Ocean Structure 4.3 lbs.	<b>Yellowfin Tuna</b> 	July 23 Elmer Bass Poorman's Canyon 156 lbs.	July 30 Crew "Fish Whistle" Norfolk Canyon 132 lbs.
<b>Sheepshead</b> 	June 24 Rob English Ocean City Jetty 14 lbs.	June 5 Paul Mathews Outer Wall 13.78 lbs.	<b>Dolphin</b> 	August 1 Jack Hannum Poorman's Canyon 65 lbs.	
<b>Striped Bass</b> 	June 1 Buddy Martin Rt. 50 Bridge 12 lbs.	May 22 Chic Stearrett Bethany Beach 18.7 lbs.	<b>Swordfish</b> 	June 16 Crew "Wrecker" Poor Man's Canyon 100 lbs.	
<b>Tautog</b> 		May 6 James Milano Ocean Structure 22.9 lbs.	<b>Blue Marlin</b> 		
<b>Wahoo</b> 			<b>White Marlin</b> 		

To report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200 or email to [coastalfisherman@comcast.net](mailto:coastalfisherman@comcast.net)





Capt. Jon Azato on the charter boat "No Limit" out of the Indian River Marina braved the weather during this year's Big Fish Classic with anglers Josh Sanders, Kenrick Marsh, Pete Calhoun, Mike Svitek and Eric Widland. Their time in the waves at the 19 Fathom Lump paid off with a big bluefin tuna that Erik caught. At 89 lbs. it is the Heaviest Bluefin caught this year by a Delaware based boat!

### ESTIMATED MARLIN WEIGHT CHART

#### White Marlin

LENGTH	GIRTH	POUNDS
60	24	43.20
60	26	50.70
60	28	58.80
60	28.25	59.90
61	24	43.90
61	26	51.50
61	27	55.60
61	28	59.80
61	29	64.10
61	29.25	65.20
62	24	44.60
62	26	52.40
62	27	56.50
62	28	60.80
62	29	65.20
62	30.25	70.90
63	24	45.40
63	26	53.20
63	27	57.40
63	28	61.70
63	28.75	65.10
63	30	70.90
64	24	46.10
64	26	54.10
64	27	58.30
64	28	62.70
64	28.5	65.00
64	29.75	70.80
65	24	46.80
65	26	54.90
65	27.25	60.30
65	28	63.70
65	28.37	65.40
65	29	68.30
65	29.37	70.10
66	24	47.50
66	25	51.60
66	26	55.80
66	28.25	65.80
66	29.25	70.60
66	30.25	75.50
66	31	79.30
67	24	48.20
67	24.5	50.30
67	25	52.30
67	27	61.10
67	28	65.70
67	30	75.40
67	31	80.50
68	22	41.10
68	23	45.00
68	25.5	55.30
68	26.75	60.80
68	27.75	65.50
68	28.75	70.30
68	30	76.50
68	32	87.00
69	22	41.70
69	24.25	50.70
69	25.25	55.00
69	26.5	60.60
69	27.5	65.20
69	28.5	70.10
69	29.5	75.10
69	30	77.60
69	32	88.30
70	22	42.40
70	24	50.40
70	26.25	60.30
70	27.25	65.00
70	28	68.60
70	29	73.60
70	30	78.80
70	32	89.60
70	22	43.00
71	23	46.90
71	24	51.10
71	25	55.50
71	26	60.00
71	27	64.70
71	28	69.60
71	29	74.60
71	30	79.90
71	32	90.90

#### Blue Marlin

LENGTH	GIRTH	POUNDS
78	36	126.40
78	38	140.80
78	40	156.00
79	36	127.98
79	38	142.60
79	40	158.00
79	42	174.00
80	38	144.40
80	40	160.00
80	42	176.40
80	44	193.60
81	40	162.00
81	41	170.20
81	42	178.61
81	43	187.21
82	40	164.00
82	42	180.81
82	44	198.44
82	46	216.89
84	40	168.00
84	48	241.90
84	50	262.50
84	60	378.00
86	40	172.00
86	46	227.47
86	48	247.68
86	50	268.75
88	48	253.44
88	50	275.00
88	52	297.44
88	54	320.76
90	48	259.20
90	54	328.10
90	60	405.00
90	66	490.10
96	48	276.50
96	54	349.90
96	60	432.00
96	66	522.70
98	48	282.24
98	50	306.25
98	52	331.24
98	54	357.21
98	58	412.09
102	48	293.80
102	54	371.80
102	60	459.00
102	66	555.40
102	70	624.75
104	48	299.52
104	54	379.08
104	60	463.00
104	66	566.28
104	70	637.00
108	50	337.50
108	54	393.70
108	60	486.00
108	66	588.10
108	70	661.50
114	50	356.30
114	54	415.50
114	60	513.00
114	66	620.70
114	70	698.30
120	50	375.00
120	54	437.40
120	60	540.00
120	66	653.40
120	70	735.00
126	50	393.80
126	54	459.30
126	60	567.00
126	66	686.10
126	70	771.80
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132	65	697.13
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144	65	760.50

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Chris Mizurak on the headboat "Angler" reports the weather has improved, however the warmer weather is making the sea bass more picky. While less are caught, he shared the quality seems better like this big knobhead. Keeper flounder are also in the mix as well as triggers.



Anglers JD Eddy and Jacob Eddy from Ellicott City MD took the charter boat "Green Reaper" out 20 miles to some bass pot buoys and slammed the mahi catching 20 with two at 8 lbs.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Brian Porter & Alex Beane with mate Jack Hannum on the charter boat "Boss Hogg" have been on a tear this summer. They put another notch in their proverbial fish belt last week with this stunning 65 lb. dolphin that Jack caught in the Poor Man's Canyon. That easily sets the record for Heaviest Dolphin so far this year, besting the last one by over 30 lbs.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Dylan Patrick had an awesome day on the headboat "Judy V". He caught this 6.2 lb. flounder that had a scar showing he survived getting gaffed in the past! He even still had a strip of squid bait in his stomach.



Capt. Monty Hawkins on the "Morning Star" hoped he could run an inshore mahi trip last week, however the water was still way too green so he switched it up to a summer sea bass & flounder trip. The sea bass bite was light, however some nice keeper came over the rail like this one for Ashley.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Nick Clemente on the "Get Sum" certainly know the hot spots and holes in the Ocean City Bays for flounder. He worked his magic for Jim Moser, Steve Tunney, Bob Moser, Mark Camillo, Rich Kaeser and Tom Jaschik getting them on 9 keeper flounder from around Harbor Island using his signature white Gulp Swimming Mulletts.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Summer heat and storms can sometimes offer smaller crowds on the headboat "Thelma Dale IV" offering more room for anglers. Capt. Brin Parsons reported an awesome day until the tide changed, but it did not matter as they caught a monster 26" and 9 lb. flounder.



Another big yellowfin tuna hits the deck, this time on the charter boat "Fish On"! Capt. Andrew Dotterweich had the boat trolling in the southern part of the Poor Man's Canyon when angler Rick Toyer connected with this beautiful 92 lb. allison tuna. He is pictured with mate Jake Emche and both seem to be having a good time!

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# FISHING CHARTERS



It may have been gray back at the dock, but it was awesome in the Washington Canyon for Capt. Chris Watkowski and this make up crew on the charter boat "Spring Mix II". They caught a 191.6 lb. bigeye as well as a 40 lb. yellowfin and too many mahi to fit in the picture!



The Bahia Marina based headboat "Judith M" shared that their early August trips have been up to par with a variety of flounder, sea bass, triggerfish, spadefish and some eels! Calmer weather has certainly helped the anglers comfort!

**Spring Mix II**  
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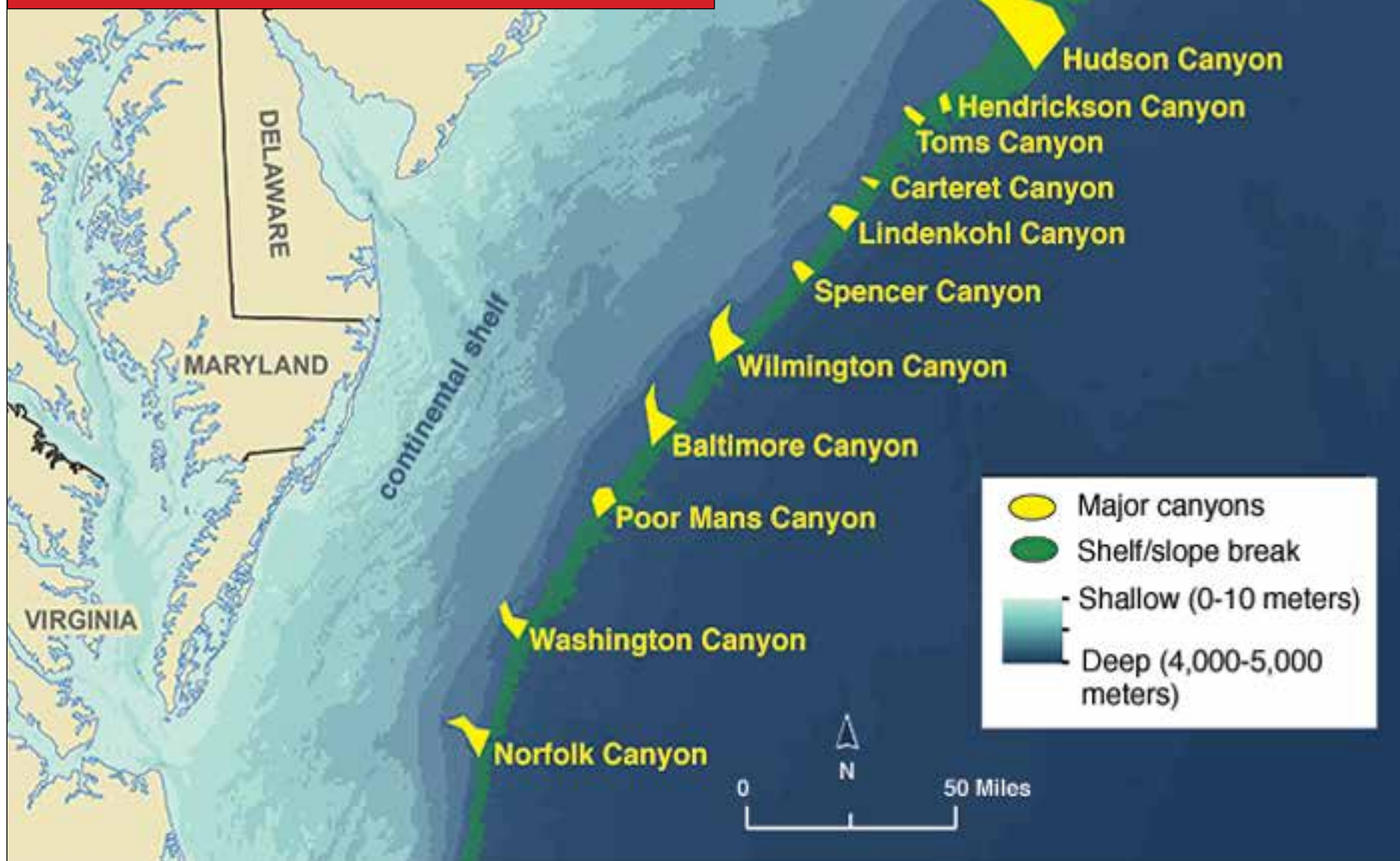


The marinas are full as we swing into August with the White Marlin Open and the MidAtlantic! BayVista Painting's Scott Peters did some scouting and practice fishing with the A Team on the "Lights Out" with Capt. Chester Sims with this crew releasing 5 white marlin in a for now secret location!



Peggy Krug popped into our offices to share this flounder she caught near the OC Convention Center in a strong south wind and rain! She was fishing with Capt. Ed Krug and Amy Marts.

# GUIDE TO THE CANYONS





**Good Luck to  
All Participants  
in the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual  
WHITE  
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We at the Coastal Fisherman like colorful flounder and the US Flag! Thanks to anglers Mike & Joe Chernouskas of Pittston, PA and Drew Franko from Falls, PA with Capt. Jason Mumford we get both! They were fishing on the charter boat "Lucky Break" in the East Channel using live minnows to land these 5 keeper flounder. The largest at 22".



While waiting at the scales during the Big Fish Classic, we saw Capt. Stu Windsor on the "Skeets" pull into his slip at the Talbot Street Pier and throw something different on the dock. Ray Kutz had caught a houndfish at the Windsor Bump by hooking it in the eye! These are not unusual, but certainly not common for our area and can grow to over 4'.

# 2023 MARYLAND · DELAWARE · VIRGINIA CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES

	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE **</u>	<u>VA</u>		<u>MD</u>	<u>DE **</u>	<u>MD</u>
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	8 lbs. or 22"	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"	35 lbs.
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	80 lbs. or 46"	Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"	30"
Black Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	5 lbs.	White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"	16 lbs. or 36"	<b>SHARK:</b>			
Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size	Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Cobia	44"	45 lbs. or 48"	55 lbs. or 50"	Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	3 lbs. or 20"	Thresher*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	25 lbs.	Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	6 lbs. or 26"	Swordfish	47"	Any Size	100 lbs.
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	30 lbs.	<b>TUNA:</b>			
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	1.5 lb. or 16"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"	40 lbs.
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	20 lbs.	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"	32"
Red Drum*	36"	45"	-	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Sailfish*	Any Size	-	-	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"	100 lbs. or 60"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	10 lbs. or 24"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	4 lbs. or 26"				
Speckled Trout	24"	-	5 lbs. or 24"				
Striped Bass	40"	44"	44"				
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	9 lbs. or 23"				

\* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program  
 \*\* DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release  
 \*\*\* Use curved-fork-length measurements





We don't see a lot of barracudas in our area, so it was a nice surprise when Austin Decker and Sean Jones shared this beast! They were fishing for Mahi around A Buoy using circle hooks with squid when they connected with this pretty 24 lb. and 46.5" tiger of the sea. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em Bait & Tackle at the Indian River Marina.

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# DELAWARE

## FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This week in Delaware the weather took a welcome turn as a cool breeze swept over the waters, making being on the water much more pleasant. The near shore water is less than ideal and is still very green and dirty. Despite this, the flounder bite in the mornings is the best we have seen in years. However the afternoon bite is another story, producing many more shorts and not as many quality keepers. Moreover, reports of mahi around the Bass Pots and High Flier Buoys have been scarce, leaving anglers hopeful for clearer waters and a closer shore appearance of the elusive fish.

### Near Shore Reefs & Coral

One of the fishing hotspots has been the near shore coral at the Old Grounds, which has proven to be a haven for fishermen, producing numerous trophy-sized flounder. The deeper wrecks and snags are also still producing some keeper sea bass, however with the water at 75 degrees, keepers have become a lot harder to locate than in previous weeks.

"Bad Wind Charters" was out again this past week with their famous Flounder Klacker rigs and put on a clinic each time, bringing home coolers full of the delicious flat fish. Bill and Kathy used the Klackers to bring home limits up to 5 pounds. Jigmaster

Mike and his son also rode with "Bad Winds" and returned to the docks with their limit of fish. Donald Stephenson had the big fish for the boat this past week when he caught a fluke that broke the ten pound mark. Not many anglers can brag about a flatfish over ten pounds. Brent McClune, meanwhile, achieved a personal milestone, surpassing the 150 mark for keepers this year. Despite not getting on the water until 2 pm one day last week, he made the most of his trip, returning with near limits of fluke, all in preparation for an upcoming tournament where he aims to capture the biggest fish. Family bonding and friendly competition played a part in the fishing community as well.

The Falgowski family held their annual family tournament, with Ryan Falgowski claiming victory with a 6.53 pound fluke, and Finn Falgowski taking the kids division win with a 3.94 pound fish. Such events exemplify the camaraderie among fishermen and provide an excellent way to spend time with loved ones.

Carl Gutberlet was out just north of A Buoy and was kept busy catching 16 fluke in a little over 2 hours last Wednesday. Carl reported he caught fish on every drift over the coral and even

caught a few doubles. The ocean was like a lake that afternoon and made for a very comfortable trip. Bob Bryant Sr. on the "Knot Crazy" landed a 26.5" & 7.4 pound fluke on ocean structure using squid and minnow combo that he weighed at Rick's Bait and Tackle. Todd Adams, Alex Adams, Jake Taylor And Trent Sapan caught 7 flounder and one sea bass out at the Old Grounds using squid, minnows, and Gulp. Mathew Tribbitt fished with Joey Pruitt, Carter Pruitt, Nick Muldry, and Capt. Mathew Muldry and returned with limits of flounder. The biggest fish was a 25.5 inch, 6.25 pound fluke caught on artificial bait.

Capt. Carey had the pleasure of taking out great grandson Talen and three generations of the late Capt. Vince Keagy ( Miss Kirstin) aboard the "Grizzly" and returned to the docks with a cooler full of bass, flounder and triggerfish.

The "Capt. Bob II" and "Judy V" worked the Old Grounds and had some quality trips for flounder with a few keeper sea bass thrown in for good measure. The big fish for them this week was a 6.2 pound flattie that had a big scar along its side from a previous gaff attack that somebody missed!

Carl Gutberlet was out just north of A Buoy, catching 16 fluke in a

little over 2 hours on Wednesday. Carl stated he caught fish on every drift over the coral and even caught a few doubles. The ocean was like Lake Atlantic that afternoon and made for a very comfortable trip.

Bob Bryant Sr. on the "Knot Crazy" landed a 26.5", 7.4 pound fluke on ocean structure using squid and minnow combo. The fish was weighed in at Rick's Bait and Tackle.

Todd Adams, Alex Adams, Jake Taylor And Trent Sapan caught 7 flounder and one sea bass out at the Old Grounds using squid, minnows, and Gulp. Mike Manolescu hailing from West Grove, PA got two nice fish at the Indian River Inlet measuring 17" and 18".

Noteworthy catches extended beyond flounder, with Austin Decker and Sean Jones landing a sizable 46.5-inch, 24-pound Barracuda while trolling squid near A Buoy. The rarity of such a catch added to the excitement, as barracuda sightings along the shores are infrequent, let alone encountering one of this size. Other anglers also enjoyed fruitful outings, such as Josh Marchyshyn, who reeled in a boatload of ribbon fish while trolling for spanish mackerel about three miles outside the inlet. Marty Lochart and grandson Christian also had a good day out near Starsite Reef catching small sea bass and some nice fluke. Squid accounted for their fish on this trip. Similarly, "Chasing Tail Charters" out of Lewes Harbour Marina embarked



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www.coastalfisherman.net  
 on a successful trip, catching mahi at the canyons before heading inshore for flounder and sea bass.

Bob Snare was out for a half day on the "Master" with Capt. Mike Cerchio and had good luck catching croakers and sea trout in the Delaware Bay. The Delaware Bay has also been starting to produce those big sheepshead we saw last year. Angler Vee checked in to Lewes Harbour Marina with a few nice sheeps up to 14 pounds. Wow, that is one big sheepshead!. Small fiddler crabs and sand fleas have been the best bait for targeting these fish along the Ice Breakers and outer walls of the Delaware Bay.

**The Back Bays & Canals**

The back bays are alive with tons of spot fish as well as small croaker and flounder. The big news however this week is a sewage discharge into the Indian River Bay. A Millsboro wastewater facility failure caused raw sewage to be dumped into a tributary causing the Dept. of Natural Resources to put a closure on clamming and harvesting mussels in the Indian River bay until Aug 24th. As of this time the crabbing

is not under the closure, nor is commercial oystering, however I would be cautious in eating any crustaceans out of water infected with raw sewage. Those persons who frequent the sand bars or wade in the bay should also use caution and wash after exiting to avoid skin ailments for the next several weeks. Up until this point both clamming and crabbing have been very productive. Matt Pry reported catching good quality heavy males up to 6 1/2 inches.

**Surf Fishing**

The surf has been holding tons of small kingfish and spot. Several rays and sharks have also been reported. Riley Wowk of Mount Airy, MD caught a nice 13 inch kingfish off the surf using cut squid. Christopher Villanueva had a good day catching 2 rays and a shark off the beach on cut bait. Alonso Lopez got in on the ribbon fish catch while fishing cut bait at 3 Rs beach late in the evening. Khaliq Still got a few kingfish and spot from the beach using pompano rigs.

Until next week...  
 Tight Lines and Fins Up §



Kate Kern and Tristan Phillips brought this pair of convicts to get weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina. Kate's tipped in at 7.87 lbs. and Tristan's was 3 lbs. They were fishing on the "M.C. Slammer" with Capt. Dave Houser at the Outer Wall with sand fleas from LHM.

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Nancy & Jerry Sult with Jim Engelman came down from Emmaus, PA and got on some flounder with Capt. Jason Mumford on the charter boat "Lucky Break". The group fished the East Channel using Gulp, minnows and Otter Tail Curly Jig Tails boating 9 keepers with the largest at 22.5".



Young Cayden Mitchell, Jack Baumann and Alexis Reddish had an amazing day on the private boat "Bar South" with owner Rob Gothier, Capt. Raul Gonzalez and Troy Purnell. The kids were trolling outside of the Poor Man's Canyon and released 3 white marlins and boated a 55 lb. yellowfin and a peanut mahi for tacos! They are hooked for life!

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The Old Grounds have been a hot spot for keeper flounder despite the warmer waters. Anglers Todd Adams, Alex Adams, Jake Taylor and Trent Sapan headed there last week on the "Miss Nancy" and caught 7 keepers. Alternating between squid, minnow and Gulp did the trick to fool these fatties.

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Many have not yet caught their first keeper flounder, but little Cameron Bell of Salisbury, MD can check that off his list! He was fishing at the African Queen with Capt. Jeremy Michaels using a Trigger Rig with shrimp when he hooked this 20" flounder.



Angler Vee watched the weather and picked a calm day to fish the Ferry Wall in Lewes, DE. He used sand fleas from Lewes Harbour Marina and caught 3 sheephead with the largest at 14 lbs!



The inshore shoals have been a hot spot for anglers targeting king mackerel. Jeff Weeks of Ocean City went out on a solo trip and trolled some small spoons and was rewarded with 3 kings up to 36".

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13 year old Aiden Webster from Baldwin, MD was fishing with his dad Allen in the bay behind Assateague Island just off the Ocean City Airport. The weather was clear, however the current had them on a fast drift which might have helped Aiden land this 15" weakie using squid.



While it was a nice day in the canyons, the weather at the scales during the 15th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club's Ladies Tournament, 'Heels & Reels' was anything but! The "Gret's Three J's" was first to the scale with a 44 lb. yellowfin caught by the crew of Amber Nielsen, Taylor Lester, Jules Bller, Jillian Gasque, Heather Shepherd and Madison Jones while trolling from the Wilmington to the Poor Man's Canyon.

# 2023 MARYLAND REGULATIONS

## STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p><b>BLACK SEA BASS</b> 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - December 11</p>	 <p><b>BLUEFISH</b> 8" minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day Charter</p>	 <p><b>BLACK DRUM</b> 16" minimum 1 per person/day up to 6 per boat/day</p>	 <p><b>COBIA</b> 40" minimum 1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/15 Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers</p>
 <p><b>CROAKER</b> 9" minimum 25 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>RED DRUM</b> 18-27" minimum 1 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>SHEEPSHEAD</b> 4 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>SPECKLED TROUT</b> 14" minimum 4 per person/day</p>
<p><b>NEW!</b></p>  <p><b>STRIPED BASS</b> 28-31" Less than 3 miles from shore 1 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>SUMMER FLOUNDER</b> 16" minimum 4 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>TAUTOG</b> 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 2 per person/day 7/1 - 10/31 4 per person/day 11/1 - 12/31</p>	 <p><b>WEAKFISH</b> 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

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# THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



## Baked Flounder with Lemon Garlic and Butter

**Ingredients:**

4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

2 tablespoons lemon juice, freshly squeezed

2 teaspoons garlic cloves, minced or pressed (about 3 small cloves)

½ teaspoon kosher salt, or to taste

¼ teaspoon ground black pepper

¼ teaspoon onion powder

1 pound flounder fillets, patted dry with paper towels

½ teaspoon smoked paprika

**Directions:**

Preheat the oven to 325°F, and butter a 9 x 13-inch baking



dish. Set aside.

In a small bowl, whisk together the melted butter, lemon juice, garlic, onion powder, salt, and pepper. Set aside.

Pat the fillets dry with a paper towel, then place them in the prepared baking dish. Pour the butter mixture over the fillets. Sprinkle smoked paprika over the top.

Bake for 15 to 20 minutes (may need a few more minutes for thick fillets), or until the flounder flakes easily with a fork.

Remove from the oven, garnish with fresh parsley and lemon. Serve hot with a salad or steamed veggies.

## Rich & Creamy Sheepshead Chowder

**Ingredients:**

1 ½ pounds fresh sheepshead fillets or any firm-fleshed white fish

½ cup chicken broth

2 8- oz bottles clam juice

½ teaspoon Italian hot pepper flakes

sea salt and pepper to taste

2 small red potatoes diced in ½ inch pieces about 1 ½ cups (no need to peel)



2 medium leeks white and light green parts only, halved lengthwise, rinsed well and thinly sliced (about 1 cup)

2 large ribs celery thinly sliced, about ¾ cup

3 tablespoons unsalted butter

½ cup all purpose flour

2 cups whole milk

1 bay leaf

½ cup heavy cream

2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

½ cup corn (optional)

**Directions:**

Cut fish into chunks and set aside.

In a large Dutch oven, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the leeks and celery, and cook stirring, until veggies are tender, about 5 to 6 minutes. Add the flour and cook, stirring for about 2 minutes. You don't want the "raw" taste of flour.

Slowly whisk in the milk, broth, clam juice, hot pepper flakes, salt, pepper, and bring to a simmer. Add the potatoes and bay leaf, simmer gently until the potatoes are tender, about 10 to 12 minutes. The last two minutes of simmering add the fish and the corn.

Finally add the cream, dill, and lemon juice, and cook until heated through, about 2 minutes. Season with the sea salt and the freshly ground black pepper or additional red pepper flakes.

Serve with crusty Artisan bread.

## Grilled Tilefish & Chow Chow

**Ingredients:**

Olive oil, for brushing and greasing grill

6 (6-ounce) tilefish fillets, skin-on and scales removed

Kosher salt, to taste

Ground black pepper, to taste

3 cups Chow Chow (recipe follows)

Garnish: fresh purple basil

**Chow Chow:**

1 1/3 cups fresh corn kernels (about 1/2 pound)

¾ cup to 1 cup zucchini, medium diced (about 1/2

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- pound)
- ½ cup medium diced yellow onion
- ½ cup cooked climbing beans (such as purple hull peas or black-eyed peas)
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup apple cider vinegar
- 2 cloves garlic, smashed
- 1½ teaspoons dill seeds

Directions:

Preheat grill to medium-high heat (350° to 400°). Make sure you are working on clean grill grates. If not, your fish will stick and tear apart when you try to turn it. Using a wadded clean rag held with long tongs, carefully rub oil over hot grates of grill about 1 minute before fish go on.

Brush fish with oil, and season with salt and pepper. Place fish diagonally across grill, skin side down; cook for about 3 minutes. Using a pair of tongs, gently grab one corner of fish, and begin to pull up.



If it looks like skin is sticking, lay fish back down, and cook until fish easily releases from grill without sticking, about 1 minute more.

Turn fish over to flesh side, and cook 3 minutes more. Insert a metal skewer lengthwise through fish to make sure it is completely cooked. If you find a bit of resistance toward middle, let fish cook longer. If fish is getting a bit too much color, move to a cooler part of grill to finish.

Remove fish from grill. Serve topped with Chow Chow, and garnish with basil, if desired.

Chow Chow:

In a large heatproof bowl, combine corn, zucchini, onion, and beans.

In a medium saucepan, combine 1 cup water, vinegar, sugar, garlic, bay leaf, jalapeño, salt, coriander seeds, and dill seeds. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat; reduce heat to medium-low, and simmer for 5 minutes.

Remove from heat; pour water mixture over corn mixture. Place a piece of plastic wrap on surface of pickling liquid to keep vegetables submerged. Let cool at room temperature for 30 minutes. Refrigerate for 3 days before using.

Weeknight Mackerel Stew

Ingredients:

- 2 Tablespoons olive oil
- ½ cup diced onion

- ½ cup diced red bell pepper
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 Tablespoons tomato paste



- 15 oz. can fire-roasted tomatoes
  - 1 cup coconut milk
  - 1 pound king mackerel, skin off, cut into 1-inch chunks
  - Lime wedges
  - Handful chopped cilantro
- Directions:

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium low. Add onion and pepper; cook until veggies are soft and onion is translucent.

Add garlic and cook 1 minute longer.

Add tomato paste, diced

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Season with salt and pepper and add king mackerel. Cover and simmer stew for 8-10 minutes or until fish is just cooked.

Serve warm with lime wedges and cilantro.

### Exquisite Ribbon Fish

Ingredients:

- 1 pound ribbon fish fillets
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 cup parsley chopped

Directions:

Set oven temperature to 350 F. In a shallow bowl, combine the flour, salt, and pepper. Dredge the ribbon fish fillets in the flour mixture until coated and set aside. In a big skillet over medium-high heat, warm the olive oil.



Add the dredged fish fillets and cook for 2-3 minutes per side, or until golden brown.

Transfer the cooked fish to a baking sheet and bake in the preheated oven for 5-7 minutes, or until cooked through.

Remove from oven and drizzle with fresh lemon juice and chopped parsley. Serve immediately. Enjoy!

### Grilled Swordfish with a Mediterranean Twist

Ingredients:

- 6 to 12 garlic cloves, peeled
- 1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tbsp fresh lemon juice, more for later
- 1 tsp coriander
- 3/4 tsp cumin
- 1/2 to 1 teaspoon sweet

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- Spanish paprika
- 3/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 4 swordfish steaks, about 5 to 6 ounces each, from sustainable sources

Crushed red pepper, optional

Directions:

In a food processor, blend the garlic, lemon juice, olive oil, spices, salt and pepper for about three minutes or until well-combined forming a thick and smooth marinade.

Pat the swordfish steaks dry and place them in a pan (or a dish with sides to it) and apply the marinade generously on both sides and set aside for 15 minutes or so while you heat the grill.

Preheat a gas grill on high (be sure to oil the grates before using). When ready, grill the fish steaks on high heat for 5 to 6 minutes on one side, turn over once and grill on the

# KITCHEN CONVERSION COACH

## Measurement

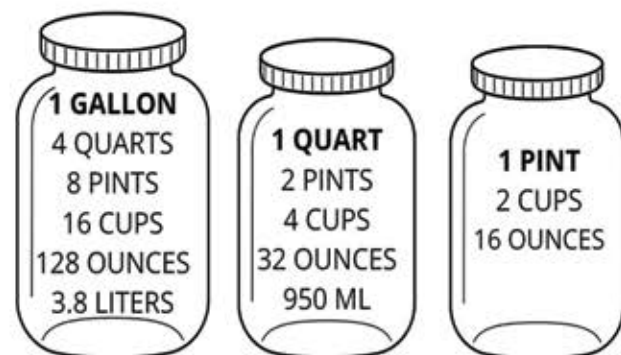
CUP	ONCES	MILLILITERS	TABLESPOONS
8 cup	64 oz	1895 ml	128
6 cup	48 oz	1420 ml	96
5 cup	40 oz	1180 ml	80
4 cup	32 oz	960 ml	64
2 cup	16 oz	480 ml	32
1 cup	8 oz	240 ml	16
3/4 cup	6 oz	177 ml	12
2/3 cup	5 oz	158 ml	11
1/2 cup	4 oz	118 ml	8
3/8 cup	3 oz	90 ml	6
1/3 cup	2.5 oz	79 ml	5.5
1/4 cup	2 oz	59 ml	4
1/8 cup	1 oz	30 ml	3
1/16 cup	1/2 oz	15 ml	1

## Temperature

FAHRENHEIT	CELSIUS
100 °F	37 °C
150 °F	65 °C
200 °F	93 °C
250 °F	121 °C
300 °F	150 °C
325 °F	160 °C
350 °F	180 °C
375 °F	190 °C
400 °F	200 °C
425 °F	220 °C
450 °F	230 °C
500 °F	260 °C
525 °F	274 °C
550 °F	288 °C

## Weight

IMPERIAL	METRIC
1/2 oz	15 g
1 oz	29 g
2 oz	57 g
3 oz	85 g
4 oz	113 g
5 oz	141 g
6 oz	170 g
8 oz	227 g
10 oz	283 g
12 oz	340 g
13 oz	369 g
14 oz	397 g
15 oz	425 g
1 lb	453 g



## LIQUID MEASUREMENTS

8 ounces = 1 cup	2 pints = 1 quart	4 tbsp = 1/4 cup
2 cups = 1 pint	4 quarts = 1 gallon	8 tbsp = 1/2 cup
16 ounces = 1 pint	3 tsp = 1 tbsp	1 pinch = 1/8 tsp or less
4 cups = 1 quart	2 tbsp = 1/8 cup	



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other side for 3 minutes or so  
(the fish should flake easily,  
while maintain firmness. You  
will likely see a bit of pink on  
the inside, but it should cook  
through by the time it gets to  
the table).

Finish with a splash of fresh  
lemon juice and a sprinkle of  
crushed red pepper flakes if  
you like heat. Enjoy! §



Crabs to Go co-owner John Wittmyer got on the water with Big Bird Cropper on his boat "Lost Time". The pair managed an inshore grand slam catching a keeper bluefish, flounder and striper, this one was 30". They also caught 2 other rocks at 35" and 31" just southeast of the Rt. 50 Bridge on Roy Rigs.

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Ocean City's Jeff Fox headed south last week to find some flatfish action. He drifted in the bay behind Assateague Island across from the Ocean City Airport using 4" white Gulp Swimming Mulletts and fooled these 2 keeper flounder at 19½" and 17".



Riley Wowk slipped onto the South Bethany, DE beach in the evening after the lifeguards were done to work the surf! She caught this 13" kingfish using Fishbites and cut squid.

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I don't think anglers Kenny Fusco, Ralph 'Rufus' Acquaviva, Chris Mills and Cory Mills could have picked a nicer day to be in the Wilmington Canyon fishing on the "Lt. Dan". It was Kenny's birthday and Cory released his first white marlin!

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## Tournament Tips

The next few weeks are an exciting time for anglers and crew fishing in the numerous local tournaments. Congratulations to all those who are participating, it takes a lot of effort to prepare for these events, let alone catch a winning fish! We wish all crew and anglers good luck in all the upcoming tournaments.

Here are a few tech tips that may be helpful in the coming weeks:

### Tournament Time

While fishing crew may not wear a wristwatch while fishing, keeping track of the correct time is critical during a tournament. With so many electronic gadgets supplying the time, we expect the time we see to be correct and synchronized between all devices and the tournament organizers. A marine Chartplotter or GPS, as with most modern timekeeping devices, needs to be properly programmed to your location for the proper time zone and daylight savings time if

applicable. Many of us on a boat have come to rely on the time on chartplotters for the proper "official" time.

The manufacturers of marine GPS receivers automate the device's time settings, allowing the time to adjust automatically based on your GPS location, just like a smartphone. Seems like a clever idea, right?

Well, many of the devices may be too smart; they know when your boat moves into a different time zone or time of year and even when the boat has crossed the coastal 12-mile territorial waters of the USA.

Once beyond the 12-mile coastal limit, the Chartplotters often automatically eliminate daylight savings time en-route to the distant fishing grounds and then re-adjusts the time on the return trip to the dock at the 12-mile territorial water limit. If your system is not set-up with a manual time zone, your GPS clock, while offshore, could be an hour different from the official time back at the dock!

Most Garmin chartplotters can be adjusted to disable the time zone/daylight savings time feature in the system at: Settings > Preferences > Units > Time where you can adjust and the time format, time zone, and daylight saving time.

### Tournament Turf

Most tournaments have a geographic boundary as part of their regulations, for instance, the White Marlin Open sets a 100-mile fishing limit as measured from the Ocean City MD sea buoy. With fast boats and a desire to fish less fished waters, many boats may run to distant spots, often close to the boundary. Many modern chartplotters allow you to set-up a boundary, this allows you to easily monitor your proximity to the range limit. For example, on popular Garmin GPSMAP unit's you can create a boundary by selecting Info > User Data > Boundaries > New, then Select a boundary shape and follow the on-screen instructions. On the newest Furuno chartplotters,

## Tournament Togetherness

When the fishing is good in a particular spot, seems somehow "all" the boats run to and congregate in that "spot." While professional Captain seamanship w is needed to fish in tight quarters, there are a few technical issues that can occur too:

Sonar - with the growing use of Omni style, 360 sonars and their long horizontal range there can be some overlap and interference. The popular Furuno Omni sonar's operates at fixed frequency of 85 KHz.

With their high sensitivity it is easy to overlap coverage resulting in interference on your screen from other nearby 85Khz sonars. This does not often occur with traditional bottom sounders since their transmitting beam is vertical and stays within the footprint of your boat.

VHF radio - Most marine VHF radios have two output power settings, low and high, often 1 watt or 25 watts. The

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 low power setting is good for communicating boats within a few miles. This feature may be beneficial during a tournament when you want to restrict how many boats are listening to your conversation with a nearby boat.

There are many factors that affect the range of a VHF radio. The VHF radio signals operate within a line of sight and therefore a taller antenna inherently has a longer range. Interference from some LED lighting is a trending problem, causing poor reception in effected radios. The U.S. Coast Guard has received reports from crews, ship owners, inspectors, and other mariners regarding poor reception on VHF frequencies used for radiotelephone, digital selective calling (DSC) and automatic identification systems (AIS) when in the vicinity of light emitting diode (LED) lighting on-board ships such as navigation lights, searchlights and floodlights, interior, and exterior lights.

**Tournament Talking**

If you are using a Starlink for communications, the boats' antenna needs a clear view of the sky and the antenna face should be mounted so that it points towards the sky close to a 90 degree angle. The Starlink clusters (which they call 'shells') of orbiting satellites (4500 and counting) are in the northern direction in the northern hemisphere at an altitude of 342 miles. These Starlink satellites are constantly on the move, they orbit the earth about every 90 minutes at speed around 15,000 mph (unlike traditional VSAT and TVRO systems that are often pointed to a single satellite in the southern sky). Since a boat is always on the move, your Starlink signal strength and data speed may vary depending on the boats' direction of travel.

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

To report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200 or email to [coastalfisherman@comcast.net](mailto:coastalfisherman@comcast.net)





Young Beau Hummer and his friend Grayson Felizzi got in a little night fishing off the beach at 73rd Street in Ocean City. The pair caught a mackerel and some spot that they used for bait to catch this blacktip shark. They snapped a pic before quickly releasing it.



Capt. Dave Collins on the charter boat "Capt. Ike II" reports the tuna are still not cooperating, but anglers are not going home empty handed. This trip saw a ton of mahi, as well as blueline tiles and some rosies.

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Most boaters probably know little more about the lights on their boats other than the fact that they have red and green on the bow and a white one somewhere closer to the stern. On small boats the red and green are often together and illuminated by one bulb, on larger boats they're usually two separate lights mounted on either side of the cabin, hull, or t-top. These lights are usually referred to as "running lights" or "bow lights" but the proper term for them is "sidelights". The average boat also has an all-round white light mounted farther back somewhere on the top or on a post at the stern. Most folks call that the "anchor" or "stern" light.

Red, green, and white makes

for "three" lights right? Actually "no" those lights represent a total of "five" of the navigation lights required on every vessel! But only if you know the Coast Guard "Navigation Rules" or "Rules of the Road" do you know how this wacky math actually works.

Under the rules, power vessels while underway are required to display at least one white (220°) "masthead" light that can be seen from another vessel off your bow and your port and starboard sides. Also required is a green (112.5°) "sidelight" facing forward and off the starboard side, a red (112.5°) "sidelight" facing forward and off the port side, and a white (135°) "stern" light facing aft. Anchored boats are

to display at least one white (360°) all-round light. All that makes for a total of five lights. "But wait!" You say. "There are only two light bulbs on my boat. How can I have five lights?"

The answer is woven into how the Navigation Rules work and here's the way they describe the lighting requirements for power vessels:

(Rule 23) A power driven vessel underway shall exhibit: a white masthead light forward, red and green sidelights, and a white stern light.

(Rule 23) A power driven vessel of less than 12 meters in length may exhibit an all-round white light and sidelights.

(Annex 1) on a vessel of less than 20 meters sidelights may be combined in one lantern.

(Rule 30) A vessel at anchor shall exhibit, where it can best be seen, an all-round white light.

An important thing to know about lights is that they are not designed just to tell other boaters "I'm here" but they also inform other boaters about the direction you're actually headed and how they must navigate while in close proximity. For example; if you see only one white light on the other vessel, it's moving and you're approaching from its stern, or else it's anchored, and either way, you need to steer clear of it.

If you see a red and white light you're looking at the port side of a boat that's moving ahead and by the rules you should not pass in front of that vessel as it's the "standon vessel" in a crossing situation and has right of way over you who are

[www.coastalfisherman.net](http://www.coastalfisherman.net) the "giveaway" vessel. If you see green and white you're the standon and he's the giveaway vessel. If you see red, green, and white at the same time it's a boat under power that's headed straight at you, so you'd better do something!

So hopefully you can see how knowledge about how boats are lighted at night will help a boater know what they must do to follow the Rules of the Road, stay safe and avoid a collision.

So what about those two bulbs that account for five lights? Two (112.5°) side lights, one (225°) masthead light, one (135°) stern light, and one (360°) anchor light - that makes five total lights.

However, there are provisions in the rules that allow relatively small vessels to combine lights. So the two side lights are often combined into one light with both a red and a green lens. The 225° white masthead light is often combined with the 135° stern light, and when the boat is anchored and not in need of its underway lights, if the combined masthead and stern light is "on" it covers the requirement for a 360° anchor light because  $225^\circ + 135^\circ = 360^\circ$ . Simple (but confusing) math.

The Navigation Rules or "Rules of the Road" are essentially regulations that describe how boats are supposed to be operated when they are in close proximity (or sometimes just in sight) of one another, as well as lighting requirements, sound signaling, and a whole lot of other stuff that, is supposed to help keep us all from playing bumper boats out on the water. It would be comforting to think that most folks who operate boats on our local waterways have even the slightest knowledge of what the rules are. But since most don't even know that  $1+1=5$ , my only advice is to "be careful out there!" §

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Bob Bryant, Sr. definitely hooked into a fat flounder. He was fishing on the "Knot Crazy" with his son Capt. Bob Bryant drifting over an ocean structure when this 7.4 lb. and 26.5" hit on his squid and minnow combo. Pictured at Rick's Bait & Tackle.

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Day 1 of the 15th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club's Ladies Tournament 'Heels & Reels' was a mess at the scales with solid rain for the entire 2 hours. Still the resilient ladies made their way to the docks! Here the crew of the "Roll Groove" of Pam Taylor, Emma Helwig and Chloe Canchola stand in the rain to report the 3 white marlins and 1 blue marlin they released after going 4 for 6 for the day!



Abby Riddell of New Castle, DE caught this 23½" and 4½ lb. flounder at the Old Grounds using minnows. It was measured and weighed a Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.

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The 16th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament was a family affair for Ty Hubicki. Not only was he fishing with his father Tom, his grandfather Ron Fischer started the event 16 years ago. So it seems fitting that Ty (pictured left) would take 1st Place in this year's event with a 24 1/4" and 5.31 lb. flounder he caught outside the OC Inlet using flounder belly and Gulp. Pictured on the right are the other anglers in his group and his grandfather. From the left are Joe Shaw (PA), Jack Lamb (PA), Ty Hubicki (VA), Tom Hubicki (PA), Ron Fisher (Ocean Pines), Jim McGill (PA). The group fished on the charter boat "On the Run" with Capt. Dave Caffrey and mate Rocko out of the Bahia Marina.

# 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL OCEAN PINES FLOUNDER TOURNAMENT RESULTS

**237 Anglers Participated**

**1<sup>st</sup> PLACE**

**Ty Hubicki**  
24 1/4" · 5.31 lbs. · \$4,000

**2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE**

**Kevin McNelis Jr.**  
24" · 5.04 lbs. · \$1,750

**3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE**

**Kevin McNelis Sr.**  
24" · 4.58 lbs. · \$1,150

**JUNIOR ANGLER - Chase Neumayer · \$100**

\*\*\*WINNERS BASED ON LENGTH OF FISH\*\*\*



The McNelis Family of father, son and fiancé' came to play at this year's 16th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament! The Ocean City locals headed out to about as far as allowed to Kelly's Reef on their boat "Trigger Happy" and fished in 46 feet of warm 72° water. While both Kevin's caught 24" fish, Kevin Jr.'s was 5.04 lbs. and took 2nd Place while his dad's 4.58 lb. flatfish locked into 3rd. Fiancé' Dani Bellante pulled in a hefty 3.31 pounder as well.



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11 year old Chase Neumayer won the title of Junior Angler at this year's 16th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament. He was fishing with his father near the Coast Guard Station in 30 feet of water that was 68° where he landed his winning 3.96 lb. & 21¼" flounder using live spot.



West Coast Floridians Will and Mitchell Harms from Tampa got a dose of Atlantic canyon fishing with their uncle last weekend. The boys reeled in this 63 lb. yellowfin that hit on a skirted ballyhoo in the Poor Man's Canyon.

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# VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



So the climate of the Eastern Shore is returning to a hospitable level and folks are hitting the water without fear of spontaneous combustion. The summertime fishing continues to hold steady, offering us all some mid year opportunities to enjoy the sport we all hold dear.

The inshore wrecks and reefs have been the main stay for many ESVA anglers. Flounder, spades, and triggers with a spanish mac mixed in have been the dishes served at the metaphorical midsummer picnic. The flounder have been found entrenched in near shore structure in 20-70 foot depths. These perfectly adapted predators have been tempted by an array of baits including the traditional minnows and squid, but also long strip baits of cut flounder or even silvery ribbonfish. Jigs tipped with chartreuse, pink, white, and orange ( salmon red ) gulp grubs have also contributed to a fine feast of fillets.

The spades and triggers ( mostly spades ) have been found circling the many wrecks and reefs off the Va Barrier Islands. The best strategy that we have found has included small #4-#1 octopus or octopus circles on 20 pound fluorocarbon leader, weighted down with a split shot, and suspended under a slip bobber. We seemed to have more interest in baits fished a little deeper, suspended just above the structure. A little chum to sweeten the deal would definitely bring positive possibilities but is not a requirement to battle a tropical looking trophy.

Inside the inlets, anglers have enjoyed some pretty good summer flounder fishing. The fish are keying in on teaser style high low rigs in the same chartreuse, pink, white, and orange colors that have been productive offshore. Minnows and silversides coupled with squid or gulp have fit the bill for a successful trip.

However, the most crucial factor, is clear water which seems only to be available on the last part of the flood tide. So definitely take that into consideration when planning your next outing.

The deep blue waters of the Atlantic have been fairly quiet as anglers test their skills against an illusive tuna bite and a few marlin that will hopefully make a celebrity appearance during the open. Mahi have been pretty plentiful around floating structure like pot floats and other drifting debris. Deep dropping for tiles has also added to the fillets in the frying pan.

The Chesapeake has continued to offer up some red drum and sheepshead action on structure from the CBBT to the Md line. The Md rock season is back in full swing as anglers take to the shallows of the Tangier sound in search of stripes as well as specs. The lower bay is still the scene of some cobia. These brown colored

battlers have been pursued by some anglers armed with live eels and jigs, while others choose to wait for the chum line to bring the brown suits to them. Spanish have been fairly prevalent in the middle and southern Chesapeake. Chartreuse, pink, gold, and silver clark spoons fished behind #1 planers have helped coax these toothy treasures over the gunwale.

This week I had the pleasure of taking my daughter, Belle, spade fishing off Chincoteague. We arrived at the wreck and it wasn't long before Belles' rod was bent down to the water with a super striped spade. She did a great job, but as the nice spade was wrestled to the surface, her reels drag began to sing as dinner quickly returned to the bottom. As the battle continued, she fought her prey back to the boat for the second time. Suddenly, she looked up with a smile that was more beautiful than the most picturesque sunset, and said " Daddy he's going again!" And that right there is why we are so blessed to live in this wonderful place we call home! §

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Our Virginia Fishing Report writer Capt. Matt Abell was able to get on the water with his daughter Belle. She caught this colorful spadefish off of Chincoteague, VA.



Tim, Erika, Reece and Nathan Babikow with Zach Gaeta found a picture perfect day to go flounder fishing on the "Green Edge" in the Ocean City Bay putting 5 keeper flounder in the box.

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The crew of the "Lights Out" had a solid day during the 15th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club's Ladies Tournament 'Heels & Reels'. Anglers Farron Sims, Jessica Matarese, Jen Hertherington, Mel Shoff and Kelley Stephens spent day 2 of the event offshore at the Baltimore Canyon with Capt. Chester Sims and mates Steven, Stallings, Tommy Holder, Mat Lamas and Jeffrey Liederman. The ladies went 4 for 4 on marlin bites releasing 3 whites and a blue for 450 points taking 2nd Place in the Release Division and \$6,642 in prize money. Pictured at Atlantic Tackle.

15th Annual OCMC LADIES' TOURNAMENT "Heels & Reels" RESULTS			
<b>BILLFISH RELEASE</b>			
1ST PLACE • "CABANA"	600 Pts.		\$29,745
2ND PLACE • "LIGHTS OUT"	450 Pts.		\$6,507
3RD PLACE • "SHOTSKI"	400 Pts.		\$4,338
<b>STRINGER</b>			
1ST PLACE • "SLAUGHTERHOUSE"	156 lbs.		\$8,280
2ND PLACE • "CHAIN REACTION"	154 lbs.		\$4,968
3RD PLACE • "HALL PASS"	55 lbs.		\$15,912
<b>TUNA</b>			
1ST PLACE • "SLAUGHTERHOUSE"	55.5 lbs.		\$6,165
2ND PLACE • "HALL PASS"	55 lbs.		\$14,274
3RD PLACE • "CHAIN REACTION"	54.5 lbs.		\$2,466
<b>DOLPHIN</b>			
1ST PLACE • "BUCKSHOT II"	29.5 lbs.		\$16,740
2ND PLACE • "TALKIN' TRASH"	14 lbs.		\$3,699
3RD PLACE • "BUCKSHOT II"	12 lbs.		\$2,466
<b>JUNIOR ANGLER AWARD BRIANNA LYNCH "Kilo Charlie" \$500</b>			
<b>63 BOATS ENTERED • TOTAL PURSE \$115,560</b>			



The mahi were few and far between during the 15th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club's Ladies Tournament 'Heels & Reels', so it was a big shake up when anglers Becky Vosloh, Ashley Ritter, Atley Miller, Sam Espey, Jen DePaola and Lindsey Stanton from the "Buckshot II" team put two qualifying mahi on the dock. The heaviest was 29.5 lbs. and secured 1st Place in the Division and their second fish at 12 lb. locked in 3rd place for a combined payout of \$19,588. They were fishing the Baltimore Canyon with Capt. Gary Stamm & mates Kyle Pelino & Jon Henry.





Anglers Pam Hess, Hillary Zellmer, Corky Mock and Kim Baer on the "Slaughterhouse" did slaughter the leader board during the 15th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club's Ladies Tournament 'Heels & Reels'. They hit the scales with Capt. Mark Hess on day 2 of the event with 3 yellowfin tuna from the Wilmington Canyon. The largest at 55 lb. took 1st Place for Heaviest and the 3 combined at 156 lbs. locked in the top spot in the new Stringer Division for a combined payout of \$14,559 in prize monies.



Young Brianna Maria Lynch was soaked but elated during the 15th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club's Ladies Tournament 'Heels & Reels'. She won the Junior Angler Award and \$500 for her white marlin release on day 1 of the event. She is pictured with Jovita Lynch and Elizabeth Ashwell who also released a white, her first. They were fishing on the private boat "Kilo Charlie" with Capt. Howard Lynch and mate extraordinaire Burro Gonzalez outside of the Baltimore Canyon on the 1000 fathom line.



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Lauren Seminatore, Loren Manzione, Roxanne Clubb, and Jill Clubb on the "Chain Reaction" were the first anglers to bring a stringer to the 15th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club's Ladies Tournament 'Heels & Reels' with 3 solid yellowfin tuna. The stringer weighed 154 lbs. and took 2nd Place in that Division while their 54.5 lb. tuna held onto to 3rd Place for Heaviest Meatfish for a total payout of \$7,479. They were fishing in the middle of the Washington Canyon with Capt. Brad Clubb and mates Ross & Grant Clubb.



The battle for the Heaviest Meatfish during the 15th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club's Ladies Tournament 'Heels & Reels' was tight with only a pound separating the top 3 slots. It was the "Hall Pass" with Danielle McCann, Stephanie Hall, Julie Kidwell and Erin Hall that brought the first tuna to the scales from the Poor Man's on the 2nd day of the event. Their 55 lb. yellowfin earned 2nd Place and \$14,566 in prize money. Capt. George Hall was at the wheel with Nick Lane, Capt. Jimmy Hahn and Rob & Robbie Kidwell in the pit.

## OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

<b>WED. AUGUST 9</b>	High 02:44 am High 03:58 pm	Low 08:43 am Low 09:53 pm
<b>THUR. AUGUST 10</b>	High 03:44 am High 05:04 pm	Low 09:37 am Low 10:56 pm
<b>FRI. AUGUST 11</b>	High 04:42 am High 06:00 pm	Low 10:33 am Low 11:55 pm
<b>SAT. AUGUST 12</b>	High 05:34 am High 06:50 pm	Low 11:29 am Low -----
<b>SUN. AUGUST 13</b>	High 06:22 am High 07:33 pm	Low 12:47 am Low 12:21 pm
<b>MON. AUGUST 14</b>	High 07:07 am High 08:09 pm	Low 01:32 am Low 01:07 pm
<b>TUE. AUGUST 15</b>	High 07:50 am High 08:41 pm	Low 02:11 am Low 01:48 pm
<b>WED. AUGUST 16</b> New Moon	High 08:33 am High 09:12 pm	Low 02:47 am Low 02:27 pm

source: usharbors.com

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

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

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Travis Habecker from Ephrata, PA came down to the Indian River Inlet and did well fishing from the rocks. He landed this in the slot 29.5" rock using Gulp. It tipped the scales at Hook'em & Cook'em at 9.7 lbs.



Pat Borrell was at it again, this time with Jon Kyle. Both from New Bloomfield, PA. The pair caught 3 keeper flounder around the Commercial Harbor using white Gulp with the largest at 17".

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While most see ribbon or cutlass fish as a nuisance, some like to target them for bait. Aiden Webster with Garrett Elder and Richard Hoenes went out to the 2nd Lump to get some dredge baits. They caught 4 spanish mackerel and 6 ribbons on small spoons in 54 feet of water with a surface temp of 72°.

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## 2023 SCHEDULE

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**UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!**

**65th ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT \***

Registration: August 31, 6:30-8:00pm

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

Weigh-Ins: September 1, 2, & 3  
6:00-8:00pm at Sunset Marina

**45th ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP**

Registration: Sept. 13, 6:00-8:00pm • Fishing Days: (2 or 3) Sept. 14, 15 & 16  
No Weigh-Ins

**8th ANNUAL OCMC vs OCLTC SHOOT-OUT**

Iztapa, Guatemala

Fishing Days: (2 of 3) Nov. 30, Dec. 1&2 • No Weigh-Ins

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10th Annual  
**HUK BIG FISH Classic**

# TOURNAMENT RESULTS

## JULY 26-29, 2023

### BASIC ENTRY - DIVISION A

#### HEAVIEST FISH - BASIC ENTRY - PURSE 20,000

1	PORT-A-BELLA	BIG EYE TUNA	228.5LBS	\$15,000
2	REAL ONE	BIG EYE TUNA	171 LBS	\$3,500
3	BLACK IRISH	SWORDFISH	130 LBS	\$1,500

### BIG FISH CLASSIC - DIVISION B

#### HEAVIEST FISH - B1 - PURSE \$19,350

1	REAL ONE	BIG EYE TUNA	171 LBS	\$12,578
2	BLACK IRISH	SWORDFISH	130 LBS	\$4,837
3	EUPHORIA	BIG EYE TUNA	105.5 LBS	\$1,935

#### HEAVIEST FISH - B2 - PURSE \$34,200

1	PORT-A-BELLA	BIG EYE TUNA	228.5LBS	\$22,230
2	REAL ONE	BIG EYE TUNA	171 LBS	\$8,550
3	EUPHORIA	BIG EYE TUNA	105.5 LBS	\$3,420

#### HEAVIEST FISH - B3 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$44,550

1	REAL ONE	BIG EYE TUNA	171 LBS	\$44,550
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### TALBOT STREET STRINGER - DIVISION C

#### HEAVIEST FISH STRINGER - C1 - PURSE \$18,900

1	EUPHORIA	STRINGER	306 LBS	\$12,285
2	REAL ONE	STRINGER	276 LBS	\$4,725
3	CHRISTINE MARIE	STRINGER	242.5 LBS	\$1,890

#### HEAVIEST FISH STRINGER - C2 - PURSE \$31,500

1	PORT-A-BELLA	STRINGER	437 LBS	\$20,475
2	EUPHORIA	STRINGER	306 LBS	\$7,875
3	REAL ONE	STRINGER	276 LBS	\$3,150

#### HEAVIEST FISH STRINGER- C3 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$27,900

1	EUPHORIA	STRINGER	306 LBS	\$27,900
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### BILLFISH DIVISION - DIVISION D

#### HEAVIEST BILLFISH - D1 - PURSE \$18,000

1	REAL ONE			\$11,700
2	REAL ONE			\$4,500
3	REAL ONE			\$1,800

#### HEAVIEST BILLFISH - D2 - PURSE \$25,200

1	PORT-A-BELLA			\$16,380
2	PORT-A-BELLA			\$6,300
3	PORT-A-BELLA			\$2,520

#### HEAVIEST SWORDFISH - D3 - PURSE \$31,500

1	BLACK IRISH	SWORDFISH	130 LBS	\$20,475
2	BLACK IRISH	SWORDFISH	130 LBS	\$7,875
3	BLACK IRISH	SWORDFISH	130 LBS	\$3,150

#### HEAVIEST SWORDFISH - D4 - PURSE \$28,800

1	PORT-A-BELLA			\$18,720
2	PORT-A-BELLA			\$7,200
3	PORT-A-BELLA			\$2,880

#### HEAVIEST SWORDFISH- D5 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$16,200

1	REFUNDED			\$16,200
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### BILLFISH DIVISION - DIVISION D

#### HEAVIEST WHITE MARLIN - D6 - PURSE \$15,750

1	PORT-A-BELLA			\$10,238
2	PORT-A-BELLA			\$3,937
3	PORT-A-BELLA			\$1,575

#### HEAVIEST WHITE MARLIN - D7 - PURSE \$21,600

1	PORT-A-BELLA			\$14,040
2	PORT-A-BELLA			\$5,400
3	PORT-A-BELLA			\$2,160

#### HEAVIEST WHITE MARLIN- D8 - PURSE \$34,200

1	PORT-A-BELLA			\$22,230
2	PORT-A-BELLA			\$8,550
3	PORT-A-BELLA			\$3,420

#### HEAVIEST WHITE MARLIN- D9 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$54,000

1	REFUNDED			\$54,000
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### RELEASE DIVISION - DIVISION E

#### MARLIN RELEASE - E1 - PURSE \$8,100

1	QUICK TIME	MARLIN	600	\$5,265
2	KILO CHARLIE	MARLIN	550	\$2,025
3	TOO MANY MARTINIS	MARLIN	350	\$810

#### SWORDFISH RELEASE - E2 - PURSE \$2,700

1	FFMD	SWORDFISH	150	\$1,350
2	FISH N FEVER	SWORDFISH	150	\$1,350

### TUNA DIVISION - DIVISION F

#### YELLOWFIN TUNA - F1 - PURSE \$34,200

1	NO SLACK	YELLOWFIN TUNA	99 LBS	\$22,230
2	ALL IN	YELLOWFIN TUNA	84.5 LBS	\$8,550
3	CHRISTINE MARIE	YELLOWFIN TUNA	69.5 LBS	\$3,420

#### YELLOWFIN TUNA - F2 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$18,000

1	ALL IN	YELLOWFIN TUNA	84.5 LBS	\$18,000
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#### HEAVIEST TUNA- F3 - PURSE \$17,550

1	REAL ONE	BIG EYE TUNA	171 LBS	\$11,408
2	EUPHORIA	BIG EYE TUNA	105.5 LBS	\$4,387
3	NO SLACK	YELLOWFIN TUNA	99 LBS	\$1,755

#### HEAVIEST TUNA- F4 - PURSE \$30,600

1	PORT-A-BELLA	BIG EYE TUNA	228.5 LBS	\$19,890
2	REAL ONE	BIG EYE TUNA	171 LBS	\$7,650
3	EUPHORIA	BIG EYE TUNA	105.5 LBS	\$3,060

#### HEAVIEST TUNA - F5 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$45,000

1	REAL ONE	BIG EYE TUNA	171 LBS	\$45,000
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#### HEAVIEST TUNA STRINGER - F6 - PURSE \$32,400

1	PORT-A-BELLA	TUNA	437 LBS	\$21,060
2	EUPHORIA	TUNA	306 LBS	\$8,100
3	REAL ONE	TUNA	276 LBS	\$3,240

### MEATFISH DIVISION - DIVISION G

#### HEAVIEST DOLPHIN - G1 - PURSE \$23,400

1	TAKE EM	DOLPHIN	15.5 LBS	\$15,210
2	TAKE EM	DOLPHIN	15.5 LBS	\$5,850
3	TAKE EM	DOLPHIN	15.5 LBS	\$2,340

#### HEAVIEST WAHOO - G2 - PURSE \$17,100

1	TAKE EM			\$11,115
2	TAKE EM			\$4,275
3	TAKE EM			\$1,710

### BIG FISH DAILY - DIVISION H

#### HEAVIEST FISH - H1 - DAY 1 - WINNER EACH DAY \$16,200

1	BOAT	FISH	LBS	\$0
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#### HEAVIEST FISH - H1 - DAY 2 - WINNER EACH DAY \$16,200

1	MORNING GLORY	YELLOWFIN TUNA	56 LBS	\$8,100
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#### HEAVIEST FISH - H1 - DAY 3 - WINNER EACH DAY \$16,200

1	REAL ONE	BIG EYE TUNA	171 LBS	\$8,100
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### SMALL BOAT DIVISION - DIVISION I

#### HEAVIEST FISH - I1 - PURSE \$10,800

1	BLACK IRISH	SWORDFISH	130 LBS	\$7,020
2	JUST ONE MORE	BIG EYE TUNA	70.5 LBS	\$2,700
3	BUSTN LIPS	YELLOWFIN TUNA	56 LBS	\$1,080

#### HEAVIEST FISH - I2 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$9,000

1	JUST ONE MORE	BIG EYE TUNA	70.5 LBS	\$9,000
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#### HEAVIEST STRINGER- I3 - PURSE \$12,600

1	BLACK IRISH	SWORDFISH	130 LBS	\$8,190
2	JUST ONE MORE	TUNA	110.5 LBS	\$3,150
3	BUSTN LIPS	TUNA	108.5 LBS	\$1,260

#### HEAVIEST BILLFISH- I4 - PURSE \$10,800

1	BLACK IRISH	SWORDFISH	130 LBS	\$7,020
2	BLACK IRISH	SWORDFISH	130 LBS	\$2,700
3	BLACK IRISH	SWORDFISH	130 LBS	\$1,080

#### HEAVIEST TUNA - I5 - PURSE \$10,800

1	JUST ONE MORE	YELLOWFIN TUNA	70.5 LBS	\$7,020
2	BUSTN LIPS	YELLOWFIN TUNA	56 LBS	\$2,700
3	EAST BOUND/BUSTN LIPS	YELLOWFIN TUNA	52.5 LBS	\$1,080





Anglers Paul DiFebo, Jr., Peter Schultz, Spencer Talbot and Peter Beall put on some smiles while at the scales on the last day of the 10th Annual Huk Big Fish Classic. They disguised how they really felt after a very rough ride offshore for the past 32 hours! Capt. Doug Rollins with mate Bill Mengason had the crew in the Washington Canyon where 16 year old Peter Beall connected with this bigeye tuna on a purple Nomad. The crew also boated 2 yellowfins. The 171 lb. eyeball took 2nd Place for Heaviest Fish & Heaviest Tuna. Combined with the yellowfins they also took 2nd Place for Heaviest Stringer earning a combined total of \$170,450 in award monies! Pictured at the Talbot Street Pier Tournament Scales.



# UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

## AUGUST

50th Annual White Marlin Open

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Paradise Grill Flounder Pounder

August 16-20 • Long Neck, DE • www.FlounderPounderOpen.com

30th Annual Capt. Steve Harman Poor Girl's Open

August 17-19 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

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August 20-25 • Cape May, NJ & Ocean City, MD

## SEPTEMBER

65th Annual OCMC Labor Day Tournament

September 1-3 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

22nd Annual Ocean City Fishing Center Spot Tournament

September 10 • OC Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

18th Annual Bahia Marina Flounder Pounder

September 10 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

Delaware Seashore Fall Surf Fishing Classic

September 23-24 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974

## OCTOBER

41st Annual Mid-Atlantic Surf Fishing Tournament

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

7th Annual Ocean City Inshore Classic

Oct 7-8 • Atlantic Tackle • 410-430-1016

4th Annual Bishop Broadbill Bash

TBD • Sunset Marina • 410-213-9600

DMS Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament

Oct 8-10 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974

Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament

Late October - Late November • Lewes, DE • 302-645-6227

For complete tournament coverage results, pick up the Coastal Fisherman every week from May through September or go to our website at [www.coastalfisherman.net](http://www.coastalfisherman.net)



When you are entered in a big fish tournament, swordfish are on the target list. That is exactly the strategy anglers Ashley Murphy, John Twaddell, Jack Niemkiewicz and Jamie Wenzel took during the 10th Annual Huk Big Fish Classic when they were not finding any tuna bites. They fished on the "Black Irish" with Capt. Evan Niemkiewicz and caught this 61" and 130 lb. swordfish in 1800 feet at the Washington Canyon. The big winner was on top of the water and only took 30 minutes to get it to the boat. It is the first swordfish ever caught for the crew and it took 3rd Place for Heaviest Fish for the tournament as well as 1st Place for Heaviest in the Small Boat Division earning a combined payout of \$63,847.



There were a lot of yellowfin tuna brought to the scales during the last day of the 10th Annual Huk Big Fish Classic, but none as big as this one from the crew of the "No Slack". Capt. Trey Obermire with anglers Mike Obermire, Wesley Wood, Brian Robbins, Andrew Wilky, Hunter Culver and Greg Polanin hooked up the 99 lb. allison tuna in the Washington Canyon first thing on Sunday. It was their only bite and hit on a dink rod taking just over 2 hours to land. Their big fish took 1st Place for Heaviest Yellowfin Tuna and 3rd Place for Heaviest Tuna for a total of winnings of \$23,985.





Capt. Ricky Wheeler with anglers Jamie Umlauf, George Besack, Keith Bowen, Rich Bruder, Bob Wanetta and Matt Hensel put a lot of work in during the 10th Annual Huk Big Fish Classic. They were all over the place starting in the Baltimore Canyon where they snagged a yellowfin. Then to the Wilmington for another yellowfin before hitting a wolf pack of bigeyes, landing 2. The largest of the pair was 105.5 lbs. and their 4 fish stringer was 306 lbs. This haul secured the crew 2nd Place for Heaviest Tuna as well as placing in the top spots of several other Heaviest and Stringer Purses for a total tournament payout of \$68,692!



The "Just One More" had a moment of fame during the 10th Annual Huk Big Fish Classic when a video of them trolling in the Baltimore Canyon was posted on line. To say anglers Jessie Simmons, Hunter Clark, Shawn Sank and Jason Bernstein were rockin and a rolling would be an understatement! Still they persevered with Capt. Tommy Perry at the helm. They boated a yellowfin on Saturday and a bigeye overnight into Monday. At 70.5 lbs. the eyeball locked them into several small boat awards. 1st Place for Heaviest Tuna as well as 2nd Place for Heaviest Fish and Heaviest Stringer earning a combined payout of 21,870.



Team Fite Chicken on the charter boat "All In" had a fite just to get in the game during the 10th Annual Huk Big Fish Classic. They had engine problems and were not able to leave until 1PM on Sunday causing Capt. Dave Midgett to change up the game plan! He and mate Zane Rutt took anglers Dave Dinenna, Joe Dinenna, J. Konopacki, Ryan Asper, Jeff Asper, Jeremiah Anderson and Mike Waclawski to the Wilmington Canyon to start. They only had two bites for the tournament, but one made the difference. Jeff Asper caught this 84.5 lb. tuna that held on to take 2nd Place for Heaviest Yellowfin putting \$26,550 in the crews pockets!

Chuck Bartholme

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There is one lesson to take away from this catch on the "Take 'Em" during the 10th Annual Huk Big Fish Classic, always weigh your fish! Capt. Skip Daisey had his crew of James Haran, Richard Osbourne, John Schmitz, Bill Depaola and Fred Wyman trolling outside of the Poor Man's Canyon in 900 fathoms and it was slow. They hooked a white & blue marlin, but both got off. The only bite that came tight was a peanut mahi. After a debate with mates Dakota Bittner, Thad Bittner and Miles Daisey on whether to weigh it, they drove to the scales at the Talbot Street Pier and it just beat the tournament minimum of 15 lbs. by half a pound! As the only qualifying dolphin it earned all the Dolphin Purses as well as the Wahoo money since none were caught for a total payout of \$40,500!



Capt. Brian Behe on the private boat "Christine Marie" was planning on bill fishing during the 10th Annual Huk Big Fish Classic, but as they say, plans are made to be broken! After not finding any billfish, anglers Jimmy Hukill, Parker Marshall, Steve Summer, Chrissy Summers, Buddy Trala, Josh Greene and Eddie Kehl switched up the game to troll for tuna between the Spencer and Wilmington Canyons. They were one of the few to bring 4 fish to the scales and theirs included a 69.5 lb. yellowfin tuna that took 3rd Place for Heaviest Yellowfin overall and their stringer total of 242.5 lb. secured them 3rd place in that Division for total tournament winnings of \$5,310.

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# COASTAL FISHERMAN

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The "Cabana" were first to the scales on day 2 of the 15th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club's Ladies Tournament 'Heels & Reels'. They put up big numbers, reporting anglers Julie Wheeler, Carroll Sherman, Laura Holmes, Mary Judge and Lynn 'Baby' Hallard had steady action throughout the morning into early afternoon, going 6 for 6 on white marlin earning a total of 600 points. They remained unchallenged and finished 1st in the Billfish Release Division. They were fishing in the middle of the Baltimore Canyon with Capt. Ed Wheeler and mates Brent Feder, James Davis, CJ Davidson and Laurel David. Pictured at Atlantic Tackle.