

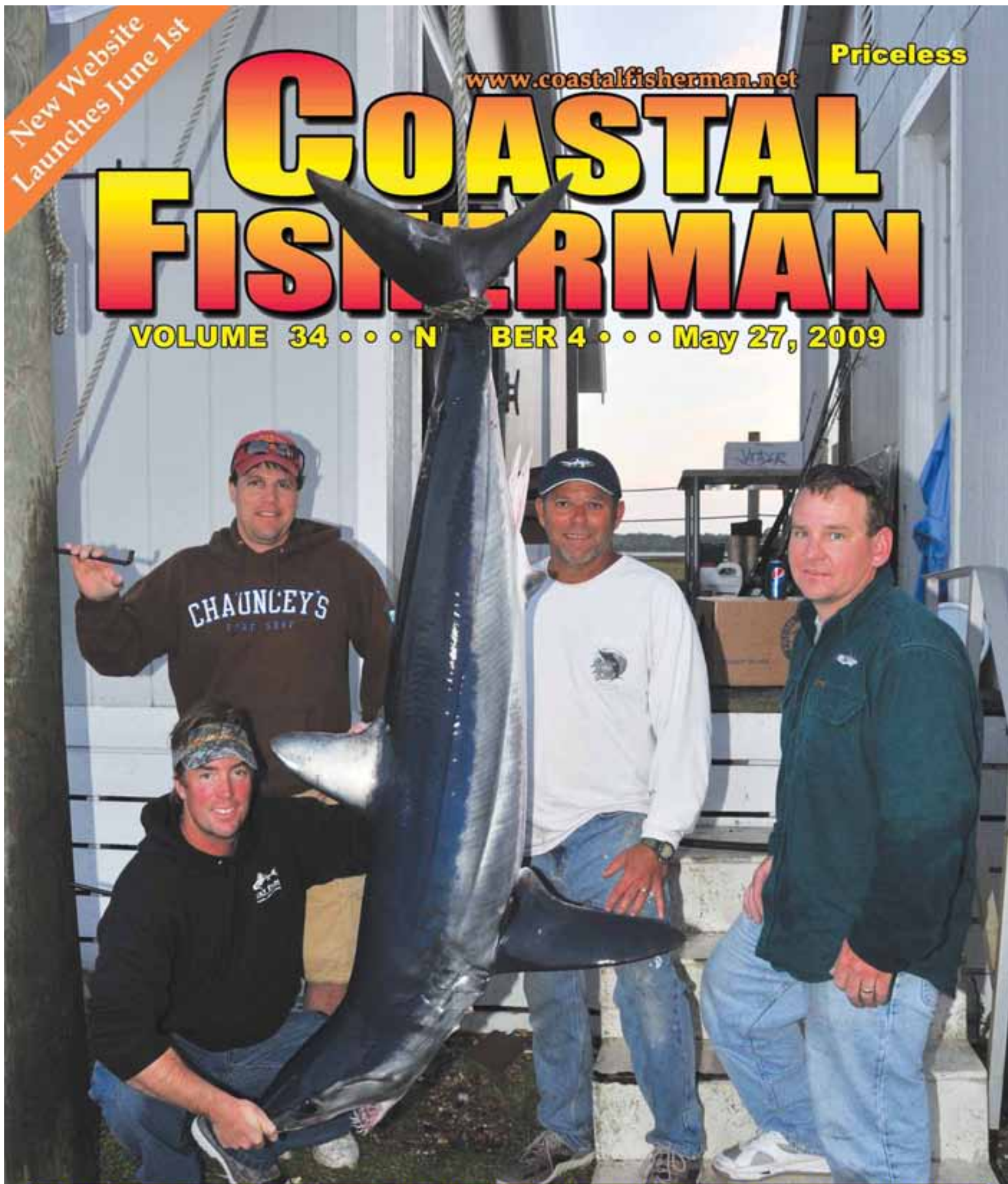
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COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME 34 • • • NUMBER 4 • • • May 27, 2009



You knew it was going to happen; you could feel it in the air. Flat seas, rising water temperatures... somebody was going to catch the first mako shark, and it happened. On Friday, Jim Hughes of Ocean City, MD captured the 185 pounder while fishing on the "Nontypical" with Terry Layton of Ocean City, MD, Tim McGuire of West Ocean City, MD and Don Clawson of Leesburg, VA. After being lured close to the boat by "Capt. Mac's Monster Mash Chum", the mako hit a fresh bluefish in 400 fathoms outside the Baltimore Canyon in 62-degree water and was boated after a 45-minute fight. Interestingly, the mako was feeding on triggerfish, with 3 found in its stomach. The group also released 15 blue sharks during the trip. Weighed at Capt. Mac's Bait & Tackle in Fenwick Island, DE.

Double Lines

by Dale Timmons



It's getting to be that time of year when shark fishing takes center stage for a while, at least for the offshore boys. The first mako has been caught and the action should pick up as the water temps reach and stay at 60 degrees or above and the big bluefish become more plentiful on the inshore shoals. The beginning of tournament season with the upcoming Mako Mania will also put more boats out there to find out what is going on. I did hear of a reported 16.5 foot thresher shark taken in a commercial gill net last week. Didn't get a weight, but the tail was supposedly 7.5 feet long...had to be a big female...



While the offshore anglers may be looking for Mr. Black Eye, this time of year means

one thing for a small group of hardcore surf anglers — Mr. Red Drum. I heard of the first red that I know of caught in the Assateague surf last week, a 36-inch fish caught and released by Mike "Killer" Hastings. Just to the south, the drum fishing for both reds and blacks has been very productive along the Virginia barrier islands. It's funny, but while spring drum fishing for both reds and blacks can be fabulous in Virginia, the run on the Maryland end of Assateague doesn't seem as productive this time of year as it is in the fall. There could be a few more fish caught, however. While red drum in the fall are almost exclusively caught on cut baits such as mullet, spot or bunker, in the spring they are often caught on peeler crabs or even hard crabs. Of course, this

may be because the black drum feed almost exclusively on crustaceans or clams, while the red drum will eat just about anything, and if you want to have a chance at either fish, or even a big striper, the crabs are a good choice. Drum rigs are pretty much the same as those used for stripers nowadays, and that usually means a large circle hook (7/0 to 9/0) on a short leader and the sinker on a sliding fish finder or McMahon snap and swivel combination with a bead on either side. The short leader helps with casting distance, and it doesn't seem to affect the bite. If you are not familiar with peeler crabs as bait, here's a quick refresher. First pull the back shell off the crab, then cut the crab in half. You can quarter the body if the crab is large, but with most peelers I use half a crab. Leave the legs on (even the claws). Run the hook through the body a little towards the leg end of the bait, then spin the crab around and pull the legs up around the shank of your hook, leaving the hook point

exposed. Then take a rubber band and make several turns around the legs and the hook shank to hold it in place. Makes a good bait that should stay in place a long time. Remember, you can also use sand fleas for both red and black drum, even stripers. Simply put three or four on the same hook. Sometimes fleas are a good bait when the sharks and skates are especially bad, because they don't seem to be bothered as much by these pesky critters...



In last week's fishing report, publisher Larry Jock passed on a flounder rig used by one of the infamous Hoffman brothers. I think it was the older, wiser one known as Steve. Anyway, the rig was a three-way swivel with a dropper to the sinker of about 12 inches. The hook leader, however, was about six feet long, which is much longer than most people ever use. I use this rig myself sometimes, especially when I am fishing in deep water at places like the Chesapeake Bay-Bridge

Continued on page 6

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Steve Wagner of Ocean Pines, MD took advantage of a good striped bite at the South Jetty on Saturday morning, landing this 38-inch that weighed 20 lbs. 4 oz. Steve caught the linesider on a bucktail with a white curly tail. Weighed at Ake Marine.

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Hugh Cropper of West Ocean City, MD caught and released this beautiful 52-inch red drum while surf fishing with peeler crabs off Cobb Island.



John Hawkins of Rehoboth Beach, DE, Bob Houser of Carlisle, PA and Steve Jess of Bonita Springs, FL used clams to capture these sea bass during a trip aboard the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Rich Silvani and Tucker Colquhoun. Bob's sea bass was the heaviest of the day, weighing in at 5 lbs. 6 oz. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Debbie and Preston Walls of Ridgely, MD ended their day with 5 flounder in the box (4 pictured) after drifting strips of squid in the bay behind the Ocean City Airport. The largest flattie measured 25-inches and weighed 6 lbs. 6 oz. on the scale at Ake Marine.



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Double Lines continued:

Tunnel. Some Virginia anglers down that way even use as much as nine or ten feet of leader between the swivel and the hook. The hook can have "hair" such as Mylar or bucktail, along with a spinner and beads, especially when using a large strip of cut bait, but with live bait, such as spot, it is usually fished "naked." I prefer an in-line swivel to a regular three-way, but they can be hard to find. An in-line swivel also has three eyes, but it is t-shaped, rather than y-shaped, and I think the design makes it stronger, especially since it gives you a straight pull from line to hook. The length of the dropper from the swivel to the sinker snap can vary, depending on the water depth. Generally, the longer drop is better for deeper water, while 6 to 8 inches is usually sufficient for our local coastal bays. I generally tie my sinker drop on 30 lb. mono and use 40 lb. for the hook sinker, though sometimes I will make it 20 and 30. A 4/0 wide gap or octopus

circle hook is my preference. If I am using a large strip bait I sometimes tie a tandem "stinger hook" rig with either regular octopus or octopus circle hooks. The rig is a little harder to fish, especially when you are bringing a flounder to the boat to net, but sometimes putting that bait much farther away from the sinker can really make a difference, especially if you like to troll...



Speaking of crabs, and especially peeler and soft crabs, a local crabber told me last week that the nighttime air temperatures have been just too cold for the crabs to really shed big time, which means that the big shed, at least locally, didn't come on the full moon in May and will probably happen on the moon in June, which is on the seventh. Oddly enough, however, I also heard last week that the soft crab run on the "bayside", meaning the Chesapeake Bay, especially around Crisfield, has been one of the largest some watermen have ever experienced. Like I

always say, just when you think you have Mother Nature figured out, she'll throw you a changeup, or maybe even a spitter...



This used to be the time of year when the gray trout, or weakfish, run was really starting to come on, and the big "tiderunners" were a much sought after species. Nowadays, however, the "run" consists of a fish here and there, and I have heard of a few lately. A friend of mine even caught a 10-pounder last week, but it was taken in a gill net. Between the fishing pressure and the abundance of stripers and big bluefish feeding on the "spike" trout, especially up north, I'm not sure they will ever come back, which is a sad thing when you think about it. Of course, trout have always run in cycles, so maybe there is still a glimmer of hope...



Contact Dale Timmons at coastfish@verizon.net or call 410-629-1191.



Danny Cox of West Ocean City, MD caught this 23.75-inch, 5 lb. 6 oz. flounder in the Thorofare on a minnow/twister combination.

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Tom Vaughan of West Ocean City, MD landed a "personal best" tautog that tipped the scales at 18 lbs. 4 oz. Tom was fishing on the "Catfish" with Josh "Tico" Ruskey at the Bass Grounds where the duo released one 16 lb. tog and 2 that weighed 13 lbs. All of the fish were caught on green crabs. Tom is pictured with Nash Rogers.



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Ocean City Fishing Report

by Larry Jock



First, let me thank Terry Layton at Layton's on 92nd Street for sponsoring this year's Junior Angler of the Week. Layton's will be awarding the winner each week with complimentary breakfast for four at the restaurant. Thanks, Terry!

What a great week of fishing. We had good catches in the bay, in the surf, on the wrecks and even offshore as warm temperatures and flat seas enabled anglers to head east in search of dolphin, tuna and sharks.

SHARK

The first mako shark was caught last Friday by Jim Hughes on the "Nontypical". You really could feel it in the air. Somebody was going to catch the first mako. Blue sharks had been caught and released during the week and it was only a matter of time before Mr. Black Eye was going to be weighed on a local scale. The crew started their drift in 100 fathoms in the Baltimore and drifted east. As the day came to an end and the guys were ready to pack it in, the 185 lb. mako hit a fresh bluefish in 400 fathoms. After a 45 minute fight, it was hoisted over the gunnel.

Terry Layton on the "Nontypical", along with other anglers who ventured offshore, reported an abundance of life in the canyons. Whales, turtles,



Chris Tilghman of Ocean City, MD caught a 24-inch flounder and a 7 lb. 8 oz. weakfish while fishing on the "Wedgie 2" north of the Rt. 90 Bridge. Both fish were caught on a bucktail and spinner blade flounder rig with a minnow and a strip of squid. Chris was fishing with Michael Tuel, who landed himself a 21-inch flounder.

blue sharks and even bluefin tuna chasing squid were all seen deep in the Canyons.

There were a number of thresher sharks reportedly

caught in commercial nets at Little Gull Shoal, which is only a couple of miles off the beach on Assateague Island. Capt. Bruce McGuigan told me that they were big threshers, with some in the 400-550 lb. class.

Blue sharks were caught in increasing numbers. The "Nontypical" had 15 blue shark releases while the "Restless Lady" recorded 6 releases the day before.

On Wednesday, the "Restless Lady" headed to a shot of warm water in 1,200 fathoms outside the Poorman's Canyon in search of bluefin tuna and dolphin. They didn't run across any bluefins, but they did return on Thursday with a heck of a catch of dolphin. The fish were caught in 69-degree water on trolled ballyhoo, spreader bars, and according to Mate Rich Hastings, anything else they threw in the water. The crew ended their trip with 27 dolphin in the box, with the two heaviest tipping the scales at 30 lbs.

On Friday, the "Empty Pockets" took a trip to 1,300 fathoms outside the Norfolk Canyon and found 73-degree water. They hooked into 17 dolphin with the largest two weighing 17 and 20 lbs.

BLUEFIN TUNA

Many boats went searching this weekend, but I know of only one boat who actually hooked a bluefin tuna. Butch Bradshaw on the "DILLIGAF" caught a 38-inch in 500 fathoms outside the Baltimore Canyon. The fish was caught in 64-degree water on a trolled ballyhoo. They also released one bluefin. Terry Layton on the "Nontypical" reported having bluefin tuna swimming by right next to the boat, chasing squid. They tried to hook one on a jig, but could not get it to bite.

TAUTOG

Tautog, or blackfish, continue to be caught around the South Jetty and also on ocean wrecks and reefs. Tom "Chef" Vaughan caught a monster tog mid-week while fishing at the Bass Grounds. The tog weighed in at 18 lbs. 4 oz. Tom and Josh Ruskey also released a 16 pounder and a couple of 13 pounders during the trip.

Green crabs and sand fleas

continued on page 13



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Fishing Report updated daily!

FISHING REPORT

4.19.09 3:00am

SUNDAY, April 26, 2009: A few flounder were caught today, both up by the Rt. 90 Bridge and also down in the South Bay behind Assateague. Water was surprisingly clear.

Black drum and striped bass were caught by surfcasters off Assateague over the weekend. Anglers had to work through sharks and skates.

SATURDAY, April 25, 2009: Decent flounder fishing in the bay. The "Bay Bee" had 5 keepers on their morning trip with the largest measuring 19.75 inches. All were caught in the South Bay on the troll, with shiners and squid for bait. In the afternoon, the "Bay Bee" had 3 keepers with the largest measuring 23 inches. Same location and bait.

FRIDAY, April 24, 2009: Went striper fishing in the Chesapeake Bay today on the "Playmate" with Capt. Willie Zimmerman. Had a fantastic day! We caught 9 fish, kept 5. Fish were FAT and measured between 36 inches and 44 inches. Had to throwback a 42 inch since we already had our limit. Trolled umbrella rigs and mojos in the bay between Solomon's Island and Hooper's Island. It was a blast!!! Here's the great part. Capt. Willie will now pick people up at Rippons Seafood & Marina on Hooper's Island on the Eastern Shore. That is only 1 hour and 45 minutes from Ocean City, MD. A far cry from the 4 hour car ride to Solomon's. This definitely makes the trip worthwhile, not to mention that you will be fishing on a 60-foot Custom Carolina boat. If you want to take advantage of this fishery (which is hot right now) and only have to make a fairly short car ride, then you can call Capt. Willie at 443-370-7144.

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Victor Thao of Lititz, PA had to be smiling on the inside when he reeled in this 39-inch striped bass after hooking it on a Storm Lure at the Indian River Inlet. The fish weighed 23 lbs. 8 oz. on the scale at Bill's Sport Shop in Lewes, DE.



It was Sea Bass Day on the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Tucker Colquhoun and Mike Kinder. Debbie Wallace of Cambridge, MD and Eddie Foster of Trappe, MD each landed 4 pounders, while Dan Shettle of Cambridge, MD caught himself a 3 lb. 8 oz. sea bass. All of the fish were caught on clams while fishing in 58-degree water at a natural reef. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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Frank Clark of Ocean View, DE - no stranger to the pages of the Coastal Fisherman - was at it again, landing this 41-inch striper while fishing at night in the Indian River Inlet. The fish weighed 24 lbs. 4 oz. at Hook'em & Cook'em Outfitters in Bethany, DE.

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Sean Harrington of Glen Burnie, MD caught this 4 lb. 6 oz. sea bass and a 5 lb. tog while fishing on the "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and Mate Dean Lo. Both were caught at the Jackpot on green crabs. Pictured at Capt. Bill Bunting's Angler Dock.

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Rob King caught this 19 lb. 10 oz. striped bass while fishing with fresh bunker at Cape Henlopen State Park. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop in Lewes, DE.



Don Altland of York, PA muscled in this 7 lb. 2 oz. flounder while drifting a live minnow in the Rehoboth Bay. Weighed at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.

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WEAKFISH

How nice is it to see a couple of weakfish (gray trout) caught this year? Chris Tilghman caught a 7 lb. 8 oz. weakie just north of the Rt. 90 Bridge on May 16th. A couple days prior, Rich Bell caught a trout in the bay behind the Ocean City Airport. None were reported by anglers off Assateague this past week. Minnows and squid have been the baits of choice.

BLUEFISH

Surprisingly, we haven't seen a lot of big bluefish being caught this year. A few have been caught in the surf, both off Assateague Island and from the beaches in North Ocean City. Elsewhere, reports have come in about bluefish on the Hambone and around the Great Eastern Reef.

STRIPED BASS

Last week striper fishing was sporadic off Assateague, with most anglers battling skates and dogfish sharks. On Sunday, Anthony Thomas did stop by with his 42-incher along with his wife Sharon's 36-inch striper.

There was a good bite in the Inlet on Saturday morning with several anglers picking up some nice, clean linesiders.

FLOUNDER

When anglers could find clean water, they found flounder. Most of the fish we saw were in the 18.5 to 19.5-inch range, although Sidni Schlegel did catch a 25.5-incher in the bay off Frontier Town. It looks like the bay behind Assateague and the Thorofare are the two best spots right now for landing a keeper flounder. The Gulp! Alive artificial baits have really been producing and are definitely growing in popularity. Minnows and squid were also effective.

SEA BASS

Fishing for sea bass this year has been tough, but we continue to see decent catches showing up at the docks. The "Morning Star" had a 6 lb. 3 oz. sea bass on Thursday and several others during the week that weighed over 4 lbs. Clams and squid have been the most productive baits.

The first big, local tournament is a little over a week away with the Mako Mania Tournament on June 5th.

See you at the scales!



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Driftin' Easy

by Sue Foster



"What's biting at night?"

Night fishing can be totally different than fishing during the day. Anglers fishing by day usually use bait and fish on the bottom. At night, anglers can still fish on the bottom, but many anglers like to use lures and jig for shad, trout, blues and stripers.

"What's biting at the Oceanic Pier at night?"



When bright lights are turned on and shine on the water, fish come up to eat little baitfish that are attracted to the lights. That's what happens at the Pier! Shiners, smelts, alewives, slicks, shrimps, little squids and baby sand eels suddenly appear out of nowhere, with hungry predator fish right behind. For some reason, the Oceanic Pier tends to attract a lot of shad, blues and trout. The really big stripers are usually caught from the Inlet Wall itself and from the Route 50 Bridge. That isn't saying the Oceanic Pier doesn't get a few

stripers, and occasionally a nice keeper at that. But most of the time, the fare is the blues, shad and trout.

So with these slightly "smaller than striper" sized fish, anglers use smaller artificial baits. The ever popular Spec Rigs and Gotcha Plugs are the best artificial baits from the Pier. You can never go wrong with these lures. The Spec Rigs are basically two shad darts tied in tandem. They come in any number of brands. Sometimes they are also called "Redfish Rigs." They are very popular down South in places like Florida and Texas for redfish (red drum.) They come in a variety of weights with the most popular in our area being the 1/4 ounce and the 1/8 ounce. Colors include white, chartreuse, red, orange, Shrimp Glow, yellow and pink. White and chartreuse are probably the most popular in our area. But on a certain night, the fish may prefer a particular color, so a variety in your tackle box will never hurt!

Spec Rigs have a loop offset in the leader of the rig. If you need more weight, you simply slip an inline sinker in the loop, or if you need just a little bit of weight you can crimp on a split

shot. You can even slip on an egg sinker above your snap swivel. When you're in the middle of a fishing blitz, you just got to use what's in your box!

When fishing a Spec Rig, you toss it into the current, and jig it back towards you as it sinks. You can also drop it straight down with weight, and jig it up and down. Watch others who are catching and see what they are doing.

Shad are game fish that generally go for the smaller lures. Blues and trout will go for the larger ones.

Gotcha Plugs are aptly named because if you are not careful, they will GET YOU! With two sets of treble hooks attached to the pencil shaped lure, these jigs are great for catching blues, shad, stripers and trout. They have been known to get caught in fingers and other body parts if you are not careful. Always look behind you before casting, and take care when de-hooking thrashing bluefish, use pliers. I've been to a hospital with a treble hook embedded in my finger. It's not fun!

Gotcha Plugs also come in a variety of colors and sizes. White with a red head is the most all around popular plug, then white with a yellow head, chartreuse, and sometimes pink is very, very hot. Always carry a variety - silver or gold metallic colored Gotcha Plugs are especially good for bluefish. The smaller ones with gold hooks are good for the shad. Gotcha Plugs are best fished from structure where you are up on a pier, bridge, or bulkhead and casting down. They are perfect for the pier. Cast up current, let sink a bit, and then jig back. Use short, sharp jerks or drop down and jig up and down. Again, watch others who are catching, and try to do the same.

Because of the way the Pier is situated, jutting out into the bay and Inlet, the whole incoming tide seems to bring the best fishing with lures. Check your tide table, and if you have an incoming tide after dark, go for it! This isn't to say you won't catch fish on the outgoing; it's just that the incoming tide is usually better.

Many anglers like to fish the Route 50 Bridge at night for blues and stripers. Sometimes trout will bite as well. Since the Bridge is higher up, and the fish tend to be a little larger, anglers use bigger artificial lures than on the Oceanic Pier. Gotcha Plugs are still very popular on the Bridge, but anglers tend to use the larger ones. The 1 1/4 ounce and 2-ounce size is very popular from the Bridge. Since the current runs directly below the Bridge, anglers can fish either of two ways. They can work their lures against the current. Cast out and let the current jig it back towards you as it sinks and goes slightly underneath the Bridge. OR, you can drop it and jig it out with the current letting out line as it goes.

Swimming shad lures are VERY popular from the Route 50 Bridge at night. These rubber lures molded into a lead head, looking like a real live fish, is the ticket for many fishing the Bridge at night. The 5 and 6-inch varieties are best at night. They come in an array of colors and brands and like in all situations, one night the fish will want one color/brand over another. One thing is for sure, bunker, mullet, and pearl white usually will work at least 7/8th of the time. Last year, we found that the fish really liked the lures with the red eyes.

Swimming shad lures have a natural look and swim so they are easy to work. Cast out, let it sink some, and then retrieve in, either with or against the tide. You really can't screw up with a swimming shad lure. I think that's why they are so popular.

Stripers tend to be closer to the bottom, while bluefish tend to be closer to the surface. Anglers targeting stripers tend to use the heavier, larger lures. Sometimes they tie the Swimming Shad lures in tandem to make a heavier lure that will get closer to the bottom.

Anglers also use the good ol' lead head with a plastic body attached. Anglers use Fin-S Fish, Zoom, Bass Assassin, and any number of different brands of soft bodies in the 4, 5 and 6-inch range. Five-inch is the all around favorite size. They put these on half to 1 1/2 ounce lead heads and often tie them in tandem.



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Charlie Donohue of Philadelphia, PA was drifting a Gulp! artificial bait on a jig head when he hooked into this 22-inch flounder. Photo courtesy of Oyster Bay Tackle.

The good old fashioned bucktail jig also works. In the old days, that was all anyone would use! Generally the angler attaches a 6-inch curtail or straight plastic worm to a 3/4 to 2-ounce bucktail jig.

The Bridge is pretty high up, so you need to use a bridge net, or have some pretty strong 25-40 pound test line on your reel to hand line your fish up. The best tide is half way in to the high tide, and the first hour or so of the outgoing. Either side (one hour each side) of low tide is also good.

Anglers fishing in the Inlet use pretty much the same lures as those fishing from the bridge. Anglers can also use the spec rigs when the blues and shad are in there thick. Usually the anglers need to add an inline sinker weight to spoons, bucktails, and spec rigs to get them out there further. Cast "up current," let it sink, then start to jig as it passes by you. After it passes by you with the current, jig it in and get the lure out of there before it SNAGS!

Good fishing!

Sue Foster is an outdoor writer and co-owner of Oyster Bay Tackle in Ocean City, MD and Fenwick Tackle in Fenwick, DE.

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Last Thursday, the crew on the "Restless Lady" took an overnight fun fishing trip to 1,200 fathoms outside the Poorman's Canyon where they found a shot of 69-degree water and loaded up on some dolphin. The two largest of the 27 dolphin caught weighed in at 30 lbs. and were hooked on trolled ballyhoo and spreader bars. The anglers also released 6 blue sharks during the trip. Pictured on the dock at the Talbot Street Pier are Cori Cluster, Traye Matthes, Chuck Dammann, John Griffiths, Bryan Hazard, Rich Hastings, Sean Welsh and Capt. Todd Kurtz.



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<p style="text-align: center;">1ST ANNUAL OCMC LADIES TOURNAMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">July 30 - August 1 Registration and Captain's Meeting: July 30th Fish 1 of 2: July 31st - August 1st Awards Banquet: August 1st</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">51ST ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">September 3-6 Registration & Captain's Meeting: September 3rd Fish 2 of 3: September 4th - 6th Awards Banquet: September 6th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">31ST ANNUAL CHALLENGE CUP TOURNAMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Open to members of the Cape May Marlin & Tuna Club and the Ocean City Marlin Club September 17-19 Registration & Capts. Meeting: September 17th Fish 2 of 2: September 18th & 19th Awards Banquet: September 19th</p>




































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The Galley

by Mama Jock



Baked Flounder with Peppers & Mushrooms

- 1 TBSP olive oil
- 2 medium orange or yellow peppers, thinly sliced
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 ten oz. package sliced mushrooms
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1 tsp. fresh thyme leaves, chopped
- 6 skinless flounder fillets
- 2 TBSP fresh lemon juice
- Salt and pepper

Preheat oven to 450 degrees.

In a 12 inch skillet, heat oil.

Add peppers and onion, cook 10 minutes or until tender, stirring often.

Add mushrooms, wine, and thyme; cook on medium-high for 3 minutes.

Spray a 13x9 baking dish with nonstick cooking spray.

Arrange fillets in baking dish, folding under narrow ends.

Sprinkle with lemon juice, 1/4 tsp. each of salt and pepper.

Spoon hot vegetable mixture from skillet on top of fish in baking dish.

Bake fish 15 to 18 minutes or until opaque throughout.

Garnish with additional thyme leaves, if desired.

Serves 6.

Baked Imperial Rockfish

- 1 large rockfish
- 1 lb. crab meat
- 2 lbs. potatoes
- 1 large onion
- 6 strips bacon
- 4 TBSP flour
- 1/2 cup evaporated milk
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 stick margarine
- 2 TBSP mayonnaise
- 1 tsp. mustard
- Old Bay seasoning, to taste

Clean and wash fish.

Salt and pepper to taste.

Lay bacon strips on rack of baking pan.

Place fish on rack on top of bacon strips.

Set aside.

In a frying pan, melt margarine, 2 TBSP flour and

stir.

Add milk and water mixture.

Stir until thick paste forms.

Remove from heat.

Add mayonnaise, mustard and Old Bay to taste.

Mix in crab meat.

Stuff fish with mixture.

Put bacon around fish and secure with toothpicks.

Spray sheet cake pan with vegetable shortening.

Sprinkle 2 TBSP flour on bottom of pan.

Peel and slice potatoes.

Spread potatoes in bottom of pan.

Put fish on rack in pan.

Peel and slice onion over fish and potatoes.

Pour 1 cup of water over all.

Cover with foil and bake at 350 degrees for about 1 hour.

Remove foil and bake until bacon and fish are brown, no more than 15 minutes.

Remove from oven and let set for 10 minutes.

Serve on platter with potatoes.

Striped Bass with Saffron Cream Sauce

- 4 striped bass fillets
- 1/2 oz. Cajun seasonings
- 3 oz. all-purpose flour
- 2 oz. olive oil

Sauce:

- 1 cup white wine
- 1 shallot, minced
- 1 garlic glove, minced
- 1 pinch saffron threads
- 2 cups heavy cream
- Salt and pepper to taste

For sauce, combine white wine, shallot, garlic and saffron threads in small saucepan.

Cook until liquid is reduced to a syrupy consistency.

Add heavy cream and bring to a boil.

Reduce heat to a simmer, cook until thickened slightly. Sauce should coat the back of a spoon.

Season with salt and pepper.

Strain the sauce and keep warm until needed.

Divide fillets into 4 portions.

Combine flour and Cajun seasoning.

Heat olive oil in saute pan.

Dust striped bass fillets with flour mixture and place in saute pan.

Cook fish on both sides until golden brown and cooked through.

Spoon sauce over striped bass and serve.

Serves 4.

Roasted Striped Bass

- 2 TBSP olive oil
- 1 cup chopped onions
- 2 oz. bacon, diced
- 1 TBSP chopped garlic
- 1 (28 oz.) can plum tomatoes, drained and diced
- 1 tsp. saffron threads
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 2 striped bass fillets, skin removed
- 1 lb. large shrimp, shelled and deveined
- 24 mussels, cleaned and debearded
- 2 TBSP chopped parsley

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Heat oil in a medium saute pan and saute onions and bacon for 10 minutes or until onion is translucent.

Add the garlic and cook for 1 minute.

Add the tomatoes, saffron, salt, pepper, white wine and simmer over medium heat for 5 minutes.

Place the fish in a 10x14 baking dish and sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Add the shrimp and mussels to the dish.

Pour the sauce over the seafood and bake uncovered for 20 to 30 minutes, until the fish and shrimp are cooked through and the mussels are open.

Sprinkle with parsley and serve.

Serves 6.

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BLUEFISH
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CROAKER
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TAUTOG
Until 10/31
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WEAKFISH
13" minimum 6 per person/day



BLUE CRAB
5" minimum 1 bushel/person
no more than 2 bushels per boat



SUMMER FLOUNDER
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SPECKLED TROUT
14" minimum 10 per person/day



STRIPED BASS
28" minimum 2 per person/day



SHEEPSHEAD
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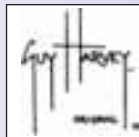
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The first bluefin tuna of the year was caught by Butch Bradshaw of Thurmont, MD (right) while fishing on the "DILLIGAF" with Capt. Fred Crickenberger, Jr. and Mate Fred Crickenberger, Sr. The 38-inch, 35 lb. bluefin, along with another bluefin released during the trip, was caught in 64-degree water in 500 fathoms inside the Baltimore Canyon on a trolled, naked ballyhoo. Pictured at Fisherman's Marina.

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Past the Breakers

by Sam Kilgore



When I was a teenager, I knew it all. I even knew everything there was to know about fishing and I also knew I was good at it. Dad took me down to the Ocean City Inlet and we fished with what we knew had always worked for us. Before long, I saw a young couple walking towards the inlet wall with a huge, brand new, shiny tackle box, rods and white plastic bags filled with fishing "stuff". I kept an eye on



Brandon Solomon caught this 37-inch, 21 lb. striped bass while fishing with bunker heads off the beach on Assateague Island. Hats off to Brandon, a freshman at Stephen Decatur High School, for starting a Fishing Club at the school that already has 50 members.

them as they settled in and started to assemble their new fishing gear. After they had peeled off all the stickers, put together their rods, opened all the packages and assembled their rigs I walked a little closer to check them out. They had small top-and-bottom rigs with two bright green bucktails tied to each. I could not see what size pyramid sinker they were planning on throwing down into those barnacle covered rocks, but I was confident it was going to hold bottom.

I walked back over to Dad, very anxious to hear his comments on the ordeal. To my surprise, he did not seem very interested in my opinion of the angler's methods. As a matter of fact, he did not even give them a second look as I described the details of their rigs. He just continued to stare out over the ocean and quietly said, "I wouldn't knock it, Sam".

It was many years later, and just as many similar events, before I even began to

understand why Dad was so non-judgmental when it came to fishing. My Gramps had a very systematic way of fishing. He had learned how to fish back in the 1930's with little knowledge and very limited resources. Gramps had fashioned surf rods from bamboo and did the best with what he had available. Eventually, through trial and error, diligence and common sense, he became an excellent and accomplished surf fisherman. I spent my childhood learning the same tried and true fishing techniques and never questioned them. As far as I was concerned, there was only one way to fish... The right way.

I was a fully grown man with a family of my own before I began exploring other fishing techniques. I am certain I would never have bought several conventional surf fishing rods or considered putting "beads" on my fishing line if I had not "surfed" my way right into a whole new world of fishing.

It was very uncommon for Dad to fish the surf during the summer. He was convinced the surf had been void of fish for the past several years. He would often tell me stories of the times he and Gramps would catch buckets of kingfish, trout, bluefish and blowfish. Occasionally, he would make comments about how guilty he felt for keeping those fish, even though it was a large part of their diet.

One hot summer afternoon, I must have caught him in a good mood because he wanted to head to the beach and try for some "whiting" (kingfish). Not long after arriving, we started catching what we had set out to catch using the same tackle and bait, the tried and true top-and-bottom rig with a three ounce pyramid sinker, small brass hooks just right for bloodworms.

While we fished, I noticed a young man consistently catching and releasing flounder from the surf. Then, as if he was bored from fishing, he would walk to the wash, sit down and dig a hole in the sand. It wasn't long before curiosity got the best of me and I had to find out what he was doing different and why I did not know about it. Sure enough, he was casting out a rather funny looking, homemade top-and-bottom rig and he was using sand fleas for bait. He would slowly reel in the bait and repeat this process until he had to put more fleas on his hook or take another flounder off. If I had not seen him have such success, I would have thought he was only wasting his time and his energy. I mean, you are supposed to let your bait sit still if you want to catch fish, right? I think Dad was just as confused as I was, although he never said much about the bait. He wanted all those beautiful flounder that guy kept throwing back into the wash.

I was determined to figure out why flounder were in the surf eating sand fleas when they should have been in the bay eating minnows, so I began researching all about flounder on the internet. I read about their eating habits, water temperature tolerance, natural

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predators and much more. I began looking for more information about the Delmarva surf fishing scene, specifically what sort of crazy, sand flea eating flounder had migrated into our surf, when I found something that got my heart pumping. I had stumbled across a website with fishing reports and pictures that blew my mind. These incredible fishing stories had been written and submitted by local anglers, not 20 years ago, but within the past month. I was a little disappointed when I read about the striped bass annual migration and they were already north of Delmarva. I had to wait another five months before they made their trip south, however I soon forgot about catching striped bass altogether.

One evening on Assateague, I was just about ready to pack up after another good, but less than exciting day of fishing. It was getting dark, and we had never fished at night. As far as I knew, fish didn't bite after the sun sets. As I started to pack up my gear, I remembered reading about a few anglers who were catching large red drum from off the Virginia surf. So, considering I was not too far from the Maryland/Virginia line, I grabbed the biggest hook in the tackle box, a snap swivel for a sinker slide and got out one of the kingfish I had caught earlier. I put the kingfish head on the hook and heaved my old rod as hard as I could. I was nearly finished washing off my cooler and chair when something unexpected happened. My rod starting bending over to the point, I thought it was going to snap in half. By the time I got to it, the line was peeling off that old spinning reel so fast, I hardly knew what to do.

When I tried to pull the rod from the sandspike, both of them came out of the sand. Then I felt the incredible power of the fish on the other end. I was addicted at once. All I could do was stand there, hold on and watch the line tear off the spool. Within what seemed like seconds, the line ran out and I discovered one of the strongest knots I had ever tied.



Scott Cooper of Berlin, MD continued his assault on striped bass off the beach on Assateague Island. Scott caught the 36-incher on a bunker head. Photo courtesy of AtlanticAnglers.com

Thinking back, it's probably a good thing I got spooled. I would not have had the first clue how to handle anything that big.

After the loud "snap" of my line breaking I just stood there, getting eaten alive by mosquitoes and barely even noticing them. I had just lost a very quick battle with a critter that I should have caught. I was confident that was not going to happen again and within minutes, I had foolishly convinced myself I knew exactly what I was going to do next time... I could not have been more wrong.

In my personal experience, when it comes to fishing, there are two certainties: If I want to catch fish, I have to get out there and put in the time, be prepared and expect the unexpected. The more knowledge I gain, the more humble I become.

Sam Kilgore is an avid surf fisherman and administers AtlanticAnglers.com, a free, family friendly website devoted to helping anglers learn all aspects of fishing.

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Sidni Schlegel was drifting with live minnows in the bay just off Frontier Town when he hooked into this 25.5-inch flounder that weighed in at 5 lbs. 8 oz. on the scale at Buck's Place.



When the "Ursula Priscilla" comes back to the dock, you never know what kind of "cool" catch they will arrive with. On this day they returned with bluefish, tog, ocean pout, sea bass and red hake, all caught on clams and squid on ocean wrecks. Fishing with Capt. George Merrick (center) and Mate Rob Hearn were Gary Ruff, Bob Powell, Bruce LeCates, Michael Hare, Matthew Hare and Greg Sizemore. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Date Fished: _____

Location Code (circle one): Atlantic Ocean 012
Assawoman Bay 001 Isle of Wight Bay 049
Sinepuxent Bay 084 Chincoteague Bay 033

Time Started: _____ am/pm Hours Fished: _____

Number of Anglers: _____

Fished from (circle one): Shore Boat Pier Surf Charter

Fishing Method (circle one):
Bottom Fishing Drifting Trolling Casting Fly

Please tell us how you submit fish lengths to our survey (circle one):

- 1) Record fish lengths on paper during my fishing trip and submit later
- 2) Submit information from memory within 48 hours of my fishing trip
- 3) Submit information from memory 48 hours or more after my fishing trip

CATCH INFORMATION

Total # of Summer Flounder Kept: _____

Total # of Summer Flounder Released: _____

For each trip, measure each summer flounder caught, kept or released, up to a maximum of 20. Place an "X" in the appropriate kept or released box for each summer flounder caught. If you don't catch any flounder during your trip, still complete the survey and mail to the Maryland DNR.

Length	Kept	Released	Length	Kept	Released



Justin Lynch was surfcasting off the beach in Ocean City and didn't have a strike until this 32-inch bluefish came along and hit his rig tipped with a fresh bunker tail. Photo courtesy of Oyster Bay Tackle.

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Brenden Fouts of Pittsville, MD caught his first flounder, a 19.5 incher, while fishing with his parents, Richard and Samantha Fouts. Brenden's flattie hit a Gulp! Alive Swimming Mullet near the Rt. 90 Bridge. Pictured at Fisherman's Marina in West Ocean City.



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Delaware Fishing Report

by Rick Willman



I hope everyone had a great Memorial Day weekend and enjoyed some excellent fishing.

Flounder action in the back bays continues to produce good numbers of fish along with some nice sized fish. The Indian River Inlet is giving up stripers and bluefish along with some runs of shad. Russell Frey of Boyertown, PA used a Storm Lure to fool a 13 lb. 6 oz. linesider. David Smith of Felton, DE tricked a fat 36-inch, 20 lb. 12 oz. striper in the Indian River Inlet. David Shepherd used a bucktail tipped with red squid to tempt his 4 lb. 10 oz., 23 inch flattie. Mark Herman of Bristow, VA used squid to nab a 6 lb., 25 inch Indian River flounder. John Grabowski of Long Neck, DE used bucktail for his near-citation, 6 lb. 11 oz., 27.5-inch flattie caught in the Indian River Inlet. Will Breasure of Georgetown, DE took his



Nick Giordano of Wilmington, DE captured this 6 lb. 10 oz. flattie while drifting a live minnow in the Indian River Bay. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.

citation 7 lb. 8 oz. flounder from the Indian River Bay using Berkley GULP!. Chris High of Reading, PA fished Massey's Landing with minnow and squid to land a 4 1/4 lb., 22.5-inch flounder. Joe Vascaglia fished the Delaware Bay with Dan Readinger and caught some 40 lb. black drum. Drum fishing is starting to become more and more popular each year.

The black drum are also known as Texas Drum, Sea Drum, Saltwater Drum, Gray Drum, Drumfish, Striped Drum and Tambor. The black drum is a chunky, high-backed fish with many barbels or whiskers under the lower jaw. Younger fish have four or five dark vertical bars on their sides, but these disappear with age. The bellies of older fish are white but coloration of backs and sides can vary greatly. Fish from Gulf waters frequently lack color and are light gray or silvery. Those living in muddy bay waters

have dark gray or bronze-colored backs and sides. Some are solid silvery gray or jet black. A length of six inches is reached in the first year, 12 inches the second and 16 inches the third. Increases of about two inches per year occur after that. The largest black drum on record weighs 146 pounds. This fish is a member of the croaker family and is related to the Atlantic croaker, red drum, and spotted seatrout.

Small fish, under a pound in weight, are sometimes called "butterfly drum" or "puppy drum" while those of larger size, 30 lbs. and more, are called "bull drum", although the large specimens can be either male or female. Perhaps the most notable drum harvests are the annual runs of "bull" drum. Free spawning (random release of eggs) occurs mostly in February, March, and April with some later spawning occurring in June and July. Larval drum are

found in the surf and along bay shorelines in March and April, and by early summer one-half to one-inch juveniles are common in shallow, muddy creeks, sloughs and boat basins.

Young drum feed on maritime worms, small shrimp, and crabs and small fish. Larger drum eat small crabs, worms, algae, small fish and mollusks. When food is plentiful and water conditions acceptable, movements are small, but long migrations in search of food and more desirable habitats have been recorded. The black drum is found along the Atlantic Coast from New York south through the Gulf States to Mexico.

The ongoing flounder tournament at Bill's Sport Shop in Lewes, DE runs through June 12th. Standings as of this report are as follows:

1st place: Tom Bailor, 7.34 lbs. 28 inches

2nd place: Billy Rawlings, 5.99 lbs. 25.5 inches

3rd place: John Rupp, 5.93 lbs. 25 inches

Josh Rowley of Milton, DE caught a 40 inch, 19.85 lb. striper on bunker at CHSP. Kent Brittingham of Rehoboth caught an 18.2 lb. striper at IRI on a Storm Lure. Jon Kitchen went to Site 11 and boated about 80 sea bass with 4 keepers.

At Henlopen Bait & Tackle, Dan told us flounder fishing has been great almost every place you would normally fish for flounder. All of the usual baits are being used, including minnow and squid, shiners and GULP!.

At Rattle & Reel Sporting Center on Long Neck Road, Ron said the fishing has been pretty steady with flounder catches in the back bays and striper and blues in the inlet.

At Hook'em & Cook'em Bait & Tackle, Bert reported stripers in the surf and in the Indian River Inlet. He also spoke of shad in the inlet. Bob Hayes from Selbyville, DE took a 34 lb. linesider from the beach using fresh bunker. Lots of sea bass have been found on structure in the ocean but finding keepers has been tough. Bluefish seem to be staying quite a bit offshore. Flounder action remains good in the Indian River.

Joe Morris at Lewes Harbour Marina said the Lewes Canal

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Flounder Tournament was a big success. The weather was beautiful and flounder were in a cooperative mood for the 275 participants in this year's event. Billy Hocker had the winning flattie, weighing 5.26 lbs. Dan Kimble captured second place with his 5 lb. fish. Darwin Fisher's 4.97 lb. flattie finished third, and Mike Zimmerman was a repeat winner from last year with a fourth place 4.94 lb. flatfish. Chris Moody from the Dewey Beach Lion's Club coordinated donations to the Camp Awareness Youth Fishing Program with a portion of proceeds from the Canal Tournament. Captain Billy Talbot and crew fished the tournament exclusively with their two-foot long Mighty Mite rod and reel combos and had two keepers out of 26 they caught on the miniature outfits. Seven-year-old Jagger Ruff brought in a 2.7 lb. flounder he caught on Tournament Day.

The Lewes Canal, Broadkill River and Roosevelt Inlet yielded lots of flounder, however the majority were shy of the 18.5-inch minimum. Nick Psaroudakis, Mike Hoffman and Bob Gantz managed to cull a limit of 12 keepers to 4.65 lbs. from a large number of fish they caught in the Canal on Thursday. Flounder also came on strong in the shallow water along Broadkill and Lewes Beaches. The shallows between the Cape Shores and Cape Henlopen Piers were quite productive as well. Brad Snitch checked in a 5.14 lb. fluke he caught from the Cape Shores Pier on a chartreuse jig with a minnow. Spec Rigs tipped with shiners worked well for anglers casting and retrieving them slowly along the bottom from the recently reopened Cape Henlopen Pier. The bite seemed better after dark, at the edge of the lights.

Flounder also were taken from the 60 to 70 foot depths of the Anchorage between "F" and "G" Buoys. Mike Rebuck had a limit catch of 4 flatties to 5.05 lbs. fishing aboard the "Angler" on Saturday. Flounder were reported north of "D" Buoy as well. It is very encouraging to see a spread of flounder on the open bottom, easily accessible to most anglers. In recent seasons,

fluke were concentrated around the reef sites, where they were more difficult to get at.

Joe said more good news came in the form of the first trout he had seen brought in by customers this spring. Frank and Sue Gaworski caught 13 weakfish to 2 ½ lbs. during the last of flood tide on Saturday morning. They were casting crystal shad Bass Assassins in shallow water along Broadkill Beach. Stripers were caught by boaters casting Bomber plugs along the Outer Wall and Ice Breakers at dusk. Rockfish were also taken at night around the Roosevelt Inlet Coast Guard Station docks. Black drum action continued to be very good. Boomers bit on the Coral Beds off Slaughter Beach and in Broadkill Slough. Andy Lano and crew fished the Coral Beds on Friday afternoon for 10 drum, including Anthony Lano's 82.3 lb. behemoth. They returned to the same spot Saturday for 8 more, when Mike Lano earned a release citation for a 48 incher. Darryl Bear got a 77 pounder in the Slough on the "Miss Kirstin". Michelle Swords was drumming on the "Reel Passion" when she decked her 73.7 pounder. There was a really good bite on the eastern side of the Bay on Saturday evening, with catches at the Pin Top, Brandywine Slough, Tussey's Slough and the Horseshoe. Captain Carey's groups on the "Grizzly" got 14 drum last Friday night at the Pin Top, and 16 more on Saturday. They kept 6 fish weighing up to 68 lbs. during each trip. Captain Ted had 7 drum on the "Indian" on Saturday night. Captain Chris had five on the "Pirate King", including a 74.8 pounder for Daniel McCoy. Drum fishing is coming into its prime, and the shop will be handling surf clams for a few more weeks, but Joe requests reservations in advance to assure the availability of bait.

Ocean trollers told of big bluefish near Delaware Light. Maw's Tails Hooches and Mops, Pony Tails, and Stretch 25+ plugs were effective offerings.

"Til next week, have fun and be safe!

Rick Willman and his wife Deb are owners of Rick's Bait & Tackle on Long Neck Road in Long Neck, DE.

Lewes Canal Flounder Tournament May 22, 2009



The annual Lewes Canal Flounder Tournament, hosted by Lewes Harbour Marina and sponsored by the Dewey Beach Lions Club, was a huge success with 275 anglers participating. Bill Hocker captured the winning flounder, weighing 5.26 lbs. Dan Kimble finished in 2nd place with his 5 pounder. Darwin Fisher's 4.97 lb. flounder was good enough for 3rd place and Mike Zimmerman was a repeat winner from last year's tournament with a 4th place 4.94 lb. flattie. A portion of the tournament proceeds are donated to the Camp Awareness Youth Fishing Program.

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BLACK BART



Last Friday, there was a pretty good flounder bite in the bay and Gail Walukonis of Ocean Pines, MD was there to land this 4 lb. 2 oz. flattie in the Thorofare. Gail was fishing on the “Gail Winds” with her husband, Bill Walukonis when she hooked the fish on a chartreuse bucktail tipped with a minnow. Pictured at Ake Marine.

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Capt. Jim Senker and Ron Frank, both from Baltimore, MD found a school of dolphin in the Norfolk Canyon while fishing on the “Da Chief”. The two largest mahi-mahi tipped the scales at 18.5 lbs. and 19.6 lbs. Total weight of the catch was 257 lbs. on the scales at Hook’em & Cook’em.





















Dave McKay of West Ocean City, MD fished the South Jetty on Saturday morning and hooked into these two striped bass during the incoming tide. Dave was fishing on the “UT-O” with Darryll Kulski and caught the fish on a bucktail tipped with a 6-inch worm. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

2009 COASTAL FISHERMAN 2009

1st Fish of the Year

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

Species	2009	2008	Species	2009	2008
Sea Bass 	January 26, 2009 Dean Lo "Arno" Wilmington Canyon	March 27, 2008 Susan Samsock "Morning Star" Artificial Reef	Mako Shark 	NEW May 22, 2009 Jim Hughes "Nontypical" Baltimore Canyon	April 26, 2008 Thomas Dame "Free Spool" Elephant's Trunk
Tautog 	January 4, 2009 Billy Collins "Ocean Princess" Offshore Wreck	February 4, 2008 Joe Restuccia "Karen Sue" Wreck	White Marlin 	None Reported	June 9, 2008 Jim Miner "Judge" Norfolk Canyon
Striped Bass 	January 3, 2009 Baron Daiker "Baron Sea" Little Gull	January 1, 2008 RJ Roppelt "Reel Persuasion" Little Gull	Blue Marlin 	None Reported	June 9, 2008 Jason Hinton "No Limits" Middle Sausage
Weakfish 	May 13, 2009 Rich Bell Sinepuxent Bay	May 16, 2008 Nick Sharp Roosevelt Inlet	Bluefin Tuna 	NEW May 23, 2009 Butch Bradshaw "DILLIGAF" Baltimore Canyon	April 11, 2008 Greg Hook "Stress Reel-ief" Wilmington Canyon
Flounder 	April 18, 2009 Bo Smeltzer "Gotta Jones" Verrazano Bridge	March 23, 2008 Preston Walls Rt. 90 Bridge	Yellowfin Tuna 	None Reported	May 25, 2008 Kevin King "Marli" Norfolk Canyon
Bluefish 	May 13, 2009 Henry Busby Bethany Surf	April 24, 2008 John Foreman Assateague Surf	Longfin Tuna 	None Reported	June 20, 2008 Jim Short "Not Right" Baltimore Canyon
Black Drum 	April 25, 2009 Chris Tenbusch Assateague Surf	April 24, 2008 Capt. Mac Simpson Assateague Surf	Bigeye Tuna 	None Reported	August 25, 2008 Bert Long "Lewestown Lady" Wilmington Canyon
Thresher Shark 	None Reported	May 24, 2008 Justin Michalski "Uptite" S.E. of Jackspot	Dolphin 	NEW May 21, 2009 Chuck Dammann "Restless Lady" Poorman's Canyon	May 25, 2008 Janan Mohamed "Marli" Norfolk Canyon
Sheepshead 	NEW May 23, 2009 Tassos Argyros Ocean Wreck	June 5, 2008 Joe Shaffer North Jetty	Wahoo 	None Reported	July 1, 2008 Matt Migliore "Marli" Lumpy Bottom

To report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200

Maryland & Delaware Citation Sizes

Atlantic Coast

	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u>
Tuna:		
Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lbs.
False Albacore	24"	12 lbs.
Bigeye ***	60"	75 lbs.
Bluefin ***	60"	75 lbs.
Yellowfin ***	50"	75 lbs.
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-
Bluefish	34"	14 lbs.
Cobia	44"	-
Croaker	18"	3 lbs.
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs.
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs.
Red Drum *	any size	-
Flounder	24"	7 lbs.
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs.
Blue Marlin **	any size	any size
White Marlin **	any size	any size

* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program

*** Use curved-fork-length measurements

	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u>
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb.
Striped Bass	40"	20 lbs.
Sailfish *	any size	-
Seabass	20"	3 lbs.
Shark:		
Blue Shark *	any size	100 lbs.
Hammerhead *	any size	100 lbs.
Mako *	any size	100 lbs.
Thresher *	any size	100 lbs.
Tiger *	any size	100 lbs.
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs.
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs.
Spot	12"	-
Speckled Trout	24"	-
Swordfish *	any size	any size
Tautog	24"	7 lbs.
Wahoo	60"	20 lbs.
Weakfish	24"	9 lbs.

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

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Ship To Shore

by Pat Schrawder



PROPER USE OF YOUR VHF

Without question, the most popular form of communications for most boaters today is the VHF radio. They are low cost, small in size, draw little current, are easy to use, and have a range of about 25 miles on average. You can use them to talk to other boats or to base stations, receive up-to-date weather reports, reach the Coast Guard or an independent towing company, make telephone calls via the marine operator and, with fully operational DSC, automatically transmit your vessel's position in an emergency. To accomplish these goals effectively, the FCC has designated certain channels on your VHF for particular uses. If you are new

to the boating world, you may not understand what these channels are to be used for and which ones are best for you to use.

As originally designed, the VHF radio was intended as an emergency device and the channels set up kept that in mind. All vessels were to monitor channel 16 and, if they wished to make a call to another vessel, they would "hail" that vessel on channel 16 and then switch to another "working" channel. As it has evolved and as so many radios have equipped with VHF, that has become somewhat cumbersome. As a result, boaters have learned what "working" channels most boaters stay on and just go directly there unless it is an emergency transmission.

With that in mind, here is

how the channel uses currently line up:

Emergency Coast Guard - Use channel 16 to initiate conversation with the Coast Guard, followed by channel 22 as the working channel to continue communications. Note that you are NOT supposed to call the Coast Guard for a radio check.

Intership Safety Channel 6 - Use this channel for ship-to-ship safety messages and for search and rescue messages and ships and aircraft of the Coast Guard.

Navigational Channel 13 & 67 (Also known as the bridge-to-bridge channel.) - These channels are available to all ships. Messages must be about ship navigation, for example, passing or meeting other ships. You must keep your messages short. Your power output must not be more than one watt. This is also the main working channel at most locks and drawbridges.

Port Operations Channels 5, 12, 14, 20, 65, 66, 73 and 74 - These channels are used when you are concerned with operation of vessels in or near ports, locks and waterways

Non Commercial Ship-to-Ship Channels 68, 69, 71, 72, 78A used for boat to boat traffic for average recreational boat use

Marine Operator Channels 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 84, 85, 87, 88 are used to place a telephone call via your VHF radio. The channel used will vary from area to area. Around Ocean City, we use channel 26.

State and Local Government use Channel 17.

Intership Safety Channel 6 is used primarily during search and rescue operations

For environmental operations, Channel 15 is used.

WeatherChannels WX1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 broadcast weather reports, wind and wave, tides, etc.

Distress calls are made on Channel 70. Currently, recreational vessels that do not carry more than 6 passengers for hire do not need to have a FCC license. However, if your VHF has DSC capabilities and you wish to use the system as it was designed, you will need to get a license. You will receive an MMSI number that is unique to you. When you place a distress call via DSC, your radio will transmit your location (provided you have connected your GPS to your VHF) and the particular vessel/owner (by referencing your MMSI that is on file).

In summary, if you are using your boat in the Ocean City area, you will probably be best served with the following: Channel 16 to initiate a call for assistance in an emergency, Channel 26 to place a phone call via marine operator, Channels WX1, 2 or 3 for weather, Channel 13 for bridge tender and channels 68, 69, 71, 72 or 78A for boat-to-boat use.

Get to know your VHF radio channels. They make for a safer boating experience for everyone.

Pat Schrawder and her husband Larry are owners of L&L Marine Electronics on Golf Course Road in West Ocean City.

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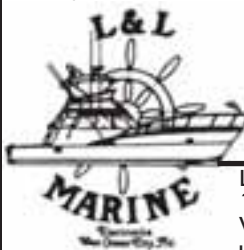
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Daniel Ehm from Monkton, MD boated this 74.9 lb. black drum while fishing in Broadkill Slough aboard the "Martha Marie". Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Rob King captured this 19 lb. 10 oz. striper on a chunk of fresh bunker at Cape Henlopen State Park. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop in Lewes, DE.

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2009 COASTAL FISHERMAN 2009

Heaviest Fish of the Year

(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - ties go to first fish reported)

Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
Sea Bass 	March 6, 2009 Noah Fowler Bow Mariner 7 lbs.	February 25, 2009 Paul Twilley Wilmington Canyon 7 lbs. 5 oz.	Mako Shark 	NEW May 22, 2009 Jim Hughes "Nontypical" 185 lbs.	No Weights Reported
Tautog 	March 15, 2009 Capt. Kane Bounds "Judith M" 19 lbs. 8 oz.	May 3, 2009 Bill Gable "#1 Hooker" 14 lbs. 10 oz.	Thresher Shark 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Striped Bass 	May 17, 2009 Donald Hatfield Assateague Surf 45 lbs. 8 oz.	May 13, 2009 Derek Bair Indian River Inlet 35 lbs. 6 oz.	Cobia 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Weakfish 	NEW May 16, 2009 Chris Tilghman Rt. 90 Bridge 7 lbs. 8 oz.	No Weights Reported	Bluefin Tuna 	NEW May 23, 2009 Butch Bradshaw "DILLIGAF" 35 lbs.	No Weights Reported
Speckled Trout 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Yellowfin Tuna 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Flounder 	May 14, 2009 Scott Peters Thorofare 7 lbs. 12 oz.	May 17, 2009 Nick Couch Indian River Bay 9 lbs. 6 oz.	Longfin Tuna 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Bluefish 	No Weights Reported	May 13, 2009 Henry Busby Bethany Surf 13 lbs.	Bigeye Tuna 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Sheepshead 	NEW May 23, 2009 Tassos Argyros Ocean Wreck 8 lbs. 8 oz.	No Weights Reported	Dolphin 	NEW May 21, 2009 Chuck Dammann "Restless Lady" 30 lbs.	NEW May 24, 2009 Ron Frank "Da Chief" 19.6 lbs.
Black Drum 	No Weights Reported	NEW May 15, 2009 Daniel Ehm Broadkill Slough 74.9 lbs.	Wahoo 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported

To report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200



Scott Day of Ocean City, MD caught one of these flounder while drifting in the bay off 28th Street and the other flattie in the Thorofare. The largest fish measured 23-inches and weighed 4 lbs. Both were caught during the outgoing tide on minnow and squid combinations.

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Chum Lines

by Mark Sampson



One of the projects I had to do on my boat this spring was to paint and varnish inside the cabin. In preparation for the task, I first removed everything I could from the boat. When I say "everything" I mean quite literally "everything" that wasn't permanently fastened to the boat including drawers, doors, electronic brackets, lights, hatch covers, trim, ceiling panels, seat pedestals, and of course all tackle and equipment. When I was done the waterline at the bow was up by four inches and the stern by two. For a 40-foot boat that's a lot of displacement. While I had her "light" I took a little ride down the bay and was not surprised to note that the top-end and cruising speeds had increased

by a couple knots and by being higher out of the water the boat also had an entirely different feel than what I'd grown accustomed to after more than 20 years of steering her. Not necessarily better - just different.

The process got me thinking about how much fuel I was burning compared to when she was fully loaded. I didn't have time to figure that one out, but I can only imagine it would likely prove to be a rather substantial savings. I was left wishing that I could get away without reloading everything back aboard and go through the fishing season without toting around the extra weight. Of course that ain't happening - so I figured the best I could do was to use a lot more

discretion in what would be put back aboard when it was time to do so.

The process reminded me of when I first got the boat and how I was seduced by all the extra storage space available and inclined to fill every cubic inch of it with all the tackle and equipment I owned "just in case" I might find a use on any of my trips. The problem was, after a few seasons I realized that there was an awful lot of stuff that I'd been hauling to and from the fishing grounds every day but not using at all. It didn't make sense because it was all just taking up space, adding extra weight, and some of it was showing signs of corroding, mildewing, or other forms of deterioration from being stowed in the saltwater environment for so long.

So I made a commitment that when it came to tackle I'd keep aboard only what I knew would be used on a regular basis and keep the "just in case" items down to a bare minimum. It didn't take long to realize the benefits of my decision. After removing all the extra ropes, gaffs, brushes, and fenders stowed below deck, I suddenly had a much cleaner and efficient engine room, which certainly made it a lot easier to do maintenance. Tackle drawers became much more efficient in that I could actually find things when needed and these days when I pull out a rig or lure I don't usually get four or five tangled in with them. That in itself was worth the effort because as any fishermen knows there will be times when opportunities unexpectedly present themselves, such as when dolphin or cobia swim up to the boat, or when bluefish or tuna start breaking water and anglers need to quickly re-rig and get something out to get a hook-up before the fish disappear. That's no time to be searching for the proper hooks or trying to untangle a glob of leader and lures!

A boat that's orderly

without a lot of extra "stuff" is also going to be a safer vessel as tools and equipment that might be needed during a breakdown or in an emergency will be more easily accessed. While having problems on the water the last thing anyone needs is to waste time searching for a critical tool or engine part that's hidden beneath a pile of extra rain gear or old fishing magazines. Boaters need to scrutinize absolutely everything they might bring aboard and decide what will really be used and what will just take up space, add weight, and increase fuel consumption - a lot of little things add up!

A while back, a friend proudly showed me the "maintenance" closet on his boat that was filled with new and partially used containers of paint, varnish, solvents, epoxies, oils, sealers, brushes, cleaners, sandpaper, rags and so forth. It was all well organized and secure but I couldn't help but conclude that it was way too much flammable and caustic materials to be storing on a boat. It should have been out in the dock box, in a storage room or even in the back of his truck, not aboard the boat, particularly when it would only be used when the boat was at the dock anyway.

While there's no doubt that we boaters need a lot to maintain our vessels and catch whatever fish happen our way and every year most of us accumulate more stuff than we get rid of, but our boats should never be looked at as floating storage sheds - that's what garages, attics and dock boxes are for. A clutter-free boat loaded with just the essentials will always prove to be the safest and most efficient fishing machine.

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

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A man and a woman are on a boat, holding a large, dark fish with a prominent, spiky dorsal fin, likely a porbeagle shark. The man is wearing a white t-shirt and a cap, and the woman is wearing a dark top. They are both smiling. The background shows the ocean and a cloudy sky.

Barbara Glinka of Sunset Marina took a trip to Los Sueños, Costa Rica and caught her first sailfish while fishing on the "Shotgun" with Capt. Mitch Pierson, Brian Tinkler of Sunset Marina, Ian McGray of Jacksonville, FL, Chris Carr of Alban Caterpillar and Jennifer and Jeremy Blunt. Jennifer and Ian each released their first blue marlin during the trip.

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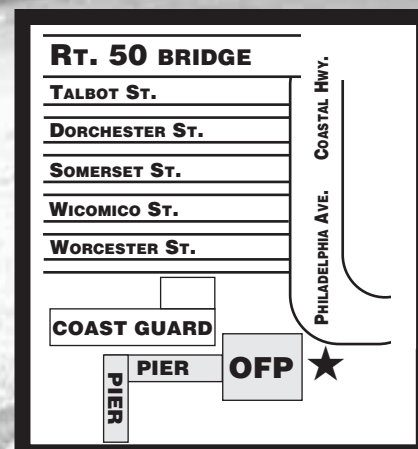








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Randy Lee Miller of Whaleyville, MD used a bloodworm to entice this 34-inch striper and landed the fish while surf fishing off Assateague Island. The 13 lb. 8 oz. linesider is Randy Lee's very first striper.



Tassos Argyros of Deerwood, MD (right) captured the first sheephead of the year out of Ocean City during a trip to an offshore wreck. The sheephead measured 24-inches and weighed 8 lbs. 8 oz. Fishing with Tassos was David Pasun of Elkridge, MD who landed himself a 28-inch tautog that weighed in at 10 lbs. 2 oz. Pictured at John Henry's Bait & Tackle on Rt. 611 in West Ocean City.

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Joseph Ibrahim, age 6, from Potomac, MD (left) and Tucker McGuffin of Baltimore, MD had a fun flounder trip aboard the "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente and Mate Ben Pollmeier. Joseph's flattie measured 23-inches and weighed 4 lbs. 4 oz., while Tucker's measured 18-inches and tipped the scales at an even 2 lbs. Both were caught within a minute of each other while drifting squid and shiners in the bay behind Assateague Island. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Virginia Fishing Report

by Dr. Julie Ball



The predicted decent weather paired with cooperative fish could make this Memorial Day weekend a great lead-in for the summer fishing season. The chance at a red or black drum bite continues to draw anglers to the Eastern Shore side of the Chesapeake Bay. After a brief lull in the black drum action this week, Mark at Chris' Bait and Tackle reports that a few boats are now starting to catch multiple fish again. Most catches are coming from near buoys 10, 13 and 16, where sea clams and chowder clams are working well.

Red drum action is not anywhere near the level it was for the past two years. Smith Island Inlet is producing a hand full of red drum for boaters in anywhere from 6 to 10 feet of water, with peelers and blue crabs working the



Nicole Achenne from Salisbury, MD landed this 36.5-inch striper while fishing in the Chesapeake Bay off Deal Island. Nicole was fishing with Patrick Smith on the "Reel Teaser" when the striped bass hit a trolled bucktail.

best. Puppy drum, on the other hand, are out in force in Bay and coastal inlets, with Lynnhaven getting the nod this week. One boat fishing Lynnhaven Inlet lost count after releasing over 20 pups this week. Mary at the Virginia

Beach Fishing Center reports that anglers are catching a few puppy drum and striped bass in Rudee Inlet, as well as bluefish to 8 lbs. from the jetties. Nice chopper bluefish are also invading the lower Bay and inlets.

The next big news is the arrival of the first summer species. The graceful spadefish took residence in local waters this week, with a six-pounder caught at the CBBT this week. Expect these popular fish to turn on soon. Look for big spades to show on the Cell soon, where the largest fish of the year are routinely landed. Sheepshead are next. Cobia are going strong in Carolina right now, so we should see our first local cobia catches soon.

The lower bay rivers are still holding croaker, as well as the Little Creek jetties, where hardheads up to almost two pounds are hitting squid and Fishbites. The folks at the Ocean View Fishing Pier report that "all the croaker you want" prefer bloodworms lately, along with a mix of nice roundhead. Surf and pier anglers along the oceanfront are hooking croaker, spot, roundhead, and bluefish. The bluefish are hitting top water plugs, with Gotcha plugs working best.

Flatfish are still not at the top of the list this week. Anglers who work for them are weeding through dozens of undersized fish to find a few keepers, with Willoughby and Oyster providing the best numbers of keepers. Expect the flatfish action to improve once the water clears. Striped bass were making up for the slow flounder bite, but folks are finding sluggish rockfish action right now. The 3rd and 4th islands of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel were producing the best striper catches earlier in the week, where top water plugs were working well.

With the nice weather on the horizon for the weekend, some boats will venture offshore in search of tilefish, grouper, and seabass. The seabass will not disappoint, with good hauls of jumbo fish coming from inshore and offshore wrecks.

Bluewater anglers are watching the water to the East. Folks making the run to Carolina are finding yellowfin tuna, dolphin, and some mako sharks. Captain Mike Standing, skipper of the "Waterman" out of Rudee Inlet, tried his luck at the South East Lumps, where he scored with a Mako shark this week.

Dr. Julie Ball is the I.G.F.A. Representative for Virginia Beach, VA. You can find Dr. Julie's reports at www.drjball.com.

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Eddie Kim of Silver Spring, MD caught this 24-inch, 6 lb. 12 oz. flounder on a Storm lure in the Indian River Inlet. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop in Lewes, DE.




Keith and Sandra Kline of Lenhartsville, PA, Joe Maffei of Essington, PA and Capt. Chester Sadowski really worked to catch these sea bass and tog, fishing on the "Jezebel" at the African Queen, Russell's Reef and Subway Car Reef at the Jackspot. They ended their day with 8 tautog and 17 sea bass. Pictured at Sunset Provisions.



Brad Snitch from Wilmington, DE was casting a chartreuse jighead tipped with a minnow from the Cape Shores Pier when he captured these two flounder. The larger fish weighed 5 lbs. 2 oz. on the scale at Lewes Harbour Marina in Lewes, DE.

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** As always, we do our best to run the pictures we receive, however, we are sometimes unable to run all of the pictures due to space restrictions and other circumstances.*



Last Sunday, Anthony, Sharon and their son, Marlin, from Shillington, PA were surf fishing off Assateague Island when they landed these two striped bass on cut bunker. Anthony's striper measured 42 inches and weighed 26 lbs. 5 oz., while Sharon's 36-incher tipped the scales at 13 lbs. 8 oz.



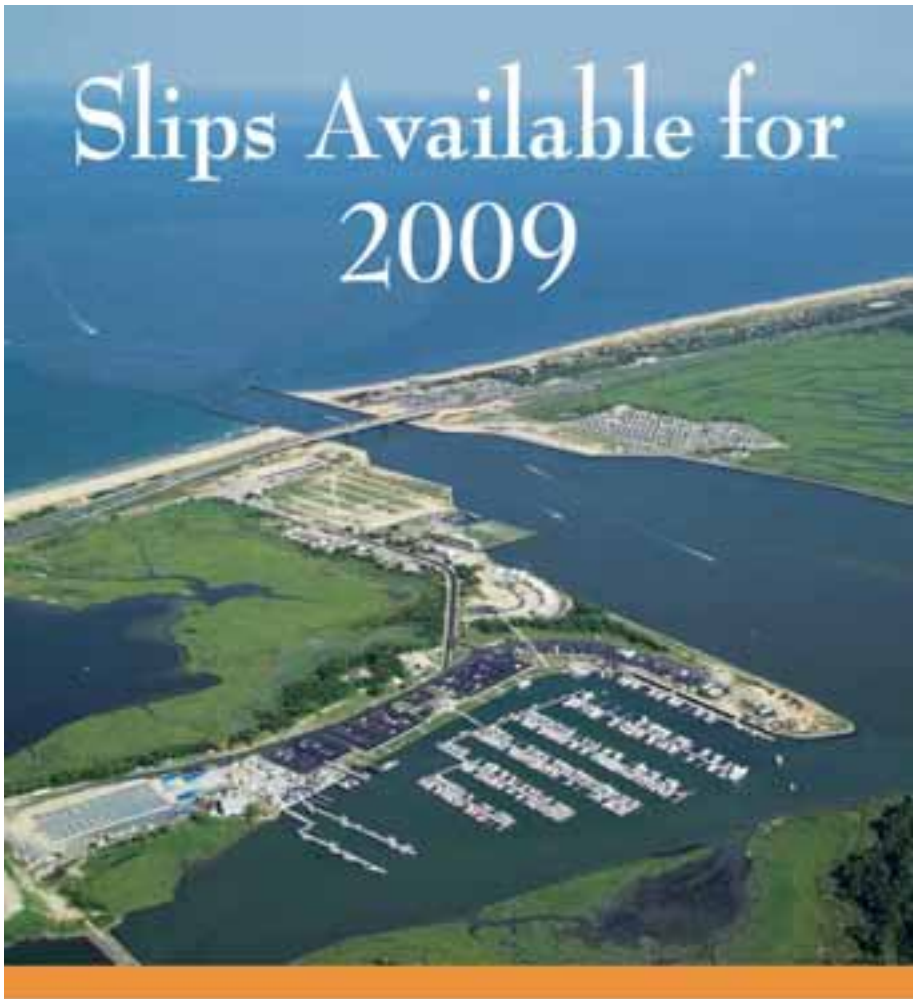
Mark Berry from Telford, PA captured these two tautog, measuring 15 and 17.5-inches while fishing with green crabs off the East Channel Bulkhead.



Mike McGarvey and Scott White, both from Ocean City, MD caught these two stripers, along with some sharks, while fishing off the beach on Assateague Island. Both fish were caught on fresh bunker, with Scott's 40-incher weighing 18 lbs. and Mike's 38-incher tipping the scales at 16 lbs. 8 oz. Weighed at Oyster Bay Tackle.



David Gray, III and Ashley Burroughs, both from Mechanicsville, MD were fishing on their grandparent's boat, "Empty Pockets" when they landed their first dolphin of the 2009 season. The mahi-mahi were caught in 73-degree water in 230 fathoms outside the Norfolk Canyon, 93 miles from the Ocean City Inlet. Ashley's weighed in at 20 lbs. while David's was an even 17 lbs. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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Jeff Lauer of York, PA was fishing on the "Grizzly" with Capt. Carey Evans when he boated this 74 lb. 3 oz. black drum. The big boomer ate a clam at the Pin Top in the Delaware Bay and was weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Kent Brittingham muscled in this 46 inch, 30 lb. 11 oz. striper while drifting a live eel in the Indian River Inlet. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop in Lewes, DE.



John Rogowitz caught this big striper while surf fishing off Assateague Island. The cow measured 48.5 inches and weighed 38 lbs. 8 oz. on the scale at Buck's Place.

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New Boat Ramp Opened in Lewes

State and city officials along with U.S. Coast Guard representatives and contractors cut the ribbon on the new Division of Fish and Wildlife Lewes public boat ramp and field office located at the north end of Pilottown Road in a sheltered harbor overlooking the Lewes Canal and out into the ocean. The boat ramp and field office have been in the planning stages since 2003, with design and construction beginning in 2005.

The handicapped accessible public boat ramp features six concrete launch lanes, three prelaunch "make ready" areas, three post-trip tie-down areas, four full floatation boarding docks and two full floatation courtesy docks, plus paved parking for more than 150 vehicles towing trailers, designated single car parking and a fully accessible, 8-foot wide boardwalk area for strolling and boat watching along the waterfront.


The new ramp's location at the mouth of the Broadkill River at Roosevelt Inlet provides boaters with almost immediate access to the Delaware Bay, eliminating 15-20 minutes of no-wake-speed travel from the former ramp site, which was located closer to the city's downtown commercial and historic district.

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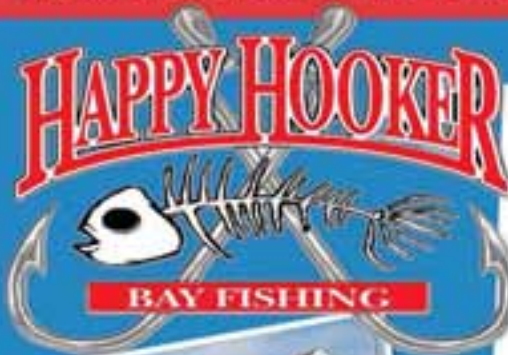


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Andy Lano was casting a Storm Shad in the Indian River Inlet when he hooked into this 20 lb. 11 oz. striped bass. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Al Rittmeyer of Ocean City, MD took a trip to the Buena Vista Sportfishing Lodge in Iztapa, Guatemala and released this black marlin, estimated to weigh 450 lbs. Al was fishing with Bill Pino of Squidnation.com and fought the fish for 45 minutes after hooking it on a Spanish mackerel.



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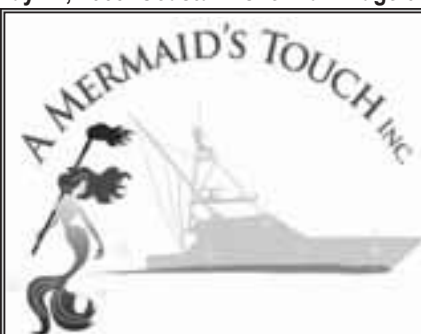
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Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Tucker Colquhoun and Rich Silvani took this group of anglers to an ocean wreck and returned with a nice catch of sea bass and tautog. Pictured are Chuck Wiley of Aberdeen, MD, Joe Engers of Bel Air, MD, Cathy Creel of Alexandria, VA, Dave Grine of Bellefonte, PA, Charlie Herpen of Ocean Pines, MD, Charles Frank of Essex, MD and Ron Ritter of Bellefonte, PA. Dave brought back the largest sea bass of the day, weighing 6 lbs. 3 oz. while Charles caught the largest tautog, tipping the scales at 10 lbs. 1 oz. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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Volunteers Needed for June 13th Inland Bays Cleanup

The DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Section, along with the Enforcement Section volunteers, the Center for the Inland Bays and the Division of Parks and Recreation are seeking volunteers for the Fifth Annual Cleanup of the Inland Bays beginning at 9 a.m. and finishing up about 2 p.m., Saturday, June 13.

This year the cleanup will begin at the Massey's Landing Public Boat Ramp at the end of Long Neck Road and concentrate on the Rehoboth Bay and Indian River Bay areas. A number of local businesses are donating money, food and equipment such as dumpsters. Volunteers who can bring shallow draft boats are also encouraged.

Volunteers should dress to get dirty and be prepared for cooler conditions on the water as well as wet walking conditions on land. Boots are also suggested. Those who have access to lifejackets should bring one, as they are required on boats. Otherwise, lifejackets will be

provided. Young children should not attend.

Last year's event drew 100 volunteers who collected a large quantity of debris, including soda bottles and cans, tires, derelict crab pots and a lot of plastic. A large construction dumpster was donated and filled by the end of the day.

"With this event, we are continuing our public outreach on behalf of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Delaware State Parks, the Center for the Inland Bays and our Fish and Wildlife Enforcement volunteers. We hope that through activities such as the clean-up, the persons using the Inland Bays will pause long enough to make decisions that truly benefit these waterways," said Capt. Aaron Hurd of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement.

Volunteers are encouraged to sign up in advance, as lunch and t-shirts will be provided. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Debbe Passwaters at 302-856-2656 or debbe0904@mchsi.com or Marie Burke at 302-934-9495 or pebble128@aol.com.



Peter Elliot of Berlin, MD and Scott Rodriguez of Baltimore, MD were fishing in the bay near the Ocean City Airport when they captured these two flounder on live minnows. The flounder measured 18.5 and 19.5 inches. Photo courtesy of Buck's Place.

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2009 Delaware Fishing Guide available online

The new 2009 Delaware Fishing Guide can be found on the Delaware Fish and Wildlife website at www.fw.delaware.gov/Fisheries/Documents/2009fishingguideweb.pdf.

The fishing guide includes information on Delaware fishing license requirements and the new F.I.N. number program, as well as sections on tidal sport fishing, freshwater fishing, newly enacted fishing regulations and general angler's information. Other topics include trout stocking, fish consumption advisories, invasive species and Delaware's artificial reef program.

The tackle-box sized printed version of the 2009 Delaware Fishing Guide will be available at more than 125 fishing license dealers throughout the state, including many hardware stores, sporting goods stores and bait and tackle shops.

Anglers will also be able to pick one up along with their fishing license and trout stamp, at the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife's main office in the Richardson & Robbins Building, 89 Kings Highway, Dover.

44 More Subway Cars Sunk at Redbird Reef

On April 24th, the DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife's Artificial Reef Program oversaw the sinking of another 44 New York City subway cars at Delaware's largest and most popular artificial reef, Redbird Reef.

Each stainless steel subway car is 60 feet long. One barge carried all 44 cars stacked two-high from New Jersey, and a large excavator with forklift-like tongs lifted each 18-ton car and set it overboard.

The addition of 44 subway cars brings the total number of sunken subway cars on Redbird Reef to 934. Although the artificial reef was created in

1997, the first subway car sinking at the reef occurred in August of 2001, when 27 cars were sunk.

Redbird Reef is now more than 1.3 square nautical miles of ocean bottom located 16 nautical miles off the coast of the Indian River Inlet. Since the reef was first created, a variety of materials have been deployed at the site including 890 subway cars, 11 large vessels, including decommissioned barges, commercial vessels and tugboats, 86 armored military vehicles and 6,000 tons of ballasted truck tire units. The reef now supports more than 13,000 angler visits per year, up from fewer than 300 in 1997.

Delaware has 14 permitted artificial reef sites in the Delaware Bay and coastal waters, with five of these sites located in federal (ocean) waters. Development of the sites began in 1995 as part of a comprehensive fisheries management effort by the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Delaware Reef Program.



Steve Grabowski of Long Neck, DE caught this 20 lb. 8 oz. striper while fishing on the "Pinfish" in the Indian River Inlet. The striper hit a bucktail and was weighed at Rick's Bait & Tackle.

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Robert Remo, Jr, Robert Remo, III, Chester Cernava and Chris Lowe, all from Laurel, DE fished the South Jetty on Sunday and limited out on tautog. All of the tog were caught on green crabs with the largest fish tipping the scales at 4 lbs. 9 oz.



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 Park Place Hotel
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 General's Kitchen
 Layton's Restaurant - 92nd St.
 Advanced Marina
 Wawa - 125th St.
 Brewski Brothers - 132nd St.
 Montego Bay Market
 Seven Eleven
 Superfresh - Gold Coast Mall
 Superfresh - 94th St.
 Liquid Assets
 Exxon Wine Rack
 Seaside Super Thrift
 Convention Center
 Minit Market
 7-Eleven - 28th St.
 Bahia Marina
 Layton's Restaurant - 16th St.
 Bailey's Drug Store

West Ocean City

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 Wockenfuss Candies
 Ocean City Fishing Center
 Superfresh
 Rhode River Boat Sales
 Ocean City Visitors Center
 PNC Bank
 Fisherman's Marina
 Ake Marine
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 Marlin Moon Grille
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 Exxon Wine Rack
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George Mock of Spring Mills, PA caught this 42.5-inch striper while fishing off the beach on Assateague Island, using fresh bunker for bait. The fish weighed 20 lbs. 12 oz. at Buck's Place.

TIDES & MOON PHASES

OCEAN CITY INLET

Wed. May 27	Low 04:48 am Low 04:42 pm	High 10:59 am High 11:29 pm
Thurs. May 28	Low 05:43 am Low 05:41 pm	High 11:54 am High -----
Fri. May 29	Low 06:39 am Low 06:44 pm	High 12:23 am High 12:52 pm
Sat. May 30	Low 07:35 am Low 07:49 pm	High 01:19 am High 01:54 pm
Sun. May 31	Low 08:30 am Low 08:55 pm	High 02:19 am High 02:59 pm
Mon. June 1	Low 09:23 am Low 10:02 pm	High 03:19 am High 04:03 pm
Tues. June 2	Low 10:14 am Low 11:07 pm	High 04:20 am High 05:01 pm
Wed. June 3	Low 11:03 am Low -----	High 05:16 am High 05:52 pm

These are Ocean City, MD tides at the Ocean City Inlet.

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

Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high 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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Rehoboth / Lewes / Milford, DE

Casapulla's • Lewes Harbour Marina • Henlopen Tackle
Superfresh - Rt. 1 • Bill's Sport Shop

Long Neck, DE

Rick's Bait & Tackle • Rattle & Reel Sporting Center

Fenwick, DE

Captain Mac's Bait & Tackle • Fenwick Bait & Tackle
Uncle Willies • Mini Mart • Mancini's Italian Restaurant
Harris Teeter • North Bay Marina

Indian River, DE

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UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

~ MAY ~

Bill's Sport Shop Flounder Tournament

May 1 - June 12 • Bill's Sport Shop
302-645-7654

~ JUNE ~

13th Annual Mid-Atlantic Mako Mania

June 5-7 • Bahia Marina
410-289-7473

51st Annual Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament

June 6-13 • Morehead City, NC
252-247-3575

29th Annual South Jersey Shark Tournament

June 11-14 • Cape May, NJ
609-884-2400

29th Annual Ocean City Shark Tournament

June 18-20 • OC Fishing Center
410-213-2442 or 410-213-1121

30th Annual Small Boat Tournament

June 19-21 • Ocean City Marlin Club
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Bottom Line ~ 40' 1987 Luhrs. 3208 CATs. Very clean. Motivated seller, bring offers. Call Steve



Endeavor ~ 40' 2004 Luhrs. Twin Yanmar 465 hp engines. Two SR, full head. Good electronics, fish box. Very clean. Call Jimmy



Marilyn Sue ~ 35' 2001 Carolina Classic. 465 hp 3126 CATs. 2/1 layout. Furuno electronics. A fisherman's dream. Call Steve



Seanote ~ 32' 2001 Luhrs Convertible. New IVECO 330 hp w/low hours. Rigged for fishing. Clean. Call Steve



31' 1989 Boston Whaler ~ Diesel, full tower, riggers, generator, fish rigged. Ready to go. Call Steve



Judy-Judy ~ 31' 2001 Sportcraft 3010 HT. Twin Merc 350 MAG, marlin tower w/controls, good electronics. Call Steve



Reel Time ~ 30' 1999 Grady White 300 Marlin. Twin Yamaha 250hp SX 250 EFI. Loaded! Mint condition. Bring offers. Call Steve



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