

COASTAL FISHERMAN

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NUMBER 1 • • • V • • • MAY 1, 2019



In late April, like many local fishermen, Rich Watts took the trip to Wachapreague, VA for some early season flounder fishing and ended his day with a pair of 5 lb. flatties in the box. Both fish were caught on bucktails tipped with Gulp shrimp. Those staying closer to home have found flounder snapping primarily over the Thorofare flats, where slow trolling has year-after-year proven to be a good method of hooking a spring keeper.



In mid-January, anglers on the headboat, "Morning Star" experienced the best tog fishing day that Capt. Monty Hawkins had seen in years. Derek Sigvarson of Middletown, DE almost became the newest member of the exclusive "20 lb. Tautog Club" when he captured this 30-incher that ended up tipping the scale at 19 lbs. 12 oz. Derek hooked the fish right at the end of the fishing day while dropping a green crab on an ocean wreck. Everyone on the boat set personal records for tog with 22 released that weighed over 10 lbs. Right behind Derek was Shannon Pickens of St. Michaels, MD with a 29-incher that weighed an even 18 lbs.

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Stripers showed up around the Rt. 90 Bridge during the first week in April with small schoolies dominating the action. In mid-April, Kern Ducote had a great day, hooking 39 linesiders including this 29-inch keeper. The wind was howling but the bite was hot with water temperatures already in the mid-50's.



Katie Thatcher is all smiles after a great day of flounder fishing with Nate Gregory. The duo slow trolled the Thorofare flats in mid-April and hooked the 4 flatties on Gulp Swimming Mulletts. Not surprisingly, Katie's 21-incher, caught on the outgoing tide, was the largest of the day. Water temperature registered 62-degrees.



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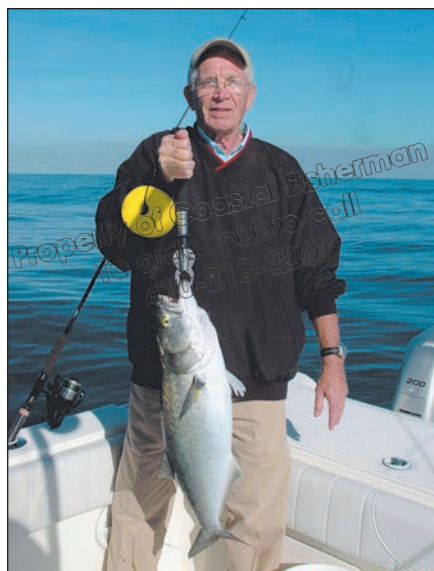
by Larry Jock

This Week Last Year

- Fishing off to a slow start.
- Tautog dominating action on ocean structure.
- Short tog in West Channel.
- Flounder fishing decent on Thorofare flats.
- Small flounder behind Frontier Town.
- Short stripers around all 3 bridges.
- A lot of skates in the surf. Also black drum and schoolie stripers in the wash.

Welcome back to another season of the Coastal Fisherman!

Before I get to the report, I wanted to let you know, with an extremely heavy heart, that the Jock Family lost our patriarch back in March. My dad, Larry Sr., was 85 years old, and even though that would be



considered a good run in anyone's book, it is still a blow to us all. Quite a few of our readers knew my Dad and he was well liked by everyone. He was, by far, the finest man I have every met and will probably ever meet in my lifetime. He was a man of the highest integrity and honesty. He was extremely loyal, sometimes to a fault, and treated everyone with

kindness and respect. He was an incredible father and the ultimate role model. I have always lived my life with one primary goal. I always knew that if I made my Dad proud then I was doing things right.

My dad absolutely loved to fish and we heard countless stories time and time again about his memorable days surfcasting with my Uncle Bob, whether in the Delaware Bay or off the Brigantine Jetty. Some of the stories we heard a hundred times and dreaded it when he uttered the same opening line, knowing verbatim what was to follow. Now I would give anything to hear those stories again and again.

After a month and a half, I still sometimes find myself reaching for the phone to call my dad with some fishing news or something I saw on TV, only to catch myself as I begin to dial. It's getting better, but it's tough. He was not only my dad, but my best friend. I am going to miss him dearly, but he absolutely loved the Coastal Fisherman so I know he is proudly looking down, sitting next to my Uncle Bob, making sure I don't write any cutline under a photo that goes over the line. He was always the last line of defense, keeping me out of trouble from writing something that I thought was funny but could possibly be taken wrong and hurt someone's feelings. He definitely was the conscience of the Coastal Fisherman.

Now onto the Fishing Report. It was a rough winter

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and so far, the spring hasn't exactly been ideal with rainy and windy conditions showing up on far too many days.

The worse part was that for the 5th year in a row the fall/winter striped bass season was a complete dud. The past few years were bad, but nothing like we saw this past year. The majority of local striped bass fishermen were skunked. Me included! The fish just never showed up. Well, they never showed up inside the dreaded 3-mile line (can't fish for them outside 3-miles). Some days it was all the fish you wanted cruising along the 10-mile line, taunting us with diving birds overhead. Now the feds are saying that the stock is in trouble. Virginia even closed their Spring Trophy Rockfish Season. It doesn't look good.

Tautog fishing on ocean structure was strong as you can see from all of the pictures in this issue. Some really big fish were caught with several in the upper teens. From what I see, one of the keys to a successful tautog trip is the ability to double anchor your boat. Setting a line off the bow and one off the stern allows you to position your boat exactly over the piece of ocean structure that are holding fish. Captains like Kane Bounds and Monty Hawkins have this down to a science and is one of the primary skills they possess that contribute to successful trips. There are several videos on YouTube that show you how to double anchor your boat.

The 2019 sea bass season opens on May 15th. Once again, anglers can keep 15 fish per trip measuring 12 1/2-inches or greater.

Although there are currently no regulations for sheephead

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caught in Maryland waters, at a meeting last week with DNR representatives, we were told that there are some coming down the pike, so stay tuned.

Right now, the best flounder bite is up on the Thorofare flats. Trollers are definitely outfishing those who choose to drift. Zigzagging across the channels, running up and down the edges has always been a good early season tactic and this year is no exception. Most anglers are trolling Gulp Swimming Mulletts with the color white being the most productive right now. Pink is sometimes a good early season color to use also.

Surprisingly, I haven't heard of or seen any flounder being caught around the South Jetty, but it may be just because not many anglers are giving it a try.

Those who fished around the South Jetty, like Big Bird Cropper and his fishing buddies, got into bluefish and short stripers. Most of the gators were medium-size, but a few larger ones were also hooked.

For quite a while now, anglers have been getting into

stripers around the Rt. 90 Bridge. Most of the fish are in the 18 to 20-inch range and were caught while casting or trolling bucktails tipped with Gulp. Big Bird found success tossing his ever reliable Roy Rig which is a salt and pepper shad on a short shanked jig head.

Surfcasters fishing off Assateague have found striped bass to be scarce, but they have been able to hook into some black drum. Allen Sklar (pictured on the right) caught the first one of the year, 10 days sooner than he did last season.

One final note... the Annual Ocean City Reef Foundation Dinner will be held at Seacrets again on Sunday, May 5th with doors opening at 4:30 PM. It's a great event and there are always a lot of fishing related items there that you can bid on. I will be working the door for the 15th or 16th year in a row, so swing on by and say hello, grab a bite to eat, bid on some items and support a great organization.

In the meantime, I'll see you at the scales!



Once again, Allen Sklar recorded the first black drum catch of the season. On April 9th, ten days earlier than last year, Allen hooked the black drum while fishing with crabs in the Assateague surf. Allen estimated the fish at around 25 lbs.

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Chris Thawley arrived at Lewes Harbour Marina with this citation 10 lb. 8 oz. tautog caught during a trip aboard the charter boat, "Katydid" with Capt. Brent Wiest and mate Chris Vann. The tog hit a green crab on ocean structure.



On April 17th, Big Bird Cropper from Powellville, MD caught the first bluefish of the season while tossing Roy Rigs around the South Jetty. In addition to the 26-inch, 6 lb. 8 oz. chopper, Bird caught and released over 20 schoolie stripers, with the largest measuring 23-inches. Fish were caught on both sides of the high tide and water temperature ranged from the high 40's to the low 50's. Pictured at the Coastal Fisherman office in West Ocean City.

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David Jones of New York, NY has to be smiling on the inside after catching this 16 lb. tautog while fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. The big tog made the grave mistake of going after the green crab that David dropped on an ocean wreck located in 40-feet of water.



Geoff and Hayden Wagner of Lewes, DE were drifting Gulp artificial baits in the Lewes Canal when they captured this 17-inch flounder. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.

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CHUM LINES

by Capt. Mark Sampson



A couple of years ago, I was casting around some back-bay marsh banks when I hooked into a little "something" that I thought was going to be a tiny flounder or perhaps a small sea bass or bluefish. Much to my surprise, when I got it to the boat it ended up being a 5 or 6-inch grouper!

Anyone who's aware of what fish are and are not usually caught around here should know that grouper reside on the "are not" list. Notice that I didn't say "never". I said "usually" not caught around here. Obviously, by my own account, grouper are occasionally taken in Delmarva waters, but as most folks know, grouper are primarily a southern fish that (unfortunately) don't wander this far north in any great numbers. In all my years of

fishing, that was number three. The other two were taken on offshore reefs.

Actually, I wanted to mention the grouper catch not because of "what" I caught as much as "where" I caught it. Like I said, I was casting to marsh banks in the back bay, which is something you don't see a lot of anglers doing, but it can be a lot of fun for those looking for a break from normal routine of fishing the Rt. 50 Bridge or bottom bouncing the channels for flounder. Where I hooked that grouper was at least 100 yards from anywhere boats would normally travel and a place where few anglers would go unless they're either lost or looking for crabs or clams. And while the grouper was indeed a rare catch, I was fishing that spot because many times I've

found decent action in there with rockfish, bluefish, flounder and an occasional redfish. Yea - it can be a pretty good place to fish!

But before anyone musters up the nerve to ask me for the "exact" location of that little strip of marsh, let me say two things; First - I'm not telling. Second - our bay waters are full of places like that! Even though I've caught a lot of fish in that particular location, there are countless other places just like it scattered all round the bay both north and south of the inlet that (minus the grouper) have provided similar results.

A lot of anglers have come to know the fun of inshore structure fishing and are well versed at fishing around the inlet jetties, the Assateague, Rt. 50, and Rt. 90 bridges and the rocks next to Gudelsky Park. But just as those chunks of "hard" structure provide food and habitat for predator fish, so do the almost endless marsh banks that line both sides of the bay. Many fishermen mistakenly think that to find the fish they need to find the deeper waters of the bay, but guess what - there's a whole lot of fish that regularly move into 2 to 3-feet of water to feed on the incredible amounts of baitfish that also frequent those depths. I've found great action in the marshes anywhere from the Delaware line to miles well below the Assateague Bridge, with the best of it usually occurring on the west side of the bay.

Anglers should look for areas where there is a little bit of current moving past a marsh bank that has two or more feet of water in front of it and at least 4 to 5-feet of water close by. Fish will move in close to the marsh to feed on crabs, shrimp and other life that lives in the marsh grass and where the bank has been undercut by the current. The slightly deeper water nearby gives them a safe place to transition to if they feel threatened in the shallows.

A big part of successfully catching fish in such shallow areas is being able to present the baits or lures without first spooking the fish. This will

almost always requires that anglers quietly approach within casting range, which means that they will either need to drift in or use a push-pole, paddle or electric motor to close the gap to where they can reach the target waters with their casts. Obviously, because it requires some element of stealth and precision, the available equipment on the boat and the casting abilities of the angler can make or break the success of this kind of fishing.

Fish won't be at every decent looking place. The height of the tide matters and even though you caught fish in one place last week doesn't mean they'll be there today. So this type of fishing requires a lot of moving around. Typically you pull up to one place, work a bunch of casts into it and if it doesn't produce you move on. You can always try it again later under different conditions. Anglers should pay attention to where they are, and are not, seeing a lot of bait as well as if it looks as though the bait is being harassed.

As for tackle, I prefer 15 lb. spinning tackle, 20 lb. fluorocarbon leader tied to a 1/4 oz. jig head with a 4-inch soft plastic tail in either white or chartreuse. Small bucktails will also work as will live bait such as minnows, bunker or spot. A big problem with bait is that there are A LOT of crabs in the marshes and they play havoc with all natural offerings.

As you can see, fishing the marsh banks is a bit more technical than drifting the channels hoping for a flounder to bite. But the scenery is beautiful, you won't be plagued by a bunch of other fishermen crowded around you and you might just be surprised by what you might catch, even if it doesn't include a wayward grouper!

Capt. Mark Sampson is an outdoor writer and captain of the charter boat, "Fish Finder", docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center. During the winter months, Capt. Mark runs charters in the Lower Keys.



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Capt. Monty Hawkins called this the best day of toggin he's seen in years! The group ended up with tagging 22 tog that weighed over 10 lbs. and the lead in the fish pool changed hands numerous times. A 26 1/2-incher took the early lead but ended up losing out to a last minute 30-incher caught by Derek Sigvarson of Middletown, DE. The fish tipped the scale at 19 lbs. 12 oz. Shannon Pickens was a close second with a 29-incher that weighed 18 lbs. JoJo Chupungco broke his personal best 6 times throughout the day, finishing with a release of a 26 1/2-inch female that weighed 14 lbs. Also pictured are Mike Harrison, Gregory Steart, Tommy Sengplachanh, Chris Powell and Mike Miller. The "Morning Star" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center in West Ocean City.

Federal Size & Creel Limits

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 <p>BLUE MARLIN 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No retention limit</p>	 <p>DOLPHIN No minimum length 10 per person/day</p>	 <p>YELLOWFIN TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SHARKS AUTHORIZED SPECIES</p> <p><u>No Minimum Fork Length</u> Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, -----</p> <p><u>54" Minimum Fork Length</u> Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose -----</p> <p><u>78" Minimum Fork Length</u> Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead, -----</p> <p>Only 1 shark from the lists above may be retained per vessel per trip. In addition, 1 Atlantic Sharpnose and 1 Bonnethead may be retained per person per trip. If a hammerhead shark is retained, no tunas, billfish or swordfish may be retained -----</p> <p><u>83" Minimum Fork Length</u> Shortfin Mako</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Prohibited Sharks</u> 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, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White</p>
 <p>WHITE MARLIN 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No retention limit</p>	 <p>WAHOO No minimum length 2 per person/day</p>	 <p>BLUEFIN TUNA (Recreational) 1 per vessel/day/trip 27" to less than 73" CFL</p> <p>(Charter Boat) 73" or greater CFL 1 per vessel/day/trip</p>	<p><u>47" to less than 73"</u> 1 per vessel/day/trip</p>
 <p>SWORDFISH 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter)</p>	 <p>BIGEYE TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length No retention limit</p>	<p>Southern Trophy Fishery closed through December 31, 2019</p>	



Trenton Davis from Ocean City, MD took a trip down to Chincoteague, VA to jump on the spring flounder bite and ended his day with this 22-inch, 3 lb. flattie in the box. Trenton was fishing on the "YKnot" with Capt. Brian Esteppe and fooled the flounder with a shiner and bull minnow combination in shallow waters of Watts Bay.

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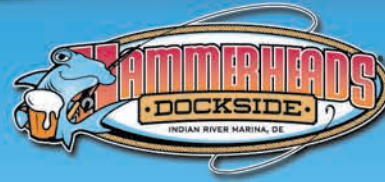
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FISHING CHARTERS



In early January, C.J. Jung caught and released this big 16 lb. tautog while fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. The male blackfish ate a green crab in 75-feet of water on an inshore wreck. You can find the "Fish Bound" docked at the Talbot Street Pier.



The Proano family from Randolph, NJ is all smiles after Jilian (far right) boated this 18-inch flounder during a trip aboard the charter boat, "Get Sum" with John, Fernando and Isabella Proano, Capt. Nick Clemente and mate Marshall Freng. The 18-incher ate a white Gulp Swimming Mullet in the bay behind Assateague Island. The "Get Sum" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Donald Knox from New York, NY (left) muscled in this 12 lb. tautog while fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. Donald used a green crab to trick the blackfish on ocean structure in 40-feet of water.



Local angler, Rich "Delicious" Daiker took a trip south to the Florida Keys where he caught this amberjack and a few grouper while fishing with Baron and Debbie Daiker and Jenny Kinevey. The amberjack was hooked while using shrimp for bait.

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Spring Mix II



FISHING CHARTERS



Right before sea bass season closed on December 31st, Andre Lucas caught a nice doubleheader of knotheads while fishing on the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Rich Fouts and Steve Whitelock. The fish weighed 4 lbs. 8 oz. and 5 lbs.



Last Sunday, Mike Johnston was all smiles after he had another good day slow trolling for flounder across the Thorofare flats. Mike ended his day with 4 keepers in the box, the largest measuring 21-inches.

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FISHING CHARTERS



In early March, Garrett Weir from Brooklyn, NY tagged and released this 26-inch, 14 lb. tautog while fishing on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. It was a pretty good bite this day with "Morning Star" anglers tagging 40 tog and keeping almost one per angler. Ramon Montoya took big fish money when he hooked a 27-inch male tog while using crabs for bait. Kurtis Berry was right behind with a tagged 26 1/4-inch.



During a January trip on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins, angler Jeremy Harrington caught his limit of tautog, including a 24 3/4-inch that took top fish honors. Jeremy was joined by Walter Moore, who caught a 23 3/4-inch beauty and Rich Deraris and Chuck Landenheim. All were hooked on crabs over structure.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Tog fishermen are some of the most conservation minded anglers you will ever meet, as shown by the 29 1/4-inch, 18 lb. 8 oz. tautog caught and released by James Kim of Richfield, NJ while fishing on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. The tog was fooled with a white crab on an ocean wreck. The "Morning Star" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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**The Maryland Department of Natural Resources
 Catch-A-Poacher Program
 Tawes State Office Building, Annapolis, MD**

FISHING CHARTERS



On April 23rd, Dave Hrycyk of Parsonsburg, MD and Big Bird Cropper of Powellville, MD were tossing Roy Rigs around the South Jetty when they hooked 5 keeper bluefish and 18 throwback stripers. The fish were caught on both tides with the largest bluefish measuring 19 1/2-inches. Pictured at the Coastal Fisherman office on Sunset Avenue in West Ocean City, MD.



This 9 lb. 5 oz. tautog fell at the hands of Capt. Brent Wiest during a trip aboard his charter boat, "Katydid". The big tog made the mistake of going after the green crab that Capt. Brent dropped on ocean structure. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Nick Ager took time to pose with the 30-inch black drum he caught while fishing with sand fleas off the beach on Assateague Island.



Local anglers Jim and Rachel Frazetti, Keith and Stacey Puller, Laura Elliot and Steve Hunter took a trip down to Costa Rica to fish on the "Tuna Bite" with Capt. Howard Lynch. The group ended up going 28 for 47 on sailfish during their 2 days of fishing.

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

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.

FISHING CHARTERS



Tommy Lee from Queens, NY took top fish honors during this trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins when he caught a 27-incher on a crab over ocean structure.



John Gudknecht from Rehoboth, DE caught a 6 lb. 10 oz. tog and Danny Kawasuchi from Lewes, DE threw a 6 lb. 5 oz. fish in the box of the charter boat, "Katydid" while fishing with green crabs on ocean structure. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Last Sunday, Katie Thatcher and Nate Gregory were at it again, returning to the dock with 5 keeper flounder after slow trolling the Thorofare flats. All of the fish were caught on Gulp artificial baits with Nate's 23-inch leading the way. Water temperatures were hovering around the 62-degree mark but Katie said the water looked like chocolate milk.



During a trip aboard the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Rich Fouts and Steve Whitelock, angler Bob Telford from Snow Hill, MD caught a doubleheader consisting of an 8 lb. hake and a sea bass hooked on squid over an ocean wreck.

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- A large, silver, open-ended ring with a blue opal inlay.
- A wide, gold-colored ring with a colorful mosaic design.
- Four circular pendants: two with "Ocean City, MD" and a crab, one with a turtle, and one with "Ocean City, MD".
- A gold-colored bracelet with two circular pendants featuring "OCEAN CITY MARYLAND" and a crab.
- A gold crab-shaped pendant.

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Delaware's Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police remind anglers that during Delaware's striped bass spawning season, which began April 1 and continues through midnight on May 31, it is unlawful for any person to take and retain any striped bass from the Nanticoke River or its tributaries, the Delaware River and its tributaries to the north of a line extending due east beginning at and including the South jetty at the mouth of the C&D Canal, or the C&D Canal or its tributaries. Anglers are required to practice catch and release fishing during this season with no harvest allowed in these areas.

In addition, regulations require anglers fishing with natural bait on any striped bass spawning ground during the closed spawning season to use a non-offset circle hook.

The Division of Fish & Wildlife recommends that circle hooks always be used when fishing natural baits because of their proven ability to reduce hook-and-release

mortality for striped bass and other fish species. The circle hook's design usually results in fish being hooked in the mouth, simplifying hook removal and reducing injury to the released fish.

NOAA Reviewing Atlantic HMS Bluefin Landings and Catch Reporting Methods

NOAA Fisheries is inviting comments related to a proposed collection of information on recreational catch and bluefin tuna landings. We are particularly interested in comments on:

- Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility.

- The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information.

- Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

- Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of

information technology.

All comments should be submitted by June 14, 2019. Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230. Comments can also be emailed to PRAComments@doc.gov.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission takes action to protect striped bass.

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission voted unanimously (7-0) to enact an emergency closure for the spring recreational striped bass trophy season.

A recent scientific assessment of striped bass shows the striped bass population has been below the sustainable threshold for the past 6 years and overfishing has been occurring since 2010.

"Virginia has always been a conservation leader, and this is a time to step up. The recent stock assessment shows that early action is needed to slow the decline and restore this fishery to sustainable levels," Virginia Marine Resources

Commissioner Steven G. Bowman said. "I am proud of the swift action taken by the Commission."

"There has to be a starting point for conservation. Today's action was the first step, and the Marine Resources Commission will continue to look at other measures for both recreational and commercial sectors to further reduce fishing mortality," Commissioner Bowman said.

"However, we cannot act alone. We also need swift and lasting conservation measures enacted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)," Commissioner Bowman said, "ASMFC should incentivize and encourage other states to follow Virginia's lead and take action this fishing season."

The emergency measure will eliminate the spring striped bass trophy season in the Bay from May 1 through June 15, the Coast from May 1 through May 15, and the Virginia tributaries to the Potomac River from April 29 through May 15.

Starting May 16 through June 15, fishermen will be able to catch and keep two striped bass measuring from 20 to 28 inches.

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In late April, Larry Slater rolled into town from West Virginia and jumped on the charter boat, "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente and mate Marshall Freng. Larry ended his trip with this 17 1/2-inch flounder and 6 throwbacks, all hooked while drifting white Gulp Swimming Mulletts in the Thorofare. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



In the Skip's White Marlin Roundup, the first leg of the Abaco (Bahamas) Diamond Series, local boat "The Chaser" finished in 5th place with 3 white marlin releases and this huge 129 pounder captured by angler Nick Lucov during their 3 days of fishing. Rounding out "The Chaser" team were angler Todd Burbage, Capt. Dale Gurgo and mates Shane Moore and Will Wangel, who recorded all 3 white marlin releases.

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<p>BILLS 4 BILLS 40 FT. OCEAN SUPER SPORT Capt. Mike Conner Capt. Ron Callis</p>	<p>FISH FINDER 40 FT. CUSTOM Capt. Mark Sampson</p>	<p>GAME CHANGER 38 FT. SONNY BRIGGS Capt. Fred & Matt Husman Capt. Mike Moss</p>	<p>PLAYTIME 35 FT. CAROLINA Capt. Ron Taylor</p>
			
<p>IVY SEA 26 FT. CUSTOM Capt. Nick Clemente</p>	<p>BAY BEE 40 FT. CUSTOM Capt. Cale Layton</p>	<p>MORNING STAR YEAR ROUND PARTY BOAT FISHING Capt. Monty Hawkins</p>	<p>MAKE UP CHARTERS \$350 PP FULL DAY BIG GAME FISHING!</p>

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Debbie and Grover Collins from Newark, MD flew south to Costa Rica in March to fish with Capt. Ronnie Fields on the "Big Oh". They ended up releasing 43 sailfish during 2 days of fishing in addition to tagging and releasing a black marlin estimated at 300 lbs. on the final afternoon. Debbie released the big black marlin after a 30-minute fight on a stand-up rod.

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BLACK SEA BASS
12.5" minimum
15 per person/day
5/15 - 12/31



BLUEFISH
8" minimum
10 per person/day



BLACK DRUM
16" minimum
1 per person/day or 6 per boat/day



COBIA
40" minimum
1 per person/day or 6 per boat/day
6/1 - 9/30



CROAKER
9" minimum
25 per person/day



RED DRUM
18" - 27"
1 per person/day



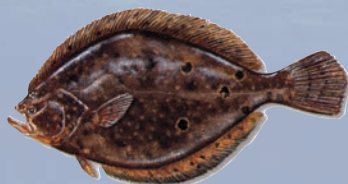
SHEEPSHEAD
No limit



SPECKLED TROUT
14" minimum
4 per person/day



STRIPED BASS
28" - 38" and 44" and greater
Any Combination
2 per person/day



SUMMER FLOUNDER
16.5" minimum
4 per person/day



TAUTOG
16" minimum
1/1 - 5/15 4 per person/day



WEAKFISH
13" minimum
1 per person/day



Don Zaiser from Ocean City, MD caught and released this black drum after hooking it on a chunk of clam while surfcasting from the beach on 142 St. in Ocean City. Photo courtesy of Fenwick Tackle.



The weatherman predicted a calm day but Mother Nature had other plans, throwing consistent 20+ knot winds at these dedicated tautog fishermen on the headboat, "Morning Star". But it didn't stop them from landing some quality fish. Bill Keefer took top honors with a 20-incher and is pictured with Manuel Padron from Edison, NJ, Marty Jones from Virginia Beach, VA and Wo J. Ki from North Wales, PA. As always, Capt. Monty Hawkins was at the helm. The "Morning Star" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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DELAWARE

FISHING REPORT

by Larry Jock



This Week Last Year

- Fishing off to a slow start. Very windy & rainy.
- IR Inlet water temp in high 40's to low 50's.
- Short stripers, bluefish and flounder in IR Inlet.
- Good size black drum, kingfish, bluefish and short stripers in the surf.
- Good size tautog on ocean structure.
- A few flounder were caught in the Lewes Canal

Well, here we go. Another season of fishing is upon us and it looks like the bite may be slightly ahead of what we saw last season, but that shouldn't be much of a surprise since last years spring season was plagued with many days of wind and rain.

At Rick's Bait & Tackle, Capt. Mike Behney reported



During a trip aboard the charter boat, "Katydid" with Capt. Brent Wiest and mate Chris Vann, angler Dan McGeady caught this 9 lb. 8 oz. tautog while dropping green crabs at Site 10. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.

www.coastalfisherman.net

Seemingly much earlier than last season, flounder were coming in from the Lewes Canal. Tommy said that a 23-inch was caught on Sunday and anglers are finding success using flashy top and bottom rigs partnered with bunker and mackerel. Anglers are also finding short stripers interested in their offerings.

At Hook'em & Cook'em, Capt. Lauren Adams reported a few bluefish in the 2 to 3 lb. range being caught last week in the Indian River Inlet by anglers tossing poppers. This is always an exciting way to catch these aggressive fish.

Short stripers are also being caught in the Inlet with a few keeper sized fish thrown in to make it interesting.

Lauren also said that a few keeper flounder were caught around the VFW Slough.

Indian River headboats tried to get out on Saturday, but the strong winds kept them at the dock. Outside of Site 10, private boats out of Indian River are traveling over 20 miles to get on a decent tautog bite.

Capt. Matt Shoup at Fenwick Bait & Tackle said that his customers are catching bluefish off the beach from Fenwick down to North Ocean City. Most are finding success soaking cut mullet on bucktails or whole mullet on mullet rigs. Matt also said that Roy Rigs have become very popular and anglers are finding success tossing them to bluefish and stripers from the shoreline and in the bay.

A few black drum have been caught off the beaches in Fenwick but the spring striped bass run has yet to materialize. Historically, it should be heating up right now and it is especially puzzling since anglers in New Jersey are already reported an epic bite from South Jersey up to Central Jersey. They said that you can't escape them with fish out front and in the rivers.

Surfcasters are also finding short stripers and a good number of pufferfish in the surf. Short linesiders have also been hooked in the Fenwick Ditch.

Until next week, tight lines!

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that flounder are being picked at in the Lewes Canal with the best bite some in the water closer to the Roosevelt Inlet. Flatties are also being hooked around the Cape Henlopen Pier and in front of Pot Nets Seaside.

Small stripers and an occasional keeper were hooked by surfcasters tossing rigs off of Broadkill Beach. Anglers also got into black drum while fishing off Broadkill. No reports came in from the Coral Beds, but it is still early. Mike said it usually doesn't heat up until mid-May.

When anglers could find a good enough day to get off the beach, tautog were plentiful at Site 10, but the throwback ratio was extremely high. Mike said that one of his customers ventured out there and had 5 keepers out of 50 hooked. There were a lot of 15-inch fish.

Tommy at Lewes Harbour Marina said the bluefish bite at the Cape Henlopen Pier is sporadic. He also reported his customers coming in with catches of black drum after fishing off of Broadkill Beach.



Steven Warren from Georgetown, DE was fishing off the town dock on the Lewes Canal when he hooked this 17 1/2-inch flounder on a Gulp artificial bait. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.



Logan Comley muscled in a pair of good size bluefish while fishing off the Cape Henlopen Pier with his Dad. Logan used cut bait to fool the 18 1/2 and 25 1/2-inch choppers. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.

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During a late January trip on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins, this group of anglers caught some beautiful tautog while dropping crabs on ocean structure. Justin Leber led the way with a 26-incher that tipped the scale at 14 lbs. 8 oz. Also pictured are Ken Donowski of Queens, NY, John Hutton of York, PA and Pat Zurgable and Tim Calimer, both from Waynesboro, PA.

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Dan McGeady caught this 10 lb. tautog while dropping white crabs on an artificial reef. Dan was fishing with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mate Rich Fouts on the "Reef Chief".



After the Coastal Fisherman Winter Issue hit the streets, but before sea bass season closed, Carmelo Montoya of Alexandria, VA captured this 5 lb. knothead on a strip of squid while fishing on the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Rich Fouts and Steve Whitelock.



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<p>10th Annual Memorial Day Tournament*</p> <p>Registration: May 24, 6:30 PM</p> <p>Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 25 & 26</p> <p>Awards Banquet: May 26, 6:30 PM</p>	<p>40th Annual Small Boat Tournament*</p> <p>Registration: June 14, 6:30 PM</p> <p>Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 15 & 16</p> <p>Awards Banquet: June 16, 6:30 PM</p>	<p>37th Annual Canyon Kickoff*</p> <p>FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS</p> <p>Registration: July 3, 6:30 PM</p> <p>Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 5, 6 & 7</p> <p>Awards Banquet: July 7, 6:30 PM</p>	<p>15th Annual Kid's Classic*</p> <p>To benefit Wish-A-Fish Foundation</p> <p>Registration: July 19, 6:30 PM</p> <p>Fishing Days: (1 of 2) July 20 & 21</p> <p>Sunday Carnival & Awards: July 21, 5:00 PM</p>
<p>11th Annual OCMC Ladies' Tournament "Heels & Reels"*</p> <p>To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund</p> <p>Registration: August 1, 6:00 PM</p> <p>Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 2 & 3</p> <p>Awards Banquet: August 3, 6:30 PM</p>	<p>61st Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament*</p> <p>Registration: August 29, 6:30 PM</p> <p>Fishing Days: (2 of 3) August 30, 31 & September 1</p> <p>*with overnight option</p> <p>Awards Banquet: Friday/Saturday or Saturday/Sunday</p> <p>Awards Banquet: September 1, 6:30 PM</p>	<p>4th Annual OCMC vs. OCLTC Shoot-Out</p> <p>Angler Meeting: September 5, 7:00 PM</p> <p>Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 6, 7 & 8</p> <p>Awards Banquet: September 8, 6:30 PM</p>	<p>41st Annual Charles Kratz & Scott Smith Challenge Cup</p> <p>Registration: September 11, 7:00 PM</p> <p>Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 12, 13 & 14</p> <p>Italian Night: September 13, 6:30 pm</p> <p>Awards Banquet: September 14, 6:30pm</p>

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1 TBSP black pepper
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1 TBSP onion powder
1 TBSP oregano
1 TBSP lemon pepper
1 tsp. red pepper, crushed
1 TBSP chili powder
1 TBSP salt
2 TBSP Old Bay
1 tsp. lemon, squeezed
1 TBSP vinegar
1 TBSP Tabasco Sauce
1 TBSP Worcestershire
Sauce
8 TBSP brown sugar
5 bulbs garlic, minced

1/2 large onion, minced
3 TBSP ginger, minced
6 sticks unsalted butter

Melt butter in large skillet.
Saute garlic and onion in
melted butter.

Add Tabasco Sauce.
Blend well.

Mix in dry ingredients.
Bring to a boil.

Serve it with your favorite
seafood.

Garlic Butter Shrimp

submitted by Donna West

4 TBSP butter
1 lb. large shrimp
(16-20 count),
peeled, deveined
and tails removed

Salt and pepper
1 tsp. Italian
seasoning
4 tsp. minced garlic
Juice of 1 lemon
1 TBSP parsley,
chopped

Place butter in a large pan
and melt over medium high
heat.

Add the shrimp and
season with salt, pepper and
Italian seasoning.

Cook for 3 to 5 minutes,
stirring occasionally, until
shrimp are pink and opaque.

Add the garlic and cook
for one more minute.

Stir in the lemon juice and
parsley.

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2 TBSP vegetable oil
4 TBSP butter,
divided
1 lemon, juiced
1 small bottle capers

Wash fillets in cold water
and pat dry.

Sprinkle with salt and
pepper.

Dredge fillets in flour.

Place oil and 3 TBSP
butter in flat, heavy-
bottomed skillet and heat on
medium-high until the butter
melts.

Keeping heat at medium-
high, cook fish on one side
for about 3 minutes until
deep brown and crispy.

Turn fish and cook on
second side for additional 3
minutes.

Turn fish only once.

Remove fish to serving
platter.

In a hot skillet, whisk in
remaining 1 TBSP butter.

Add lemon juice.

Pour in entire bottle of
capers, liquid and all. Whisk.

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Pour thin sauce over fish fillets. serve at once.

Tautog Chowder

- 1/4 lb. thick cut smoked bacon
- 1 large onion
- 4 stalks of celery
- 5 large carrots
- 3 TBSP flour
- 8 large russet potatoes
- 2 lbs. tautog fillets
- 1 pint heavy cream
- 1/2 gallon of 2% milk

Chop bacon, carrots, celery and onion; toss in a large pot. Simmer until onions are caramelized and brown but not burnt, about 20 minutes.

Stir in flour. Immediately add 2 cups of milk and continue stirring until smooth.

Simmer on low while chopping potatoes. Add potatoes to the pot

and cook until almost tender. Stir in heavy cream. Depending on consistency and quantity desired, add milk if needed. Simmer for 10 minutes. Add tautog fillets. Cover and turn heat on. Let stand covered for 20 minutes to steam while not overcooking it, which will make it tough. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Seared Sea Bass with Fresh Herbs and Lemon

- 1/3 cup mixed fresh herbs such as parsley, dill, and chives
- 2 sea bass fillets, with skin
- 1 tsp. olive oil
- 1 1/2 TBSP unsalted butter
- 1/3 cup dry white wine



Back in January, John Kim from Fairfax, VA caught and released this “beautiful” 12 lb. tautog during a trip aboard the charter boat, “Fish Bound” with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. The fish ate a green crab in 65-feet of water in an inshore wreck.

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1 TBSP fresh lemon juice

Chop herbs.

Using tweezers, remove any bones from sea bass.

Pat fillets dry and score just through the skin in 4 places.

Diagonally cut each fillet in half and season with salt and pepper.

In a heavy skillet, heat oil and 1 TBSP butter over moderately high heat until foam subsides.

Sear fish, skin side down, about 3 minutes, or until skin is golden.

Turn fish over and cook 2 minutes more, or until just cooked through.

Transfer fish to 2 plates.

Remove skillet from heat and add wine to deglaze, scraping up any brown bits with a wooden spoon.

Stir in lemon juice, herbs, remaining 1/2 TBSP butter and salt and pepper to taste.

Spoon sauce over fish.

Moroccan-Style Striped Bass

3 cups fresh orange juice

Fresh thyme sprigs

1 TBSP honey

Harissa, to taste

4 striped bass fillets, skin on

Canola oil

Salt

Black pepper, freshly ground

Cured black olives, pitted and

coarsely chopped

Brined black olives, pitted.

Roughly chopped flat-leaf parsley

Preheat the grill to medium.

Put the orange juice and thyme in a small saucepan, over medium heat and bring to a boil.

Cook until reduced by half and becomes a syrup.

Strain into a bowl

Add the honey and harissa, to taste.

Brush the fillets with oil on both sides and season with salt and pepper, to taste.

Grill until slightly charred on both sides and just cooked through, about 4 minutes per side.

Remove to a platter, drizzle with the sauce and sprinkle with olives and parsley.

Flounder Francese with Toasted Almonds, Lemon and Capers

2 oz. (1/4 cup) sliced almonds

4 flounder fillets

Salt and pepper

3 large eggs

Splash of heavy cream

4 TBSP extra-virgin olive oil, divided

3 TBSP butter, divided

1/2 cup dry white wine

Handful of flat-leaf parsley, finely chopped

1 lemon, zested and juiced

3 TBSP capers

3 cloves garlic, finely chopped

1 lb. triple washed spinach, tough

stems removed,

coarsely chopped

1/4 tsp. grated or ground nutmeg

Toast almonds over moderate heat and reserve.

Preheat a large nonstick skillet over medium to medium-high heat.

Season the fish with salt and pepper.

Beat eggs with cream.

Add 2 TBSP extra-virgin olive oil to the skillet to coat surface.

Add 2 TBSP butter, cut into small pieces.

Dip the fish into the eggs and cook on both sides until just golden, 5 to 6 minutes.

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Transfer fish to a plate and loosely cover with a foil tent to retain heat.

Add wine to the pan and reduce by half, 1 minute.

Add 1 TBSP butter and a handful of parsley to the pan.

Stir in the lemon juice, zest and capers.

Turn off heat.

Pour sauce over fish and top with sliced almonds.

Return skillet to heat.

Add remaining 2 TBSP extra-virgin olive oil, coating entire surface.

Add chopped garlic and let it come to a sizzle.

Wilt in spinach, turning to coat in extra-virgin olive oil and season with salt, pepper and nutmeg.

Serve spinach alongside flounder.

sweet red pepper
1/4 cup whole kernel corn
1/4 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
2 TBSP canola oil, divided
1/2 pound fresh or frozen bay scallops, thawed
1/4 pound uncooked medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
1 tsp. seafood seasoning
1 tsp. soy sauce
3 oz. cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup whole milk
1/2 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
1/8 tsp. ground nutmeg
Hot cooked pasta or rice

In a skillet or wok, stir-fry carrot, celery, onion, red pepper, corn and mushrooms

in 1 TBSP oil for 4 to 5 minutes or until crisp-tender.

Remove to a bowl and keep warm.

Add remaining oil to the skillet.

Stir-fry scallops, shrimp, seafood seasoning and soy sauce for 3 to 4 minutes or until the shrimp turns pink.

Using a slotted spoon, transfer seafood to the bowl with the vegetable mixture.

In a small bowl, beat the cream cheese, milk, mozzarella cheese and nutmeg until smooth.

Return seafood and vegetables to skillet.

Stir in cream cheese mixture and heat through.

Serve with pasta or rice.

If you have any favorite seafood recipes that you would like to share with Coastal Fisherman readers, you can send email them to coastalfisherman@comcast.net. You will be famous!!!

May 1, 2019 Coastal Fisherman Page 45



The first flounder of the year was caught on April 4th by Kristin Lenox while drifting in 6-8 feet of water behind Assateague Island. The fish measured 16 3/4-inches and ate a Gulp Swimming Mullet.

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



Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
Bluefish 	NEW April 17, 2019 Big Bird Cropper South Jetty 6 lbs. 8 oz.	No Weights Reported	Mako Shark 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Black Drum 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Thresher Shark 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Cobia 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Bigeye Tuna 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Flounder 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Bluefin Tuna 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Sea Bass 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Longfin Tuna 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Sheepshead 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Yellowfin Tuna 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Striped Bass 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Dolphin 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Tautog 	NEW January 18, 2019 Derek Sigvarson "Morning Star" 19 lbs. 12 oz.	NEW April 22, 2019 Chris Thawley "Katydid" 10 lbs. 8 oz.	Wahoo 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Weakfish 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	White Marlin 	Most Releases in 1 Day (trolling only) No Weights Reported	

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



Who is that masked man? It's Mac McLeod from Washington, DC after he caught and released an 11 lb. female tautog back in February. Mac hooked the blackfish on a green crab in 90-feet of water during a trip on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley.



Only a week after getting married, Dustin Schell took an afternoon off and caught some white perch in the Broadkill River. All of the fish were caught on bloodworms with the heaviest one weighing 1 lb. 2 oz. on the scale at Lewes Harbour Marina. Congratulations Dustin and Jacki on their nuptials!!

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STORIES

by Capt. Franky Pettolina



Here we go again folks. Welcome to another season of the Coastal Fisherman. It has been a breezy and pretty rainy spring so far, but as I look out my office window today the sun is shining and I am thinking about heading down to the Ocean City Fishing Center and taking the "Last Call" out for a little shakedown cruise. The ol' girl has been in the water for a couple of weeks now. Dad has done all of the springtime maintenance and hopefully he has scared any lingering boatyard gremlins out of the boat. Boatyard gremlins are nasty little critters. Mischievous and malevolent. Destructive and dastardly. But that father of mine is an expert at eradicating them so I am feeling pretty confident that the shakedown cruise will go off without a hitch.

Our first charter is just a few days away. I haven't fished since Christmas time down in Islamorada, Florida and the only time I have touched a fishing rod since then was to load all of our equipment onto the "Last Call" last week. I am pretty

sure that I will remember what to do with them on the day of the charter. What I still don't know is what we will be fishing for. The guy that booked the trip said he just wants to get out on the water with his buddies and have a few laughs and maybe catch a couple fish. The tog have been biting and I am just starting to hear about some little rockfish and some bluefish being caught. The first good looking patch of water is still well east of the canyons so I know that the deep water species won't be on the menu. There will be plenty of time for them later.

Since the last time I wrote one of my columns for this paper there have been some significant events in my life. Some good, some not so much. Each one of them will play into my future and I thought I would share some of them here.

Back in February, I attended a fraternity reunion. There were Alpha Phi Epsilon brothers from the class of 1977 all the way through guys currently attending Ursinus College (my Alma Mater). As

I was talking with some of the guys, the topic of marlin fishing came up (gee, I wonder who brought that up...). A guy from the class of 1987 pulled out his phone and showed me pictures of his first blue marlin that was caught out of Cape May, New Jersey last summer. I asked him who he was fishing with, and it turns out that he was with Capt. Steve Castellini who just so happens to be a friend of mine. We quickly took a selfie and sent it to Steve. Laughing about how small the world can be, the guy went on to tell me that his son was currently going to Chapman's School of Seamanship down in Stuart, Florida. His son plans to get his Captain's License and wants to work in the boating industry. For those of you that don't know, I too am a Chapman's grad. I took the Professional Mariner Training Program Course, Yacht and Small Craft Surveying Course and the Fundamentals of Damage and Claims Course there. Now, this man and I were already brothers in a fraternity sense, but we had that much more in common because of fishing and boating. My takeaway from this is to always bring up fishing and don't be afraid to show a fish picture to a stranger. You might have

more in common than you think.

Unfortunately, my February was not all positives. My good friend Steve Trattner passed away after a long battle with cancer at the end of the month. Steve worked as a yacht broker for Tournament Yacht Sales so he and I had a professional relationship as brokers and surveyors are both a part of the boat sale/purchase process. But Steve and I knew each other for much longer than he had been selling boats and long before I started surveying them. I have many fond memories of Steve but for the purposes of writing about things that have impacted my life recently I am going to borrow one of his favorite mottos. Steve had a batch of stickers made that said FISH in big letters in the middle of an oval. In smaller letters around the edge of the oval the stickers say "Forget It Stuff Happens". Well, actually it has different words for "Forget" and "Stuff" but the general principle is the same and the Coastal Fisherman is a family friendly paper... Whenever the world throws some junk at you, don't sweat it. Just think FISH!

The more I think about it, I guess it turns out I had some pretty crappy stuff happen

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this spring. The Patriarch and Vice President of Everything at the Coastal Fisherman, Larry Jock Sr., passed away in March and my beloved cat Annie crossed the rainbow bridge last week. Mr. Jock always had a warm smile and was the type of guy you couldn't help but stop and talk to whenever you would see him. I will forever remember our talks in the office, on the docks or wherever we ran into each other. You felt good being around Mr. Jock and left in a better mood just by seeing him.

My Annie was a bit aloof as cats tend to be, but she was part of my daily routine and very much a social animal. She never passed up a treat or a chance to lay in the sun (or across my desk when I was typing). As people we should strive to make days brighter for those around us like Mr. Jock did, and never pass up a chance to enjoy the warmth of the sun or to indulge in a treat.

If you have been reading my columns over the past couple of years you will remember that I often talk about each summer going quicker than the one before it, and a few more marbles leaving my jar. Hopefully this one doesn't fly by too quickly. I definitely will take the time to show fish pictures to new friends, think FISH when the junky stuff happens, leave people with a smile, and enjoy my time in the sun. I look forward to sharing a few more fish stories with you all this season. Here's to a summer of good health and fishing for all!

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

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Mike Sadowski from New York, NY released this 12 lb. male tautog while fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. A green crab dropped on ocean structure in 90-feet of water was the downfall for this bucktooth fish. The "Fish Bound" is docked at the Talbot Street Pier in downtown Ocean City.



It's been a slow start to the 2019 Spring Trophy Rockfish Season in the Chesapeake Bay, but Troy Hubbard did manage to catch this 42-incher while trolling off Taylor's Island with Jimmy Era.

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5 per person/day



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SPECKLED TROUT
12" minimum
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STRIPED BASS
28" - 37" or 44" and greater
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TAUTOG
16" minimum
4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15
4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31



WEAKFISH
13" minimum
1 per person/day



Local anglers Eric Van Lill, Mike Sears and Chris McElrath took a trip to Pompano Beach, Florida to celebrate Eric's 50th birthday and spent a day fishing on the "O-Sea-D". Chris ended up boating this 31 lb. bull dolphin.

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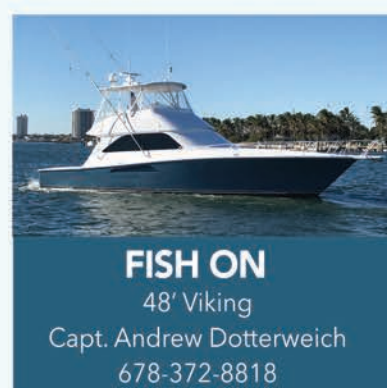
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Dennis Muhlenforth from Hockessin, DE won the largest fish pool during a trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. Dennis hooked the 28 1/4-inch female tog on a crab over ocean structure.

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The dynamic duo of Tanner and Katie Thatcher joined Nate Gregory for a day of trolling the Thorofare flats and ended their day with 6 keeper flounder in the box. All were caught on Gulp Swimming Mulletts in 62-degree water. As always, Katie caught the largest fish of the day, a beautiful 20-incher.

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It was a calm day for anglers fishing on the headboat, "Morning Star" in early April and Steve Moran took advantage of it, catching, releasing and tagging this 26-inch tautog. It was a trip to support scientific research with 40 tog released and tagged. As always, Capt. Monty Hawkins was at the helm. The "Morning Star" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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ECLIPSE

A little bit about myself.... I would say I'm low maintenance. I wouldn't mind a long romantic walk on the beach but I'm an expert at Netflix and chilling. Not into Netflix? Then we can Hulu and hang out! For your love and affection, I am willing to give you endless amounts of kisses, pose for pictures, cuddle, and I will even pretend that I am listening to you when you rant about work or annoying family members!

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by Steve Katz
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Charting your way this season

Welcome to the 2019 fishing season. As most of you know, many companies in the marine business introduce new products during the winter boat show season in Florida. This year was no exception and I was able to attend these events and get a firsthand look at many of the new products.

One area that has become much more competitive with new offerings this year is electronic navigation and fishing charts. For those who don't know, many of the independent marine charting companies have been bought up by the major marine electronics manufacturers over the last few years, with not many benefits to the boaters until recently.

Garmin, who purchased Navionics in October 2017, has been diligently working to revamp their cartography since. Garmin GPS displays are only compatible with Garmin branded cartography and this is still the case.

Whereas Simrad, Lowrance, Furuno and Raymarine often have the ability to use third party charts along with the manufacturers own brand of charts.



This winter Garmin introduced the g3 charts, which now (finally) include the integration of Navionics cartography data. The Navionics company, founded in Italy, introduced the world's first marine electronic chart plotter in 1984 and has continued to develop cartography solutions for boating and fishing enthusiasts. Many boaters are familiar with Navionics, often hailed as the best marine charts available.

This new Garmin g3 cartography includes much better detail than their previous g2 charts, including navigational aids, spot

soundings, depth contours, tides, currents and detailed harbors and marinas. For fishing, the new G3 charts offer seamless chart presentation with up to 1-foot fishing contours that provide a more accurate depiction of bottom structure for improved fishing charts and enhanced detail in swamps, canals, marinas and port plans.

These g3 charts also include Auto Guidance, a simple marine auto-navigation technology that is included with all Garmin g3 accessory cards, and built-in to many Garmin chartplotter—all at no additional cost. The Auto Guidance feature is used to allow the chartplotter to automatically create a route to the destination based on user-determined Auto Guidance parameters. These parameters are customizable for your boat and include details such as, minimum depth, vessel height and shoreline distance.

The top of the line g3 accessory card, BlueChart g3 Vision, includes everything available with BlueChart g3, plus high-resolution satellite imagery that provides boaters with a realistic view of their surroundings. Unique 3-D views, including MarinerEye and FishEye, provide additional perspective both

above and below the water line, and aerial photography shows exceptional detail of many ports, harbors and marinas, which is especially useful when entering unfamiliar ports.

While we focus on coastal fishing locally, I should not overlook that the g3 cartography is also available for inland waterways and lakes. The LakeVü g3 Ultra includes maps of more than 17,000 lakes with up to 1-foot contours. Of those, over 150 are Garmin Elite surveyed lakes with high-resolution satellite imagery, multi-beam shore-to-shore sonar views, side scan photos and photos of notable spots above the water too. LakeVü g3 Ultra also includes high-resolution relief shading that adds visual depth to the 2-D map, making it easier to interpret contours, Dynamic Lake Level and more.

For those who have another brand of marine electronics, there is also a newly introduced charting product now available for our geographic area. Back in 2017 a small startup company run by watermen, CMOR Mapping, released its first electronic, highly detailed ocean bottom and structure chart (Bathymetry) for Florida and they have finally introduced a chart for



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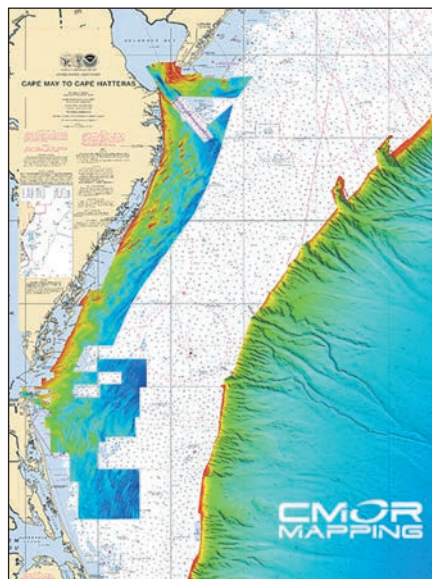
www.coastalfisherman.net

coverage for our mid-Atlantic area.

The CMOR map data is put together from multiple sources including commercial-grade multi-beam sonar and aerial LIDAR. CMOR Mapping has produced high-resolution Bathymetry at major fishing and diving regions that is compatible with most Simrad, Lowrance and Raymarine chartplotters, as well as some Mercury VesselView systems and soon some Furuno multifunction displays. All vector data such as tides and navigational aids can also be viewed as an overlay. Pixel resolution is as great as 1 meter (each pixel represents 1 square meter of bottom). With "Depth Shading" switched on, every undulation becomes highlighted.

Much of the amazing detail on the CMOR maps comes from aerial LIDAR technology. LIDAR is an acronym for Light Detection

and Ranging, which is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges (variable distances) to the Earth from an aircraft.



These light pulses—combined with other data recorded by the airborne system, generate precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth, both above and below the water. The Bathymetric LIDAR uses water-penetrating green light to measure seafloor and

riverbed elevations. In our area, the amazing bottom detail from LIDAR is available for the near shore area out to 20 miles and the commercial-grade, multi-beam sonar is used for the deeper water in the canyons. These CMOR maps are not intended for navigation. They are purposely designed for fishing and diving enthusiasts who want to see the seafloor in great detail.

These new charting options are a great way to gather more information about the fishing grounds in addition to helping you catch more fish and enjoying your time on the water.

Captain Steve Katz is the owner of Steve's Marine Service and holds NMEA, AMEI and NMEA2000 certificates along with ABYC Master Technician certification and factory training from many manufacturers. To reach Steve, call 410-231-3191.

May 1, 2019 Coastal Fisherman Page 57



On December 30th, Ken Yuen from Germantown, MD jigged up a 4 lb. 8 oz. sea bass while fishing over ocean structure on the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak.

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2019 First Fish of the Year COASTAL FISHERMAN



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

Species	2019	2018	Species	2019	2018
Bluefish 	NEW April 17, 2019 Big Bird Cropper South Jetty	May 1, 2018 Big Bird Cropper South Jetty	Mako Shark 	No Reported Catches	May 23, 2018 Fred Weinhold "Marli" Marine Electric
Black Drum 	NEW April 9, 2019 Allen Sklar Assateague Surf	April 19, 2018 Allen Sklar Assateague Surf	Thresher Shark 	No Reported Catches	May 26, 2018 Don King "Shallow End" Fingers
Cobia 	No Reported Catches	July 10, 2018 Mitchell Clark "Judith M"	Bigeye Tuna 	No Reported Catches	May 26, 2018 Tanya Devine "Wrecker" Poor Man's Canyon
Flounder 	NEW April 4, 2019 Kristin Lenox Sinepuxent Bay	April 14, 2018 Mike Tuel Thorofare	Bluefin Tuna 	No Reported Catches	May 24, 2018 Donna Gutridge "Marli" Poor Man's Canyon
Sea Bass 	No Reported Catches	May 15, 2018 Wayne Diaz "Morning Star" Artificial Reef	Longfin Tuna 	No Reported Catches	June 9, 2018 Mike Lloyd Wilmington Canyon
Sheepshead 	No Reported Catches	June 4, 2018 Hanna Bartell "On the Run" South Jetty	Yellowfin Tuna 	No Reported Catches	May 24, 2018 Mike Curran "Marli" Poor Man's Canyon
Striped Bass 	NEW April 12, 2019 Kern Ducote Rt. 90 Bridge	January 2, 2018 Jon Pulsifer Little Gull Shoal	Dolphin 	No Reported Catches	May 24, 2018 Steve Cumor "Marli" Poor Man's Canyon
Tautog 	NEW January 4, 2019 Dan Iacangelo "Morning Star" Ocean Wreck	January 3, 2018 Dennis Muhlenforth "Morning Star" Artificial Reef	Wahoo 	No Reported Catches	July 12, 2018 Jon Gross "Restless Lady" Washington Canyon
Weakfish 	No Reported Catches	June 2, 2018 Matt Boyer Indian River Inlet	White Marlin 	No Reported Catches	June 13, 2018 Ron Bennett "Stalker" Poor Man's Canyon

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



The Prodigal Son returned to the "Morning Star", not to resume mating duties but to try his luck along the rail. Dan Iacangelo, long time mate on the headboat, "Morning Star" dropped a jig onto an ocean wreck and hooked into this 36-inch monkfish. The toothy critters mainly eat fish, including other monkfish, but also feed on crustaceans, mollusks, seabirds and diving ducks. They ambush their prey, using a modified spine on their head as a fishing pole and bait to lure small fish towards their mouth. Monkfish spawn from February to October, releasing large egg veils that can contain more than 1 million eggs. Females typically live least 13 years and grow to more than 4 1/2-feet long while males only live about 7 years and grow to almost 3-feet long.



Before the sea bass season closed, both Pam Moore from Cherry Hill, NJ and Heidi Smith from Odenton, MD caught their limit of black sea bass while fishing on the headboat, "Morning Star". Heidi hooked 26 keeper size knotheads and Pam boated a 26 1/4-inch.

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Kate Wilke from The Nature Conservancy hooked this 23 1/4-inch tautog on a crab while fishing on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins.



Flounder pounder, Preston Walls ventured down to Stuart, FL in February and kept his skills sharp by catching a pair of pompano while using shrimp for bait at the North Fork of the St. Lucie River.



MARYLAND & DELAWARE CITATION SIZES

Atlantic Coast

	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u>
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"
Blue Marlin **	Any Size	Any Size
Cobia	44"	45 lbs. or 48"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"
Red Drum *	36"	45"
Sailfish *	Any Size	-
Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"
Speckled Trout	24"	-
Striped Bass	40"	34 lbs. or 44"

* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program
*** Use curved-fork-length measurements

	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u>
Shark:		
Blue Shark *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Hammerhead *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Mako *	Any Size	250 lbs. or 83"
Thresher *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Tiger *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"
Tuna:		
Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lbs. or 32"
False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"
Bigeye ***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"
Bluefin ***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"
Yellowfin ***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"
Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"
Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"
White Marlin **	Any Size	Any Size

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

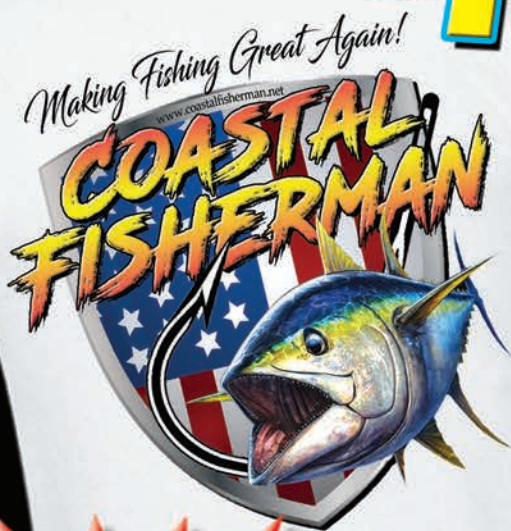


During an early year trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star", angler Jeremy Harrington from Reston, VA caught the pool winner when he tagged this 24 3/4-inch tautog after hooking it on a white crab at an artificial reef. In the background is mate Doug Stancombe with a keeper tog that Jeremy had caught earlier in the day.



Local anglers, Ed Balcerzak and Bill Regan ventured down to Pez Vela Marina in Quepos, Costa Rica for the 24th Annual Bushman Classic in February and caught this male and female mahi combo on trolled ballyhoo.

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Although this picture was featured in the Winter Issue, it is such a nice fish that a second look is definitely warranted. In December, Justin Eddy from Ellicott City, MD muscled in this massive 23 1/2-inch, 6 lb. 13 oz. black sea bass while fishing on the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mate Rich Fouts. Justin fooled the fish with a chunk of clam over an offshore wreck. The "Angler" is docked at Capt. Bill Bunting's Angler Dock in Ocean City, MD.



Pick Up Your Coastal Fisherman At These Locations

OCEAN CITY

Angler Restaurant
Talbot Street Pier
Oceanic Fishing Pier
Wockenfuss Candy - Boardwalk 1st St.
Wockenfuss Candy - Boardwalk 7th St.
Layton's Restaurant - 16th St.
Reel Inn - 17th St.
Bahia Marina - 22nd St.
Anthony's Beer, Wine & Deli - 33rd St.
Minit Market - 33rd St.
Dough Roller - 41st St.
Seacrets - 49th St.
64th Street Market - 64th St.
Advanced Marina - 66th St.
Holiday Inn - 67th St.
Mione's Pizza - 67th St.
Dough Roller - 69th St.
Exxon Wine Rack - 86th St.
Layton's on 92nd St.
Liquid Assets - 94th St.
Coffee Beanery - 94th St.
Clarion Hotel - 101st St.
Wawa - 120th St.
7-Eleven - 120th St.
Montego Bay Market - 130th St.
7-Eleven - 139th St.

WEST OCEAN CITY

Ocean City Visitors Center
Wawa - Rt. 50
Mione's Pizza - Outlets
Wockenfuss Candy - Outlets
Bank of Ocean City
West-O Bottle Shop & Bar - Rt. 50
Royal Farms - Rt. 50
All Tackle Ocean City - Rt. 50
Chick-Fil-A - Rt. 50
Starbucks - Rt. 50
Ocean City Fishing Center
Ocean City Marlin Club
Harborside Bar & Grill
Atlantic Tackle
Sunset Grille
Sunset Marina
Sunset Provisions
Harbor Marine
Food Lion - Rt. 611
Larry's Trading Post - Rt. 611
Optical Galleria - Rt. 611
Southside Deli - Rt. 611

BERLIN & PITTSVILLE

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

FENWICK/SELBYVILLE

Fenwick Tackle
Mancini's Italian Restaurant
Uncle Willie's
Rt.113 Boat Sales
Harris Teeter
Food Lion Rt.54
Lone Mullet Seafood Market

INDIAN RIVER

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

BETHANY, OCEAN VIEW & MILLVILLE

Hook 'em & Cook 'em Outfitters - Rt.1
G&E Supermarket
G&E Hardware - Cedar Neck Rd.
Hocker's Deli - Rt. 26
Gull's Way Campground
Tuckahoe Campground
Giant Supermarket - Rt. 26
Hocker's Supermarket - Rt. 26
Wawa - Rt. 26
Bethany Auto & Marine - Rt. 26
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**Tides & Moon Phases
OCEAN CITY INLET**

Wed. May 1	Low 12:05 am Low 12:26 pm	High 06:17 am High 06:41 pm
Thurs. May 2	Low 12:50 am Low 12:58 pm	High 06:56 am High 07:22 pm
Fri. May 3	Low 01:32 am Low 01:30 pm	High 07:36 am High 08:02 pm
Sat. May 4 NEW MOON	Low 02:11 am Low 02:04 pm	High 08:16 am High 08:43 pm
Sun. May 5	Low 02:51 am Low 02:40 pm	High 08:57 am High 09:23 pm
Mon. May 6	Low 03:32 am Low 03:19 pm	High 09:39 am High 10:05 pm
Tues. May 7	Low 04:16 am Low 04:02 pm	High 10:21 am High 10:49 pm
Wed. May 8	Low 05:05 am Low 04:51 pm	High 11:06 am High 11:36 pm

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

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

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS MAY

JOE MORRIS MEMORIAL CANAL FLOUNDER TOURNAMENT

MAY 17 • LEWES HARBOUR MARINA • 302-645-6227

10TH ANNUAL MARLIN CLUB MEMORIAL DAY TOURNAMENT

MAY 25-26 • OCEAN CITY MARLIN CLUB • 410-213-1613

JUNE

23RD ANNUAL MAKO MANIA

JUNE 7-9 • BAHIA MARINA • 410-289-7438

39TH ANNUAL SOUTH JERSEY SHARK TOURNAMENT

JUNE 5-8 • CAPE MAY, NJ • 609-884-0177

61ST ANNUAL BIG ROCK BLUE MARLIN TOURNAMENT

LADIES TOURNAMENT - JUNE 7 • TOURNAMENT - JUNE 10-15
MOREHEAD CITY, NC • 252-247-3575

40TH ANNUAL MARLIN CLUB SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT

JUNE 15-16 • OCEAN CITY MARLIN CLUB • 410-213-1613

THE MIDATLANTIC TUNA TOURNAMENT

JUNE 19-23 • CAPE MAY, NJ • 609-884-2400

10TH ANNUAL PIER POINT MARINA FLOUNDER TOURNAMENT

DATES TBD • DEWEY BEACH, DE • 302-227-2808

5TH ANNUAL INDIAN RIVER KIDS CATCH-ALL TOURNAMENT

JUNE 21-23 • INDIAN RIVER MARINA • 302-227-3071

CBSFA TUNA-FORTUNA TOURNAMENT

JUNE 21-23 • OCEAN CITY, MD • 410-868-5488

JULY

THE MIDATLANTIC CUP

JULY 4 • CAPE MAY, NJ • 609-884-0177

37TH ANNUAL MARLIN CLUB CANYON KICK-OFF

JULY 4-7 • OCEAN CITY MARLIN CLUB • 410-213-1613

CBSFA FLOUNDER SOUNDER TOURNAMENT

JULY 6 • OCEAN CITY, MD • 410-868-5488

SOUTH JERSEY YACHT SALES OFFSHORE SHOWDOWN

JULY 10-13 • CAPE MAY, NJ • 609-884-0177

32ND ANNUAL OCEAN CITY TUNA TOURNAMENT

JULY 12-14 • O.C. FISHING CENTER • 410-213-1121

15TH ANNUAL MARLIN CLUB KID'S CLASSIC

JULY 20-21 • OC MARLIN CLUB • 410-213-1613

53RD ANNUAL YACHT CLUB OF STONE HARBOR MARLIN TOURNAMENT

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