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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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8 year old Charlie Hammond from Ocean City caught this colorful dolphin while fishing with his Dad and friends on the charter boat "Fish Bound". Capt. Kane Bounds took them out to the inshore Bass Pots using squid for bait.



The crazy story of the week had to go to angler Christopher Ford. He was fishing on the "The Clarkey" in the Washington Canyon trolling the Sea Wall of the Notch when they got hit by 3 bigeye tuna. Two broke off and the last one fought Chris for about 45 minutes. It was almost to the boat when the rod broke in half! He had to hand line the last 100 feet for 15 minutes. Once to the scales it measured 64" and weighed 170.8 lbs.

 An advertisement for the Indian River Marina autumn art festival. The background features autumn leaves and pumpkins. The text reads:

Indian River Marina
autumn art Festival
 Saturday
SEPT. 16 2023
 FREE ADMISSION
 10am - 5pm

 There is a logo for 'DELAWARE STATE PARKS YOUR OUTDOOR ADVENTURE STARTS HERE' and the Indian River Marina logo at the bottom. The website 'destateparks.com' is listed at the bottom right.

 An advertisement for Fenwick Bait & Tackle. The background is blue with white and red starburst graphics. The text reads:

FENWICK BAIT & TACKLE
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 Logos for 'POWER PRO', 'Fishbites', 'Gulp!', and 'CALCUTTA' are shown. A starburst graphic says 'Authorized Dealer PENN SHIMANO'. Another starburst graphic says 'LIVE & FROZEN BAIT'. At the bottom, it says:

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Wesley Gray of Frankford, DE made his way south to fish the lower Chesapeake bay on the "Gray Boys". He caught this 48" red drum using live kingfish.



Elizabeth Shrader was fishing with her husband Kevin Shrader on the "Sea-N-Double" when she caught this nice 10 lb. mahi gaffer. They also kept 2 other peanuts and released 15 mahi and a hand full of jacks.

 The advertisement for Fenwick Outfitters features a vibrant blue background with a school of fish swimming. At the top left is a sea turtle, and at the top right is a bright yellow sun with rays. The text "FENWICK" is in large, white, outlined letters, and "OUTFITTERS" is in even larger, white, outlined letters below it. A red tag with "TAX FREE" is positioned on the right side.

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The headboat "Judith M" based at the Bahia Marina reported good inshore action on the last of their 5 hour trips summer trips. This one has many sea bass doubles with triggerfish mixed in using squid & shiners. They are now on a fall schedule with weekend 8 & 10 hour trips.



Sandy Borna was beaming on this trip with her husband Mike aboard their classic Mako named "Shark Tooth" with Tim Howell. She was fishing the lower bay between Assateague Island and Sun Outdoors Campground when she caught this keeper flounder, the only one for the day!

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This Week Last Year

- Hurricane Earl blew through and cooled most of the action for the week.
- It was a good week for billfishing after the storm. Most were still trolling east of the canyons in 1000 fathoms, but the winds from Earl did push some blue water closer to shore with marlin reports in the 500 fathom range. The "Boss Hogg" had 11 releases for the week from offshore of the Baltimore Canyon. The "Knot Again" released 10 whites on an overnight trip 20 miles outside of the Baltimore.
- Not much tuna action, although the "Carol's Teakettle" found a 75 lb. yellowfin in the Baltimore.

We are in the heart of the Atlantic hurricane season and so far it's been a little busy. Fortunately, these storms have spared landfall in the Delmarva area, however we have not been fully spared from their offshore presence. Last week of course saw two pass east of our shores limiting anglers from getting to the canyons. Last week however, saw a reprieve with many days in a row with glass calm conditions with many boats heading out. Several even did two and three days on the rip returning with reports of double digit marlin releases. As for tuna, the bite remains slow and sharks are eating most of what gets hooked before it can be reeled in to the boat. Many captains are still targeting dolphin and tilefish as an offset to tuna. The tasty mahi are still

in the canyons, but as Capt. BJ Pietryak reported in his articles this week, the aggressive bite inshore cooled over the week as the fish moved to deeper water.

All eyes are on Hurricane Lee for this weekend. It is expected to be offshore in earnest here by Friday with initial effects being felt on Thursday. As I write this on Monday, waves up 8 to 10 feet on the beaches are being forecasted with 15 second intervals. Perhaps good for surfers, but not so much for fishing!

Billfish

As we shared in last week's edition, once the winds calmed we saw great marlin fishing on Sunday the 3rd. As we have seen for most of the summer, the 'hot' fishing days come and go much more quickly than in recent years. We used to see several day strings of action for both tuna and marlin, this summer it felt like we had single day events. Last week was no exception. While many still found some nice marlin like the "Billfisher", who hit it hard on the 3rd releasing 6 blue marlin and 4 white marlin on their trip to south of the Norfolk Canyon, as the week progresses the count dropped to the low single digits. The "About Time" released a white and had a blue on for a bit until it jumped off while trolling naked ballyhoo just below the Poor Man's Canyon. The "Charlie's Plunder" out of

Greenville, VA released an 80" white in the Washington Canyon that hit on a naked ballyhoo as well. That would have been a prize fish just a few weeks ago! They also caught a number of mahi and some jacks. The crew of the "Slaughterhouse" also had a good day with Pam Hess and Sharon Rittmeyer, releasing 4 white marlin caught on ballyhoo as they trolled in 500 fathoms between the Poor Man's and Washington Canyons.

The two time White Marlin Open winner the "Fish Whistle" shared a Grand Slam they had last week. They fished in 300 fathoms of the Washington Canyon using ballyhoo and released 5 white marlin, 2 sailfish and a blue marlin in a single day! That boat and crew sure know how to raise billfish.

Anglers last week also shared when they released their first marlins. Andrew Davis from Chincoteague, VA released his first white that he caught in the Washington Canyon. 13 year old Dustin Liechling found his first white in the canyons using naked ballyhoo. His was 66" long and estimated at 60 lbs. Nice fish.

The weekend continued the action with the "Fish On" returning to Sunset Marina Sunday with 5 white marlin flags flying and two yellowfin in the box. The "Magic Moment" also returned to Sunset Marina from the Baltimore Canyon with a report of 3 whites released.

Tuna or Lack There of!

It is that time of year when most are targeting billfish in the canyons, however tuna often can hit on a marlin spread and others

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Earlier last week the billfish were further north. That is where Steve Henry caught this white marlin, his first, on a naked ballyhoo! He was fishing on the "Kilo Charlie" with Capt. Howard Lynch and mate Burro Gonzalez south of the Spencer Canyon in deep water.

continue to target the meat fish. The "Sea Hunt" returned to Harbour Island with a chunky 68 lb. yellowfin tuna they caught in the Washington Canyon. It was hooked with a Cake Christy custom daisy chain and horse ballyhoo on the cold side of a temperature break. They were really quite fortunate to get it to the boat without a shark bite. Anglers Jamie Persels, Ed Fleming and Tony Gay got a 60 lb. yellowfin in the box from the 800 Square. Wes Veater also released his first white marlin on the trip.

The crazy story of the week had to go to angler Christopher Ford. He was fishing on the "The Clarkey" in the Washington Canyon trolling the Sea Wall of the Notch when they got hit by 3 bigeye tuna. Two broke off

and the last one fought Chris for about 45 minutes. It was almost to the boat when the rod broke in half! He had to hand line the last 100 feet for 15 minutes. Christopher did share he was careful to use a marlin wrap on his hand so as to not be pulled overboard. There were several sharks circling the fish. Once to the scales it measured 64" and weighed 170.8 lbs.

Mahi on the Move and Broadbills in the Mix

The great dolphin bite continues in the canyons with captains reporting ample weed lines and flotsam to target. Boat limits of 54 are still being reported. As mentioned, they seem to have moved out of the inshore spots for deeper water. We will see if the winds and waves from Lee push them back in.

Several boats are running overnight trips this time of year. This gives them an advantage to night fish for swords. While some can be caught during the day with some even swimming on the surface, nighttime is the right time. The "All In" returned to the OC Fishing Center from their overnight with a swordfish. They caught it at night in the bigeye hole of the Washington Canyon, and they also released a white.

While most of the canyon tournaments have wrapped up, the fall offers several options for surf fishing events and the Broad Bill Bash for swords in October, so still a lot of fishing to be had!

That's a wrap for this week, so until next time I will see you at the docks! §

Upcoming Tournaments

- Old Inlet Bait & Tackle hosts the **26th Annual Delaware Seashore Fall Surf Fishing Classic** on September 23rd & 24th. This event offers over \$15,000 in cash and prizes as well as the coveted bronze trophies! More at OldInlet.com.
- The last offshore tournament of the season is the **Rena Bishop Broadbill Bash** to benefit the Burbage Regional Cancer Care Center. This year the format is fish 2 of 10 days from October 5th - 14th to allow more flexibility with the weather. The primary focus is swordfish, however there will be calcuttas for heaviest tuna and stringer. More at OCBroadbillBash.com.















Sunday of last week saw tremendous action. This crew on the charter boat "Talkin' Trash" with Capt. Chris Little and mate Jacob Bialk loaded up this group with dolphin as well as a couple of yellowfin tuna they got before the sharks!



Marley Clendaniel shows off the catch she and Thomas Clendaniel, Kara Smith, Dana Smith and Harper Kaser caught at an inshore structure. They had a mix of mahi and flounder including a 7 lb. fattie caught by Harper. Pictured at Rick's Bait & Tackle.

2023 MARYLAND REGULATIONS

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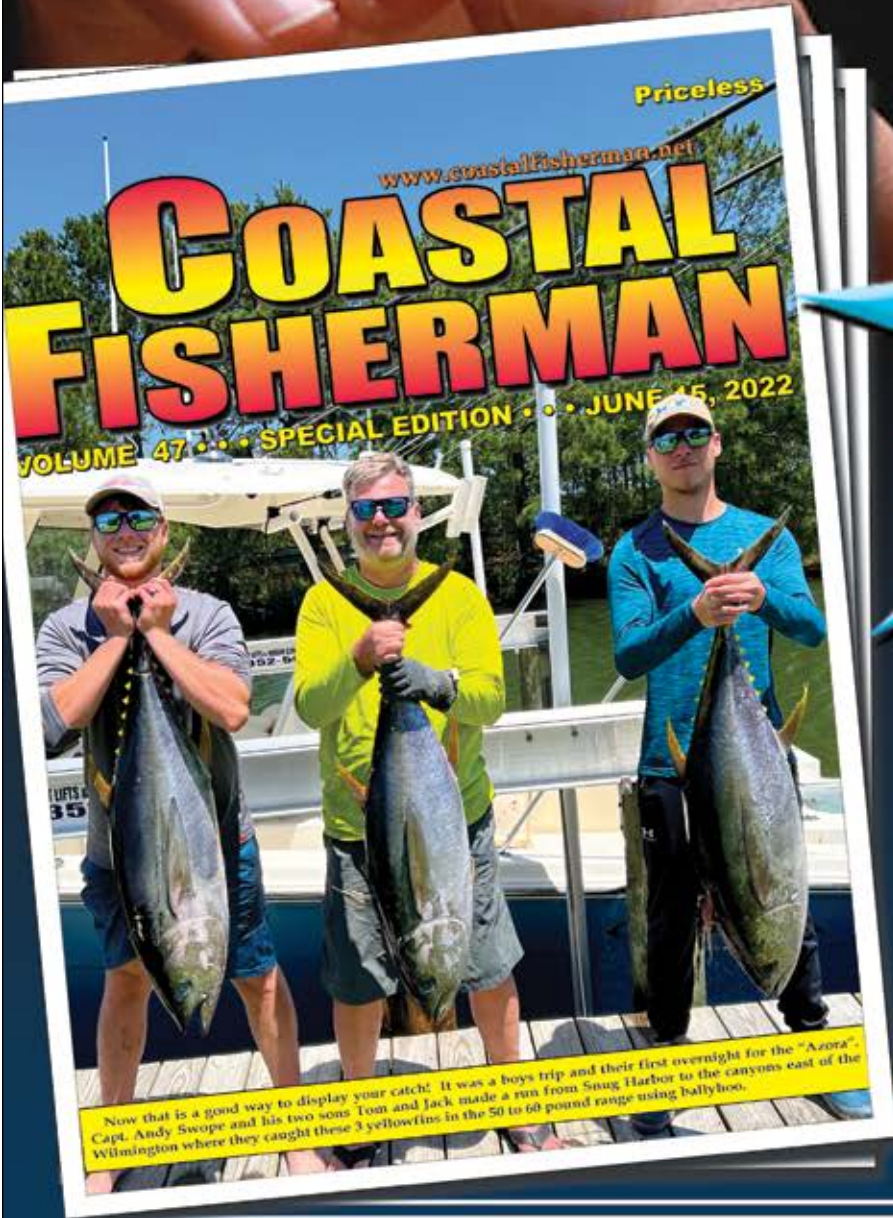
 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - December 11</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH 8" minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day Charter</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day up to 6 per boat/day</p>	 <p>COBIA 40" minimum 1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/15 Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers</p>
 <p>CROAKER 9" minimum 25 per person/day</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 18-27" minimum 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD 4 per person/day</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 4 per person/day</p>
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This dolphin focused trip on the headboat "Morning Star" turned into more work than Capt. Monty Hawkins anticipated! After hitting several spots and extending trip they had a few. He changed to sea bass at the end with several chunky knotheads hitting the coolers.

Dan Mattio from Kingsville, MD and Bob Weaver of Joppa, MD fished the East Channel one afternoon aboard the "Rodfather". They landed two keeper flounder using baby spot on the outgoing tide with the largest at 22". Both reported it was a great day for fishing on the bay.

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David Warner of Ocean View, DE used live shad at the Indian River Inlet to land an elusive in the slot 29½" striper. Once on the scales it weighed 10.8 lbs.



This year's best dressed angler award must go to Barbara Dean of Ocean City! She caught this 17½" flounder in the bay behind Assateague Island south of the OC Airport using a white Gulp with a chartreuse tail. She was out with Capt. Bob and her hubby.

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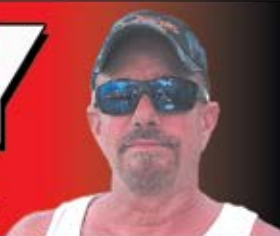
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OCEAN CITY FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



The winds and sea calm finally calmed down early last week providing a nice window for fishing before the next hurricane comes up our coast this weekend. Good fishing was reported on the nearshore wrecks and reefs as the week started with conditions getting tougher as we came to the weekend.

Flounder are still on many wrecks and reefs with limits for those that put in the effort. Gulp baits are the bait catching most of the fluke as well as many of the bigger sea bass which are beginning to move back into the area as the fall cool down approaches .

Mahi are still on many of the inshore pots, although at the end of last week we found them moving back offshore as the storm approached.

Redfish are being caught along the coast with a few big ones also coming off of the nearshore wrecks and reefs. Many of these redfish are in the 40 pound class and must be returned as they are over the slot limit.

Nearshore Wrecks & Reefs

The nearshore wrecks continue

to produce big flounder and some sea bass as anglers got out after the two hurricanes the week prior.

The "Angler" headboat reported several beautiful days on the water this past week with anglers catching some big fluke and sea bass at natural reefs & wrecks. Capt. Chris also reported a few days where the mahi decided to cooperate and they made their clients day by bringing home a few of these sought after pelagic fish.

Chris Fontana was out at the Great Eastern Reef and caught a few nice sea bass along with a couple of peanut mahi which decided to swim up to the boat while they were bottom fishing.

John Stanch thought he hooked a Bass Pot ball when his line came tight while trolling the inshore waters, however the tight line turned into a big bull mahi. After a tough fight the fish was brought to the boat and then home for fish tacos.

"Fish Bound Charters" had a few excellent days out on the reefs and humps bringing home limits of fluke, as well as some big sea bass. Capt. Kane reports the flounder fishing continues

to be some of the best they have seen in years.

The "Judith M" saw lots of action this past week with many double header sea bass to delight anglers. There are a few triggerfish and big flounder also being seen on the trips. The boat, like most in Ocean City, are moving to their fall schedule of 8 and 10 hour trips. The boats are a lot less crowded, making it much easier to fish. As the water cools, the sea bass will be more willing to bite and the fishing should get even better than it already is.

"Bottom Line Sportfishing" went pot hopping and returned to the docks with a cooler full of the bright green and blue mahi. Several of the fish were over ten pounds.

Kevin McNelis had a fun trip early in the week finding the spade fish ready to bite. He said at times the wreck seemed covered in the spadefish, keeping them from reaching the bottom for the flounder. They did manage a cooler full of spades as well as some big fluke.

David Ditch hit the pots at the Jack Spot 28 miles out of OC.

He reported that the ride out was a little rough but the seas flattened out and they got a few bigger mahi than had been seen inshore earlier in the week. The crew reported they had a good ratio of throwback to keeper sea bass when they drifted the area and wrecks.

The Jack Spot and Great Eastern Reef have been producing the best catches of sea bass with clam and squid about even in the bait category

Back Bays & Inlet Fishing

First off we have to wish Craig Cropper, AKA Big Bird a happy 60th birthday. And of course Big Bird was out at the Rt. 50 Bridge catching more fish on his birthday week. He and Shaun fished the outgoing tide and managed to bring in several big bluefish along with two slot size rockfish on the Roy Rig. That's a great way to spend a milestone birthday.

Rick Fiore was at the Rt. 90 Bridge and managed to hook a few small bluefish on poppers and chunk baits. The bridge usually sees an influx of fish caught as the fall season approaches.

Sandy Borns from Ocean Pines MD out fished the boys on her boat the "Shark Tooth" by catching the only keeper fluke of the day in the south bay by Castaways.

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Danny Cox caught a once in a lifetime 27 inch, 9 pound 6 ounce flounder at the Rt. 50 Bridge Just a few inches away from the 10 pound mark but still a bigger fish than most avid anglers will catch in a lifetime and the heaviest reported to us this year!

Jeff Weeks caught a citation sheepshead measuring 21 3/4 inches and weighing 6.88 pounds on a custom rig tipped with sand fleas off the south jetty wall of the OC inlet. He also caught a sheepshead while fishing with Jeff along with a few small tog.

Danny Mattio and Bob Weaver fished the East Channel Thursday afternoon and caught two nice keepers measuring 19" and 21 inches. The fish were caught on small live spot during the outgoing tide.

Jason Fisher caught two keeper fluke on Mackerel strips and white Gulp baits while fishing their boat, "Something Fishy".

Evran and Atlas Bilal caught

some huge cobb mullet in their cast net from the Assawoman Bay. The largest ones measured 19" and 25"!

Nicholas Zafirooulos of McLean, Va. Got a 11.9 pound sheepshead off the rocks at the inlet using sand fleas. That is one big sheepshead for such a young man to not only hook but land. Great job!

12 year old Mikey DeFrancesco landed his first rockfish off the Rt. 50 Bridge. The father and son duo landed 3 rockfish total as well as a few bluefish.

The "Bay Bee" and "Miss Ocean City Fishing" head boats had good trips this past week with some nice keepers coming over the rails and on to the deck.


With kids back in school the boats are less crowded and are still offering at least two trips a day if enough anglers are available.

Until next week,
Tight Lines and Fins Up §



Danny Cox of Ocean City is a flounder fishing machine. He has reported a lot of flounder this year and now he has set the record for heaviest of the season with this 27" and 9 lb. 6 oz. fattie he caught near the Rt. 50 Bridge using bunker!

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Jim Frazetti shared some great pictures from a recent trip he took on his boat "About Time". He was fishing with Capt. Steve Marsden, Eric Sodderholm, Tom Heyer and Will Heyer just below the Poor Man's Canyon. They released this white and broke off on a blue marlin. All hit on trolled naked ballyhoo.

2023 FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles

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

<h3>SHARKS</h3> <h3>AUTHORIZED SPECIES</h3>	<p>No Minimum Fork Length Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead</p> <p>54" Minimum Fork Length Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose</p> <p>78" Minimum Fork Length Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead</p>	<p>NOTE: Only 1 shark from the lists above may be retained per vessel per trip. In addition, 1 Atlantic Sharpnose, 1 Bonnethead and 1 Oceanic Whitetip may be retained per person per trip. If a hammerhead shark is retained, no tunas, billfish or swordfish may be retained.</p>	<h3>PROHIBITED SHARKS</h3> <p>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, Shortfin Mako, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White</p>
	<p>Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov</p>		

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HEAVIEST

Fish of the Year

2023



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

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
Bluefish 	May 19 Rich Daiker OC Jetty 14.5 lbs.	June 8 Dexter Long Indian River Inlet 12 lbs.	Thresher Shark 		
Black Drum 	April 4 Tom Berry Assateague 19 lbs.	May 19 Eric Feinauer Delaware Bay 53 lbs.	Bigeye Tuna 	August 11 Brian Stewart Washington Canyon 265 lbs.	July 1 Crew "Reel Passion" Washington Canyon 234 lbs.
Cobia 	July 8 Nick Smallwood Little Gull 39 lbs.	August 21 Jon Davis Fenwick Shoal 47.7 lbs.	Bluefin Tuna 	May 29 Crew "Marli" Baltimore Canyon 216 lbs.	July 31 Eric Widland 19 Fathom Lump 89 lbs.
Summer Flounder 	 August 19 Danny Cox Rt. 50 Bridge 9 lbs. 6 ozs.	June 26 Mike Lewis Old Grounds 9.6 lbs.	Longfin Tuna 		
Sea Bass 	May 20 Wayne Small Ocean Structure 5 lbs.	May 22 Richard Krauss Ocean Structure 4.3 lbs.	Yellowfin Tuna 	August 9 Ed Quick Poorman's Canyon 162.5 lbs.	July 30 Crew "Fish Whistle" Norfolk Canyon 132 lbs.
Sheepshead 	June 24 Rob English Ocean City Jetty 14 lbs.	June 5 Paul Mathews Outer Wall 13.78 lbs.	Dolphin 	August 1 Jack Hannum Poorman's Canyon 65 lbs.	August 22 Ralph Redden Inshore Lump 43 lbs.
Striped Bass 	June 1 Buddy Martin Rt. 50 Bridge 12 lbs.	May 22 Chic Stearrett Bethany Beach 18.7 lbs.	Swordfish 	July 11 Crew "Marli" Poor Man's Canyon 284 lbs.	
Tautog 		May 6 James Milano Ocean Structure 22.9 lbs.	Blue Marlin 	August 23 Andy Confortini Linden Kohl Canyon 889 lbs.	
Wahoo 	August 22 Auston Burnley Poorman's Canyon 80 lbs.		White Marlin 	August 24 Mike Dahl Linden Kohl Canyon 76 lbs.	

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



B Buoy was the spot for Jason Fisher of Catonsville, MD. He was fishing there on the "Fishy One" using a flounder trig baited white Gulp and tipped with mackerel strips to fool these two 17" and 17½" flounder.



Charles Ritter and Mildred Reyes-Ritter had an epic day fishing off of Chincoteague, VA on the "Reel Adventures" with Joe Truitt. Mildred caught 5 bull reds with 3 of them being citation sized and one 'in the slot' keeper. Charles hooked several as well getting one to the boat.

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OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. SEPT. 13	High 07:26 am High 08:03 pm	Low 01:39 am Low 01:28 pm
THUR. SEPT. 14 New Moon	High 08:07 am High 08:35 pm	Low 02:10 am Low 02:06 pm
FRI. SEPT. 15	High 08:46 am High 09:08 pm	Low 02:39 am Low 02:43 pm
SAT. SEPT. 16	High 09:25 am High 09:42 pm	Low 03:05 am Low 03:20 pm
SUN. SEPT. 17	High 10:02 am High 10:16 pm	Low 03:33 am Low 03:59 pm
MON. SEPT. 18	High 10:39 am High 10:51 pm	Low 04:04 am Low 04:41 pm
TUE. SEPT. 19	High 11:17 am High 11:28 pm	Low 04:40 am Low 05:28 pm
WED. SEPT. 20	High 11:59 am High _____	Low 05:22 am Low 06:20 pm

source: usharbors.com

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

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

FISHING CHARTERS



Bi & Doug Schultz had a great day on the headboat "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak. They were fishing a natural reef and had to deal with lots of current first thing, but is settled down and the bite got better. The crew had sea bass up to 3 lbs. and flounder up to 4 lbs.



Anglers Alyssa Leandra and Jenna Robinson had a full day on the rip with Capt. Jake Shaffer on the charter boat "Turnin Fins". They fished in the Washington Canyon where the girls release 3 white marlins, a first for both, as well as tossing some mahi in the box. Pictured at the OC Fishing Center.

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Fishing the Ocean City Bay is a generational thing that parents want to share with their children. Mrs. Crystal had such fond memories of her trips in the headboat "Bay Bee" as a little girl that she wanted to share these with her son. They both did well on this trip!

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FISHING CHARTERS



It was a family day for Capt. Paul Lebling, Ace Lebling, Leo Lebling, Noah Lebling on the charter boat "Spring Mix II" based at the Ocean City Fishing Center. Capt. Chris Watkowski with mate Chase Porter took them fishing inshore and got this gaffers mahi and 25 others!



Nicholas Zafirooulos of McLean, VA reeled in a whopper of a sheephead from the rocks of the southern Ocean City Jetty using sand fleas. He was fishing with Capt. John Prather on the charter boat "OC Guide Service" based at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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FISHING CHARTERS



It was a Sunday slam on the 3rd for this crew on the charter boat "Wrecker"! Capt. Bobby Layton with mate Cody Smith had them north of the Baltimore Canyon for this trip, putting almost a boat limit of mahi in the box and then deep dropping for swords, catching two with a combined weight of 150 lbs.



It was *doubles day* on this trip for the headboat "Judith M". Many anglers got double hookups like this one, including a few with both sea bass and triggerfish on the line. It was one of their last 5 hour inshore trips to natural reef and bottoms before the fall schedule of longer trips.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Several trips lately on the headboat "Morning Star" were full of mahi mayhem! That is not to say the anglers did not have to work hard for the delicious fish. The end of the trip saw a few sea bass as well.



There were so many dolphin and tilefish, the anglers are barely visible in this picture from an overnight trip on the charter boat "Ro Sham Bo"! Capt. Willie Zimmerman returned to the dock from the Washington Canyon with over 40 mahi, over 35 blueline tilefish and a couple of yellowfin tuna.

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Double up on sea bass, yes please! Anglers on the headboat "Judith M" based at the Bahia Marina were treated to some fine sea bass action that was especially sweet, given their size and the late time of the season.

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One might think Ernest Hemingway was back and fishing the inshore wrecks for flounder, but it was really Tom Birago fishing on the "Katydid" with Capt. Brent Wiest and mate Chris. They were fishing ocean structures and after a few bites, Tom snared this 27½" and 8.24 lb. flounder that earned him a Delaware Citation. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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While fishing on "Sea Hunt" with Capt. Frank in the Washington Canyon, Chase Poter of Olney, MD and Richard Hoenes from Harbor Island were part of the crew who managed to get this 68 lb yellowfin to the boat before the sharks got a free meal. They also had few mahi and were entertained by Richard's Dad missing 3 white marlin! Tunas were hooked with Cake Christy custom daisy chain and horse ballyhoo on cold side of temperature break.



The private boat "Magic Moment" loves to chase the meatfish, but a couple times a year Capt. Jim Bugg bucks the trend and puts out a marlin spread! He took Chris Daugherty of Glen Burnie, MD, Al Rittmeyer from OC, Anna Schumann of OC, Neil Ireland from Easton, MD and mate Gunnar Reynolds of OC out to the Baltimore Canyon where Al, Anna and Gunner each caught a white on naked ballyhoo. It was Gunner's first!

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DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



During the past week in Delaware, we observed a calming of the winds, which led to a return to more normal fishing conditions. Inshore we saw mahi, and I mean big dolphin, at the Bass Pots. Many fish were over ten pounds and most pots held several fish.

The air temperatures remained in the 90s last week, keeping the water temps around 80 degrees. Several redfish have also shown up with many in the 40 inch range.

The Old Grounds are still producing big flounder, however tons of smaller fish are around also making catching limits a little harder. As the week went on the

mahi appeared to move back out to deeper water and the flounder bite dropped off.

The newest hurricane is heading north offshore of our waters but is expected to bring big swells to our coast later this week keeping most in the bays

Nearshore Wrecks & Coral

The nearshore wrecks and coral were alive with fish in the beginning of the week with several anglers returning to the docks with limits of flounder. Lots of small sea bass are returning to the wrecks and making catching keeper fish difficult. You are required to weed through about ten throwback fish to catch one keeper.

Spanish mackerel are still on the humps and Fenwick Shoals early in the morning.

Tom Birago spent the day fishing on the "Katydid" with Captain Bret and mate Chris. He caught an 8.24 pound flounder that was 27.5 inches with a girth of 26"! The fish was measured at Lewes Harbour Marina and qualified for a state citation.

Cliff Cornielson went out and scored big on the Bass Pots, catching 17 mahi including a 43 inch & 27.4 pounder. He caught that one on a light action spinning rod with a cut chunk of bunker. The fish put up a 40 minute fight and had almost worn though the line when he finally boated the big fish. It too qualified for a state citation.

"Bad Wind Charters" also made a few mahi trips early last week and returned with a 3 man limit of dolphin, including several gaffer size ones. The crew reported they lost around 4 big fish at the boat but still managed to bring home plenty of fish for the table. That's a lot of tacos!

Jefferson Fort fished on the "Rooster" and brought home his limits of mahi along with a few tuna. Several tunny tuna and jacks are also being taken on the inshore troll.

Nick Samson had a solid day of fishing, bringing home several keeper sea bass, flounder and a few chicken mahi. Nick reports the inshore bite early in the week had been on fire and he had coolers full of nice sea bass despite the warmer water. He was pleased to see the bass back inshore this early.

Jonathan Farekas was

www.coastalfisherman.net out with "Bottom Line Sportfishing" and got a few nice mahi as well as a few big bluefish while trolling the inshore pots and humps.

The Old Grounds have been very productive for flounder all summer with limits coming over the rails daily on many boats.

Edward Zema headed there with the goal of snaring a few flatfish, however he did not expect to catch a 40 inch redfish on his flounder rig! The fight was a tough one on light tackle but after bringing the big fish to the boat and snapping a few pictures, the fish was released and swam away healthy.

Ted Proseus had a good trip early in the week, catching limits of mahi off the pots; however late in the week he trolled the Fenwick Shoals and reported catching only one big spanish mackerel and a few small bluefish. He turned to drifting for flounder and sea bass after the troll proved fruitless and reported they could not find a keeper fluke, but did manage several just legal sea bass off one of the inshore wrecks near A Buoy. Fresh clam and squid got them the fish. Several triggerfish also came off the wreck, adding to the dinner menu.

Joshua Paul reported he trolled the lightship area on Thursday and got skunked on the mahi. Joshua went out to the NJ/DE Reef and tried the pots out there and despite finding clear blue water with 60 ft visibility, he only managed a few peanut mahi. They did however have a decent catch of sea bass when they drifted the subway cars.

Carl Gutberlet and I also trolled the area south of the Lightship on Thursday and found the pots to be clean with little growth, appearing

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to have just been pulled by the commercial boats. We found no mahi willing to bite and only had two bar jacks that decided to strike our lines. The water inshore is very green after these storms have passed and it appears the mahi have moved further offshore in search of cleaner water.

Back Bays & Inlet Fishing

The Lewes Canal is reporting some good days of flounder fishing, with some nice fall doormats coming in on anglers lines.

“Wiker Restoration” was out and fished three half day trips this past week bringing home several nice flatfish from his trips. The crew reported a few rockfish and blues also fell for their presentations.

Lewes Icehouse reports bluefish are being caught in the canal as well as Broadkill Beach early in the morning. False albacore are being trolled up at Site 10 on small spoons.

Indian River Inlet has seen small rockfish and blues on the evening high tides with a few big ribbon fish also coming into the Inlet.

Old Inlet Tackle reports a few big sheephead are also coming off the rocks at the Inlet with some in the 8-10 pound range. Live eels are accounting for many of the night time stripers taken from there. Old Inlet also wants to remind everyone that the fall Surf Fishing Classic will be held on September 23-24th. Sign up can be done on their website as well as in person at the store.

The full moon is the last week of September and is usually when we see the big blues and redfish show up on our beaches.

Until next week...
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So many flags last week that it was hard to get them all in a pic! Capt. Jon Duffie took his "Billfisher" deep down south below the Norfolk Canyon and his crew of Colt & Gigi Duffie with Paige Hastings and Tyler Hall released 6 blue marlin and 4 whites!

In this week's 'You never know what you are going to catch' highlight, we have Edward Zema. He was jigging for flounder about 10 miles east of the Old Grounds when his rod bent hard! He got this red drum and while it took a while to revive, it swam away healthy!

2023 DELAWARE REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - December 11</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH No minimum size 3 per day / 5 per day Charter</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 3 per person/day</p>	 <p>COBIA 37" Minimum • 1 per person or vessel</p>
 <p>CROAKER 8" Minimum • No Limit</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 20-27" minimum 5 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD No limit</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 12" minimum No creel limit</p>
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eregulations.com



This marlin would have been a contender in recent tournaments! Capt. Phil Rothschild with mate Fred on the charter boat "Charlie's Plunder" out of Greenbackville, VA headed to the Washington Canyon with angler John Kelder from Westover, MD. John hooked this 80" white marlin on a naked ballyhoo and they also got a mix of mahi and jacks on cut bunker.

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Chum Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson

With Labor Day now behind us I'm guessing that a number of local charter boat captains are going to look at the calendar and realize that they've spent more time tied up to the dock than they wanted to this season rather than out fishing and earning a paycheck. And while many captains will be quick to blame the state of the economy and changes within the fishery on their lack of bookings, there's others who have managed to stay busy enough that even during these difficult times they can already call this season "a success." These captains might not run the biggest boats, have the fanciest websites, spend a bundle of money on advertising, or even catch any more fish than the other guys, but they're doing "something" right that's keeping their phones ringing and their businesses in the black during a time when so many other are struggling to stay afloat.

Unless you're running a boat that belongs to someone who's willing to pay you a salary even if you don't leave the dock, charter fishing is a tough business to make a living from. Before I started running my own charters I worked at a marina and booked trips for about 14 boats. The time spent behind the counter was a great opportunity to see and learn first-hand what worked and what

didn't for the different captains and the experience helped me prepare my own business plan when I decided to move from the dock office to the helm of my own boat. At least as far as I'm concerned, since then every one of my 37-seasons have been a financial success. I only mention that to give credence to the following recommendations I'm going to make to others who might be looking for a way to improve their own charter bookings. These are some guidelines that have worked for me:

If you want to get lots of charters you'll need to do your own advertising and self promotion. These days every captain needs their own website, a way to at least dabble in social media, and the ability to follow-up promptly on email requests. There's also a number of online booking services that can help to fill up openings in your calendar. These companies charge a percentage of the charter fee when they book your boat but a lot of guys figure that what they pay out is well worth the commission.

Captains and mates should always look and behave professionally: No matter if they're working on the boat or walking across the marina parking lot, a captain or mate could at any time run into a

potential customer. Whether their assessment is accurate or not, potential customers know nothing more about the captains and mates than what they "see" and they will surely be a lot more inclined to spend the hard-earned vacation money they set aside to take their family out fishing on a boat that's run by a clean, well dressed, polite and respectful captain and mate than a scraggly looking, bare-foot-bare-chested, beer in one hand, cigarette in the other crew member they encounter hanging-out behind a boat at the marina.

When the fishing day is over GO HOME: When I'm done on the boat each day I head directly home and typically spend about an hour answering emails, texts, and returning calls from people who left messages about charters. I book a lot of trips before (and during) dinner and can't imagine how many trips I'd lose if I included a "Happy-Hour" stop between boat and home every night. The fishing season is short, the bars are open all year, captains should decide if it's more important to "socialize" or "book trips." On a similar note; all customers deserve 100% performance from both captain and mate so there's no place on a charter boat for a crew member with a hang-over.

Always maintain a happy environment on the boat: People go fishing to have an enjoyable day on the water, it's not "all" about catching fish. Even on days when the fish are biting like crazy the "fun" part of the trip can easily be ruined for the clients by poorly chosen actions or words from the crew. No matter how tough the day is going the crew must stay up-beat and positive, and should never argue with each other or use profanity in front of their clients. If the chemistry between captain and mate is sour, or one of them insults, intimidates, or is in any way disrespectful to a client it can put a dark cloud over the entire trip and certainly ruin the chances that the group will ever book the boat again. Captains and mates have to think "long-term" and treat every client in such a way that they will want to come back again. There are a lot of other boats that customers can select the next time they want to go fishing!

Have the right boat for the job: Let's face it, if you spend a million dollars on a boat you're going to have to run a lot of charters and charge a lot for them if you expect to turn a profit at the end of the year. Rather than being flashy and loaded with every accessory and high-tech gadget possible, charter boats that actually turn a profit tend to be more on the sturdy, practical and economical side. More stuff just means more maintenance, more expense, and less money in the bank. Someone who has overcapitalized will never make money running

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charters and should consider downsizing to a vessel that's more practical for the job at hand.

Educate your customers: Anyone can take people out and help them catch fish. But crews should also act as "guides" and make the extra effort to explain to their clients not only how to catch a fish but also a thing or two about the interesting local marine life (turtles, whales, sunfish, birds), facts about the weather and how it affects sea conditions, navigation, and details about the boat and its systems. These are the things that customers enjoy hearing and appreciate learning about and what will help bring them back to the boat each year.

Know your expenses and fish on a budget: Captains need to keep abreast of the cost of fuel, bait, ice and other expenses for any given trip. If charter prices were set assuming daily runs out to the Hotdog but then the bite turns on way out at the Wilmington Canyon, a decision will have to be made whether to raise prices, stick to the budget and only go so far as the Hotdog, or run the extra distance and take the loss of income. Catching fish at any

expense is seldom a good option for charter captains who are struggling to turn a profit. And if you're not making a profit what's the point of being in the business in the first place?

It's a lot easier for a captain to blame the economy, the fishing, or the dock office for not getting many charters rather than consider that it could be their own actions that are stifling the business. I've been around the docks long enough to know that a lot (if not most) other captains will look at these suggestions and blow them off as useless or not appropriate for their own charter operations. But the fact is, there are indeed a few boats in town who have managed to stay busy this summer, keeping a full schedule is doable but only for those willing to run their business like a "business." Any charter captain who has just spent five or more days of each week tied to the dock rather than out fishing but still insists that there's no need for them to change the way they conduct their operations should give an honest answer to a simple question; How's that business plan working for you?§



Michelle Schnaitman from Long Neck, DE fished with Capt. Steve Pinkstone on the "Vagrant Viking" over ocean structure and landed this 19" sea bass and a 23" flounder on gulp and shiners.

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Jeff Weeks and Dave Weller worked the south Ocean City Jetty on the "Turn Me Loose" where Jeff caught this 21¾" sheephead. At 6.88 lbs. it earned him a Maryland Citation. Dave also boated a sheepie and the pair had many throw back togs on their custom rigs with sand fleas.

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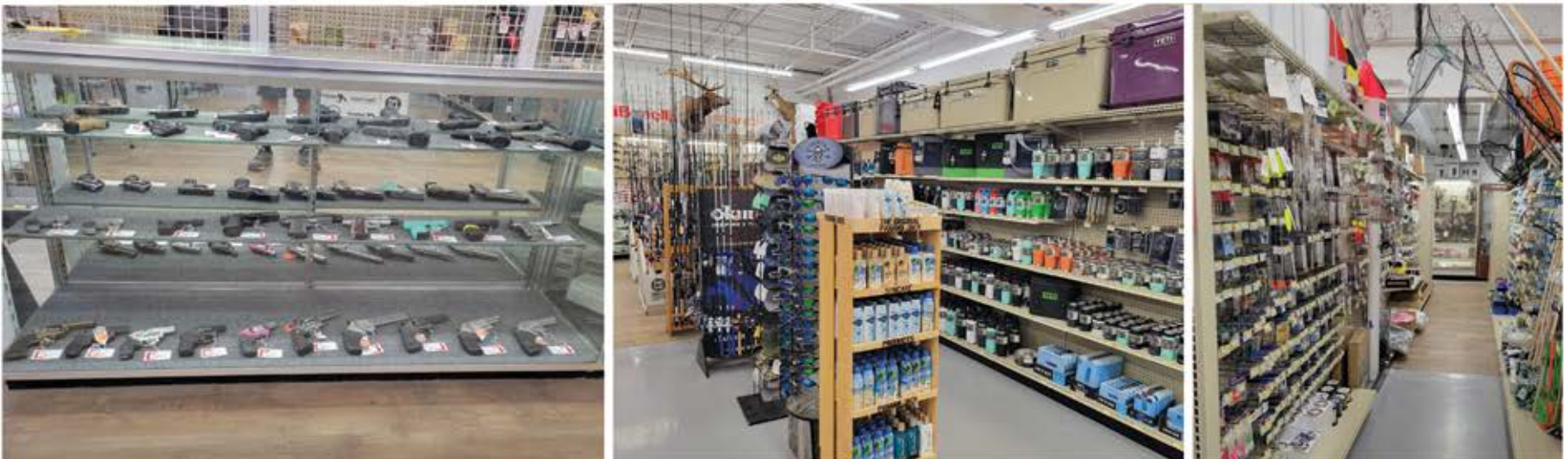


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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



Quick & Easy Crab Pasta

Ingredients:

- 1/2 lb. linguine, spaghetti or pasta of your choice
- 3 tbsp unsalted butter
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1/3 cup dry white wine
- 1/2 lemon, juice only
- 1 cup ready to eat crab meat
- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese
- 2 tbsp chopped parsley
- Salt & pepper to taste

Directions:

Cook the linguine in a large pot of salted, boiling water according to package instructions.

Five minutes before the pasta is ready, set a large pan over low heat and melt the butter, add sliced garlic and sauté for



1 minute over very low heat without coloring it, then pour in white wine and lemon juice, turn the heat up to medium and let it reduce for a couple of minutes.

Stir in the cooked crab meat and take it off the heat. Drain the

pasta once cooked and reserve 1/2 cup of pasta water. Add the pasta to the pan with the crab meat and toss to combine, add half of the reserved of pasta water and parmesan cheese, stir over low heat until the cheese melts and coats the pasta. If the pasta is a bit dry add a splash of pasta water. Your pasta dish should be loose but not swimming in sauce, just lightly coated. Salt to taste. Sprinkle with fresh parsley before serving.

Pan Seared Swordfish

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs swordfish steaks
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoon olive oil (extra virgin)
- 2 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon butter (optional)
- 1 tablespoon parsley (optional - fresh, chopped)



Directions:

Prepare your swordfish steaks by patting them dry with paper towels, then season both sides with lemon pepper and salt.

Heat a skillet or non-stick frying pan with the olive oil over medium-high heat until the oil is shimmering and just beginning to smoke.

Add the swordfish steaks and sear for 3-4 minutes per side, or until the internal temperature reaches 145°F. Remove the

www.coastalfisherman.net swordfish to a plate and add the lemon juice into the pan juices. Turn off the heat and add optional butter and parsley until the butter is melted. Stir and serve over the swordfish steaks.

Sautéed Flounder and Spicy Rémoulade

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup uncooked orzo
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley, divided
- 3/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, divided



1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, divided

1/4 cup mayonnaise

1 tablespoon chopped cornichons

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

2 teaspoons whole-grain Dijon mustard

2 teaspoons Sriracha sauce

1 teaspoon chopped capers

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided

3 tablespoons all-purpose flour

4 (6-ounce) flounder fillets

Directions:

Cook orzo according to package directions, omitting salt and fat. Drain, and stir in 2 tablespoons parsley, 1/4 teaspoon pepper, and 1/4 teaspoon salt.

Combine remaining 1 tablespoon parsley, mayonnaise, and next 5 ingredients (through capers) in a small bowl.

Heat a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add 1 tablespoon oil; swirl to coat. Place flour in a shallow dish. Sprinkle fillets evenly

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with remaining 1/2 teaspoon pepper and remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt; dredge fillets in flour. Add 2 fillets to pan; cook 1 1/2 minutes on each side or until desired degree of doneness. Remove fish from pan. Repeat procedure with remaining 1 tablespoon oil and 2 fillets. Serve with rémoulade and orzo.

Creamy Parmesan Basil Shrimp

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 pounds shrimp, optional shell on for more flavor
- 3 tablespoon butter
- 4 large garlic cloves minced
- 1/2 yellow onion finely minced
- 3-4 ounces roasted red peppers thinly sliced
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika
- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream
- 1 cup (packed) fresh basil leaves plus more for garnish
- 1 cup fresh grated parmesan
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/2 cup white wine (or chicken stock)

Salt & black pepper to taste

Directions:

In a large non stick pan on medium heat, melt 2 tablespoons butter. Season shrimp with salt and pepper, then sear, 1-2 minutes on each side, until just pink. Remove from the pan and set aside.

In the same skillet add 1 tablespoons butter. Add onion, garlic, peppers, paprika, red chili pepper flakes, salt and pepper. Sauté for about 5 minutes, until onions and peppers are softened.

Add wine to deglaze the skillet and bring to a gentle simmer until reduced by half.

Reduce heat to medium low. Add cream to the skillet and stir until a creamy sauce forms. Taste and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Add parmesan, stir until melted into sauce. Stir in basil, simmer until



wilted, 1-2 minutes.

Add shrimp back to the skillet and reheat 1-2 minutes. Sprinkle with fresh basil and serve over pasta, zoodles, spaghetti squash.

Sheepshead Chowder

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 pounds fresh sheepshead fillets
- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 2 8- oz bottles clam juice
- 1/2 teaspoon Italian hot pepper flakes

Sea salt & pepper to taste

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

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

2 large ribs celery thinly sliced, about 3/4 cup

3 tablespoons unsalted butter

1/2 cup all purpose flour

2 cups whole milk

1 bay leaf

1/2 cup heavy cream

2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

Sea salt & freshly ground black pepper

1/2 cup corn (optional)

Directions:

Cut fish into chunks and set aside.

In a large Dutch oven, melt the butter over medium heat.

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Add the leeks and celery, and cook stirring, until veggies are tender, about 5 to 6 minutes. Add the flour and cook, stirring for about 2 minutes. You don't want the "raw" taste of flour.

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

Finally add the cream, dill,



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

Black Sea Bass with Garlic Herb Sauce

Ingredients:

For Sea Bass:

- 1 lb sea bass
- 1/2 cup all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 tablespoons butter

1 tablespoon olive oil

For Lemon Garlic Herb Sauce:

- 1/4 cup white wine
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tablespoon oregano, roughly chopped
- 1 tablespoon thyme, roughly chopped
- 1 tablespoon parsley, roughly chopped

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1/2 cup vegetable broth
 1 lemon, completely juiced
 Directions:
 For Sea Bass:
 Pat the fillets dry with a paper towel.
 Mix together the flour, salt, and pepper in a shallow dish - Dredge the fillets through the mixture. Be sure to shake off any excess coating.
 Pre-heat a large pan on medium heat, add in olive oil and melt 2 tablespoons of butter.
 Once heated, cook the fillets

for 3-4 minutes on each side until golden brown. To start, place the sea bass skin side down. Minimize the amount of flipping and moving around as the fillets will become tender.
 Remove fish from the pan and plate.
 For Lemon Garlic Herb Sauce:
 Turn the heat down to medium low and add the white wine (1/4 cup) to deglaze. As the wine deglazes the pan, scrape any brown bits off the pan and let the wine come close to evaporating.

Add 1 tablespoon of butter, minced garlic cloves, and all the fresh herbs (oregano, thyme, and parsley). Saute for 30-60 seconds.

Add the vegetable broth and bring the sauce to a simmer.

Turn off the heat and stir in the remaining tablespoon of butter and lemon juice. Once the sauce is at the preferred consistency, plate on top of the fillets and serve.



Shrimp & Mahi Kabobs with Jalapeno Butter

Ingredients:
 1/2 pound shrimp deveined, shells removed, tails intact
 1/2 pound mahi
 2 limes juiced
 2 Tablespoons olive oil
 2 cloves garlic crushed
 Salt and freshly ground pepper
 1/4 cup butter, room temperature
 1 small jalapeno deveined, seeds removed, finely chopped
 2 Tablespoons cilantro leaves chopped, for garnish
 Chives for garnish, optional

Directions:
 Prepare the seafood. Peel and devein shrimp. Cut the mahi into cubes to somewhat match the size of the shrimp for even cooking.

Make the marinade: put the squeezed juice of 2 limes with the olive oil and garlic in a large bowl. Mix thoroughly to blend and add some salt and pepper. Put the prepared seafood in the marinade and stir gently until it is completely coated. Cover and chill for 1 hour.

Remove seafood from the marinade and thread alternately on skewers. Grill or broil, turning occasionally, until cooked and tender. Approximately 5 minutes. Baste with more marinade if the pieces appear to be drying out.

In the meantime make the jalapeno butter; blend the softened butter with the chopped chiles and thoroughly blend.

Arrange the skewers on plates on a bed of rice. Pat chili butter over all. Scatter with torn cilantro leaves. §

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Brian Carson from Milton, DE decided to do a little 'pot' hopping while the dolphin bite was hot! He was fishing with Capt. Jon Fazekas and mate Jim Fazekas on the "Bottom Line" out of Lewes, DE using squid strips from Lewes Harbour when he caught this 32" and 12 lb. gaffer.

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

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by Steve Katz

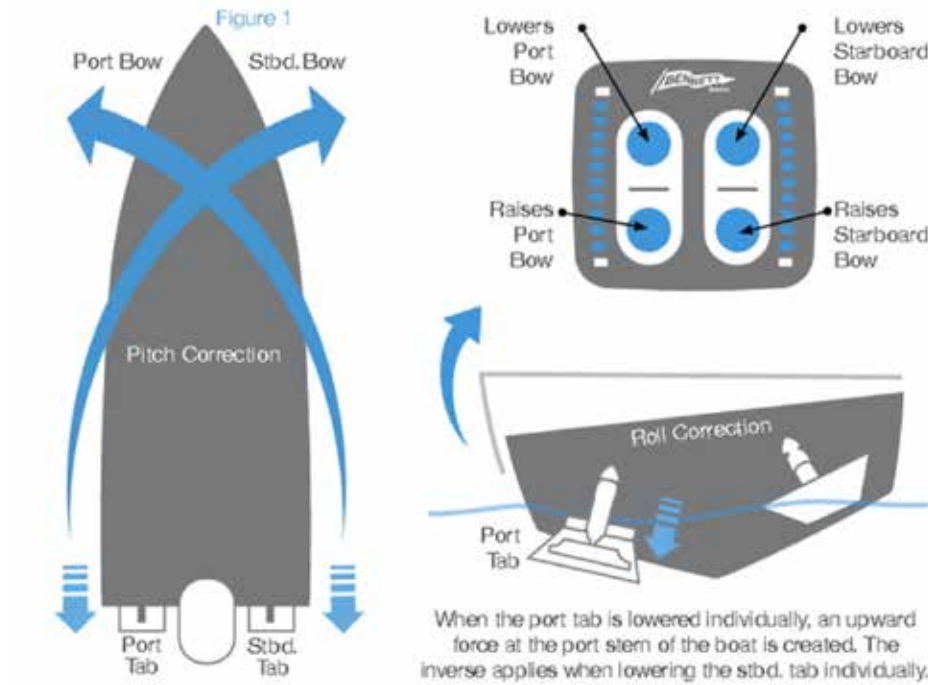


Pitch and Roll

Heading out on the water for boating or fishing should be a comfortable and safe experience, no matter the size of your boat.

While a lot of factors, including the weather, contribute to the ride of the boat, controlling the pitch and roll of the vessel can make a big difference for the comfort of the guests and crew.

Almost all planning boats are equipped with some type of ride control system, which is commonly referred to as trim tabs. Trim tabs are small adjustable control surfaces, connected to the trailing edge of the boat's hull to counteract forces on the boat allowing adjustments to the ride of the



boat. Speed, weight, weather, and sea conditions can affect how your boat travels through the water on any given trip. Often the pitch of the boat, the up and

down angle of the bow (and stern) of a boat is drastically affected by weight and speed. Generally, boats are designed to ride close to level with the water line, which allows most of the length of the hull to be in the water and provide a smoother ride for all onboard. Additionally, a level boat has better visibility from the helm, which helps with the safe operation of the boat. When the bow of the boat is too high, less hull is in the water and often the bow is too far out of water to be able to cut through the waves as designed, resulting in waves hitting the boat midship, causing a rougher ride.

Speed, weight, weather, and sea conditions can also affect the ability of the boat to ride level from side to side, which is referred to as roll. Often excessive roll angle is caused by uneven weight distribution, usually by the passengers but often excessive roll angle can be caused by the wind pushing on the bow, lifting, or lowering one side of the boat.

Fortunately, trim tabs can adjust the pitch and roll of the vessel at the same time.

These small control surfaces, typically two, one on each side of the stern of the boat are adjusted independently to allow the captain to make small adjustments in each trim tab that results in big adjustments in the pitch and roll of the entire boat. The movement of a trim tab is controlled by an electric or hydraulic system operated from the helm to lower each trim tab independently to adjust the ride. Trim tabs lift the transom and lower the bow by pressing down at an angle into the water flowing under the boat. The sharper the angle, the greater the effect of the trim tab. Some trim tabs stick out past the stern of the boat and provide similar action to the flush mounted units under the hull. Trim tabs do not need to be lowered into the water very much, less than a few inches to make a dramatic effect on the boats ride.

It was the well-known Bennett company who originally invented trim tabs in 1959 to increase efficiency, performance, and safety of boats. These were and still today, a flat control surface



Without Trim Tabs



With Trim Tabs

that is attached to the boat on the leading side with a hinge or pivot point and a ram of some type on trailing edge attached to the boat to lower and raise the tab into the water stream below the boats surface.

There are now a few offerings of "trim tabs" that work in a different fashion and achieve same or better results than the conventional flat trim tab.

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Interceptors style ride control systems are mounted on the lowest surface of the transom, and like trim tabs, interceptors redirect the water flow to change the attitude of transom and bow. Where they differ is that interceptors enter the water flow at approximately a right angle, or vertically. Also, interceptors extend only a small distance downward to achieve noticeable results. Popular brands are the Humphree and Zip Wake, though not unique to interceptor style systems, they often include an automated control option, where the trim system can constantly adjust to different conditions to provide the desired pre-programmed boat running attitude. These systems operate with electrical motors that extend and retract the interceptor into the water.

The newest style of interceptor is offered by Seakeeper, called "Ride", and not surprisingly incorporates a unique deployment mechanism and electronic control system that can make up to 100 adjustments every second to maintain the pre-configured pitch and roll of the boat. No more of the bow pointing to the sky while getting on a plane, the system keeps the boat level during the holeshoot and improves the time to plane. When people are moving around the boat, the Seakeeper ride senses the change to the roll angle and quickly levels the boat as fast as the people are moving around.

No matter the size of your boat, a ride control system is important to keep the pitch and roll under control and enjoy your time on the water. §



Flags were flying last week as the weather calmed and more boats got out to take advantage. Capt. Alan Rittmeyer with his wife Sharon headed out with Capt. Mark Hess and his wife Pam on their boat "Slaughterhouse". They trolled in 500 fathoms between the Poor Man's and the Washington Canyons where the ladies released 4 white marlin.

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The sheephead are biting at the south Ocean City Jetty. Huntington County, PA anglers Duane Hardy, Nick Stake and Trenton Kane reeled in their 3 man limit, up to 6.5 lbs. while fishing on the charter boat "Reel Steel" with Capt. JD Eddy. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Evren and Atlas Bilal of Fenwick Island, DE didn't need a rod and reel to catch these fat mullet. They used a cast net in the Assawoman Bay to land these two cobb mullet with the largest at 25".

2023 FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles



BLUE MARLIN
99" Lower Jaw Fork Length
No Retention Limit



WHITE MARLIN
66" Lower Jaw Fork Length
No Retention Limit

NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit



DOLPHIN
No minimum Length
Boat Limit 54
Charter Limit Daily 10 per angler



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



BLUEFIN TUNA
27" to <47" curved fork length
2 per vessel/day or trip
47" to < 73" curved fork length
1 per vessel/day or trip
27" to <47" curved fork length
3 per Charter/day or trip
27" to <47" curved fork length
6 per Headboat/day or trip
47" to < 73" curved fork length
2 per Headboat/day or trip



BIGEYE TUNA
27" Curved Fork Length
No Retention Limit



SWORDFISH
47" Lower Jaw Fork Length
1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec)
1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter)
1 per person / 15 per Headboat



SAILFISH
Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit



GOLDEN TILEFISH
No minimum • 8 per person/day



BLUELINE TILEFISH
5/1 - 10/31
3 per person (Recreational)
5 per person Uninspected (Charter)
7 per person Inspected (Charter)



WAHOO
No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day

SHARKS

AUTHORIZED SPECIES

No Minimum Fork Length
Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead
54" Minimum Fork Length
Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose
78" Minimum Fork Length
Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead

NOTE: Only 1 shark from the lists above may be retained per vessel per trip. In addition, 1 Atlantic Sharpnose, 1 Bonnethead and 1 Oceanic Whitetip may be retained per person per trip. If a hammerhead shark is retained, no tunas, billfish or swordfish may be retained.

PROHIBITED SHARKS

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, Shortfin Mako, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White



15 year old Andrew Davis from Chincoteague, VA landed his first white marlin last week in the Washington Canyon on a ballyhoo. He was fishing with Capt. Jonathan Davis on the Chincoteague based "Thyme Bandit" with Dan Hughes and Shane Whealton.



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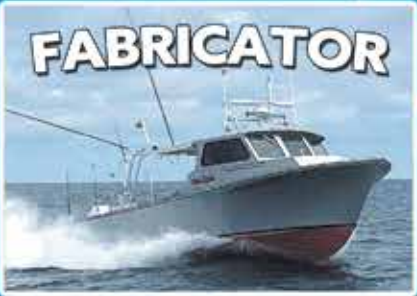
JACKED UP

45' Ocean
Capt. Dean Metcalfe 717-404-3331
Capt. Nick Skidmore 717-615-0644



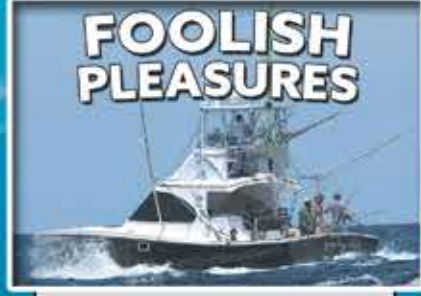
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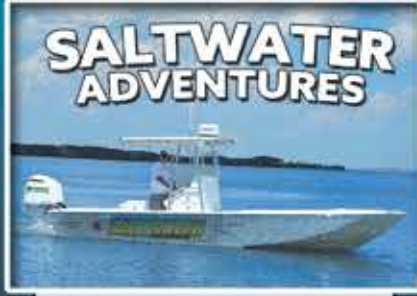
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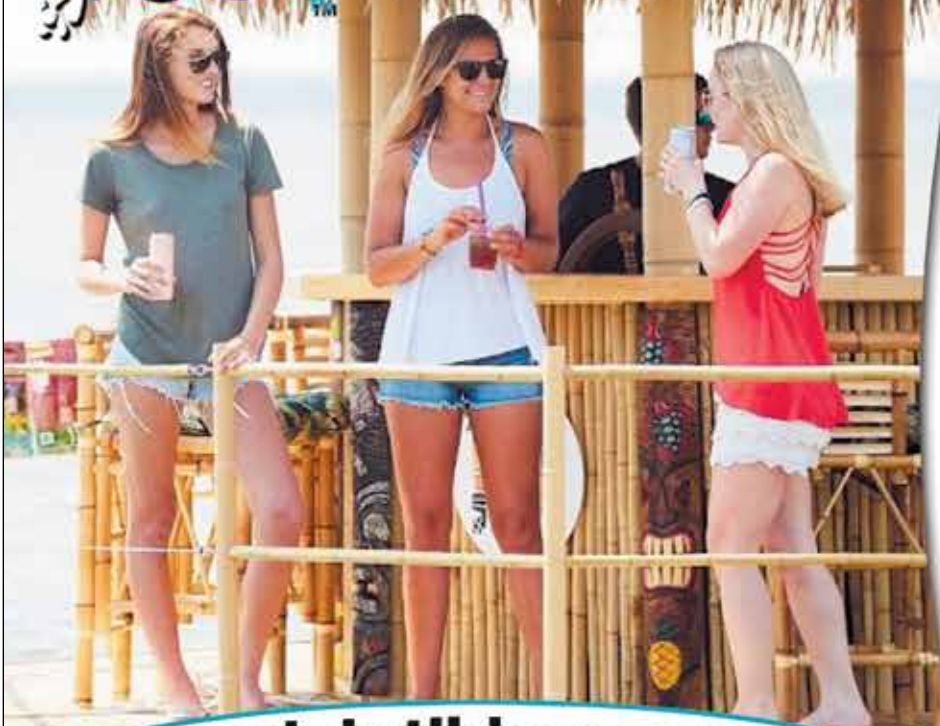
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The yellowfin have been hard to boat the past few weeks due to sharks, but Capt. Dave Midgett on the charter boat "All In" beat the odds on this overnight trip to the Washington Canyon. While they lost yellowfin tuna, they were able to get these two bigeye in the boat with only a little off the tail of one! They also managed a handful of mahi. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Capt. Chris Mizurak on the headboat "Angler" reported a good sea bass bite with lots of action on this trip to a natural bottom. Anglers had to weed through shorts, but nice sized keepers were found. Not true for flounder though, only a few were found with the largest at 5 lbs.

	2023 MARYLAND · DELAWARE · VIRGINIA			CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES			
	MD	DE **	VA	MD	DE **	MD	
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	8 lbs. or 22"	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"	35 lbs.
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	80 lbs. or 46"	Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"	30"
Black Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	5 lbs.	White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"	16 lbs. or 36"	SHARK:			
Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size	Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Cobia	44"	45 lbs. or 48"	55 lbs. or 50"	Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	3 lbs. or 20"	Thresher*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	25 lbs.	Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	6 lbs. or 26"	Swordfish	47"	Any Size	100 lbs.
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	30 lbs.	TUNA:			
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	1.5 lb. or 16"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"	40 lbs.
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	20 lbs.	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"	32"
Red Drum*	36"	45"	-	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Sailfish*	Any Size	-	-	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"	100 lbs. or 60"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	10 lbs. or 24"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	4 lbs. or 26"				
Speckled Trout	24"	-	5 lbs. or 24"				
Striped Bass	40"	44"	44"				
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	9 lbs. or 23"				

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



Despite the stormy weather on Saturday that you can see in the background, over 45 young anglers took part in the 22nd Annual September 11th Memorial Spot Tournament at the Ocean City Fishing Center. Fun was had by all catching spot, croaker, minnows and others from the docks of the marina earning prizes and cash awards. Special thanks to the charter boat "Ro Sham Bo" and Zimmerman and Son Painting for covering all the entry fees for anglers under 16!

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VIRGINIA

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



After a delightful preview of fall and fall fishing, we are brought back to reality with a September heat wave. However, the days continue to get shorter and the retreat of the heat is inevitable. So get ready to "fall" right into a bunch of fun and fish during this awesome autumn season.

The start of September brought us a nice drop in temperatures and a preview of a shallow water spectacular. Speckled trout and puppies actively have cooperated with skinny water action that verifies that we live in the most awesome place on earth! Prevalent puppies from a little below slot to the lower 30" range have engaged in shallow water battles from the Pocomoke sound south to the CBBT . Popping corks with paddle tails were the most productive offering to these spotted tail trophies . The specs seemed to

key in on jig heads adorn with Old Skool and RumbleFish soft plastics. The areas in the southern part of Maryland's Chesapeake have produced the best quality quarry while a much smaller class of spec has been found in the Virginia portion of the bay.

The leaves may still be green but the waters of the Chesapeake are red. The lower bay has still yielded some magnum spawning drum from their haunts around sloughs and shoals from Cape Charles to Watts Island and even farther north. Cut spot, kingfish and hardhead on fish finder rigs with 8/0 octopus circle hooks are all that is needed for a fight to remember. These bruisers have touched the low 50" mark and are truly a fish of a lifetime. Running tide in the evening sets the stage for drag screaming battles and bent

rods. Unwanted by-catch has been pretty palatable as small blues and sharks have given us a break from the relentless bait heisting. While you partake in the awesome red drum bite you may be surprised with a cobia as a welcome bonus.

The seaside has been fairly tranquil except in regards to sea conditions. When anglers have made the way to the deep blue of the Atlantic, they have found a steep drop in flounder activity. However, the flatfish fillets have been replaced by a dinner of succulent sea bass from wrecks in the 100' depth range. The hungry bass have taken both jigs and hi low rigs baited with squid strips.

The inland bite has also been stagnated by turbulent seas and turbid waters. The flounder bite has been fairly slow but not completely dead. Fish have

cooperated around the time of high water when the water is the cleanest. The seaside surf has provided some good spot and kingfish action. Small float rigs baited with bloodworm have done the trick. A few puppies have washed up in the suds with the help of cut spot and mullet chunks on modified fish finder surf rigs .

This past Tuesday morning I slipped away from the shop after a hectic Labor Day weekend. It was just myself , my dog and my rod and a bunch of redfish. I got to enjoy a morning with skies as blue as a puppy drums tail. After several spot tails had been boated my dog " Georgia " started to get restless, and all at once she leapt from the boat and tried to retrieve my popping cork that I had been casting all morning. After help getting back in the boat and a refreshing shake, all the commotion had curtailed the bite. And at that very moment I thought to myself, how lucky I was to have opportunities like this and memories like that in this wonderful place that we call home! §



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Lukas and Jenson Laird had a big day fishing in the lower Chesapeake Bay with their Uncle Jeff. They were fishing off of Exmore, VA using cut spot when Lukas reeled in a 40" red drum and Jenson snagged this 47" bull red.

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It was a busman's holiday for team "Halfers" during this year's Bahia Marina Flounder Pounder Tournament. Chris Higgins, David Division, Tony Division and Austin Korycki all work as deck hands at Bahia Marina! Austin won this year's tournament with this 21" and 4 lb. 7 oz. flounder he caught in the West Channel between Hoopers and the Duck Blinds. The team had gone all in across the calcuttas and took home a cool \$5,900 in prize money.



The competition was tough during this year's Bahia Marina Flounder Pounder with only 6 ounces separating 1st Place from 3rd. Angler Blake Gunther split the difference and took 2nd Place with this 21" and 4 lb. 4 oz. flounder he caught at the Rt. 50 Bridge, earning \$500 in awards monies.

18th Annual Bahia Marina

FLOUNDER POUNDER

Tournament Results

1ST PLACE
Austin Korycki
4 lbs. 11 oz. - \$5,900
2ND PLACE
Blake Gunther
4 lbs. 4 oz. - \$500
3RD PLACE
Mark Lowman
4 lbs. 1 oz. - \$350

34 Boats Entered • 109 Anglers



Anglers Vince Cannuli and Mark Lowman brought a couple contenders to the scales during this year's Bahia Marina Flounder Pounder. At the time they weighed in, their top 2 fish held both 2nd and 3rd Place and were only bumped down by one of the last fish weighed! It was however the 21 7/8" and 4 lb. 1 oz. fish caught by Mark Lowman that held on to secure 3rd Place and \$350 in prize money.

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Erik Anderson
850.974.5600 | 
Charley Pereira
252.216.6291 | 
Mark Pagano
561.309.7867 | 
Colton Cunningham
561.718.4182 |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Featured Boat of the Week



HADLOCK - 2002 61' VIKING CONVERTIBLE - CALL JIMMY FIELDS



**DONNA LUCY - 2022 58' F&S Boatworks
Call Jimmy Fields**



**SEA FIX - 2018 61' Ritchie Howell
Call Jimmy Fields**



**BIG STICK - 2010 63' Weaver
Call Ronnie Fields**



**BARRATUNA - 2008 53' Sculley
Call Steve Hedrick**



**1997 50' Alex Willis Custom
Call Joel McCleod**



**DAY BY DAY - 2003 62' Ocean Yacht
Call Jimmy Fields**



**2023 39' HCB
Call Colton Cunningham**



**2019 45' SeaHunter
Call Chris Workmon**



**1985 47' Hines-Farley
Call Ronnie Fields**



**CONSTELLATION- 1984 37' Sunny Briggs
Call Ronnie Fields**



**TWIN BILLS - 1970 36' Hatteras
Call Jeff James**



**CARIBEÑA - 1982 35' Bertram
Call Jimmy Fields**



**2003 35' Carolina Classic
Call Chris Workmon**



**2003 38' Fountain
Call Terry Layton**



**FOWL HOOKED - 1979 35' Custom
Carolina Sportfish - Call Jeff James**



**DRIFTWOOD - 2017 28' Harrison
Boatworks Call Jeff James**



**2017 27' Cobia
Call Colton Cunningham**



**2020 18' Key West
Call Jimmy Fields**

Ocean City, MD • Palm Beach, FL • Outer Banks, NC

