

Priceless

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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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On January 11th, Charlie Donohue ventured down from Philadelphia, PA to go fishing on the head boat "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mates Mike Kinder and Rich Silvani. Little did he know that he would return from the fishing trip with a new Maryland State Record tautog that tipped the scales at an even 23 lbs. The 33-inch fish, estimated to be 24 years old, was hooked on a green crab at an artificial reef. The previous record was set in March 2007 by Sam Beauchamp with a 20 lb. 11 oz. tog also caught on the "Morning Star". Pictured at Ake Marine.

Ask a Pro

Captain Nick Clemente

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Q: What are the 4 keys to a successful flounder fishing trip?

Jon Pulsifer
Allegheny Twp., PA

A: As with any type of fishing it can look like everything is perfect... all the stars are in alignment and it is going to be a great day for flounder fishing, but the day ends up being a bust. It happens to everyone. However, there are 4 key items that I look for when planning a flounder trip. They are water clarity, water temperature, tide and bait selection.

Since flounder are sight feeders, water clarity is probably the most important factor for a successful flounder trip. In the bay behind Ocean City, a greenish water color is what you are looking for. You don't want to see water that is all muddied up, looking brownish. The tide plays an

important role in water clarity. Sometimes the water is cleaner during the incoming tide, while other times the outgoing tide is cleaner. If the ocean is churned up because of a recent storm, then the incoming tide will bring that dirty water in the bay. A lot of times, you can actually see the line of clean or dirty water right in the inlet.

The water behind Assateague, especially down closer to the Assateague Bridge, can get very dirty with a lot of slur and grass in the water. You definitely want to stay away from this type of condition and maybe move up into the Thorofare where the water may be cleaner. The slur will drive you crazy and the dirty water will shut down the flounder bite.

Water temperature is extremely important in the spring. I like to see the water temperature get over 60-degrees. In the summer, when the bay water can get too hot, I look for

deeper holes to drift across where the water on the bottom is cooler.

Being a charter boat, I need to fish whenever the trip is scheduled and sometimes this can conflict with a ideal tide, another important factor in flounder fishing.

In the spring, I like the outgoing tide because the shallow water has a chance to warm-up in the sun. During the summer, the incoming tide can be better because it brings the cooler ocean water into the bay.

As far as timing is concerned, you want to stay away from both slack tide and when currents are really ripping. In places like the East Channel, where the current can really move during parts of the tide, I will switch to a different location that has a slower current. When the tide is slack I will move to a location where the water is moving. Most people agree that the two hours before the high and low tides seem to produce the best catches.

Bait selection is extremely important. In the past, everyone seemed to fish with minnows and squid. However, in recent years the introduction of Gulp! artificial baits caused a lot of anglers to switch over. I prefer the Gulp! Alive Swimming Mullet in white and chartreuse during the summer and pink in the spring. They really work!

During the summer, I love to use live spot, peanut bunker and mullet. You can really catch some big flounder using live bait!

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Alex Levanovsky of Philadelphia, PA (right) landed a 29.5-inch, 19 lb. 4 oz. tautog, his personal best, during a trip aboard the head boat "Morning Star" with Max Dall'Orso of Old Bridge, NJ, Capt. Monty Hawkins and mates Mike Kinder and Rich Silvani. Max also caught a beauty that tipped the scales at 14 lbs. 14 oz. Both were caught on white crabs at an ocean wreck. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Rudi Schlesner from Denton, MD was drifting a minnow and squid combination in the Thorofare when he hooked into this 24.5-inch flounder. Rudi was fishing on the "Kelly Jean" with Will and Nick Schlesner and Braden Rosebrock. The big flattie weighed an even 5 lbs. on the scale at Ake Marine.

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In early April, Chris Arnone from Wilmington, DE captured this 42-inch, 28.25 lb. striped bass while surfcasting at 3R's Road, a mile south of the Indian River Inlet. Chris used fresh bunker for bait and weighed his catch at Bill's Sport Shop in Lewes, DE.



The first flounder caught out of Ocean City this year was caught on opening day by Aric Gilley while fishing on the "Martini Time" with Dave Oliphant (pictured) and Chuck Wenzel. The trio caught the fish, measuring between 17 and 18.5-inches, while drifting white Gulp! Alive Swimming Mulletts in the Thorofare. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Steve Iwaszko of Ocean Pines, MD pounded the stripers non-stop over the winter and spring. Here he is pictured with a 36-incher caught in mid-April while tossing a Yozuri Crystal Minnow around the Assateague Bridge at night.



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Famous striper sniper, Collin Hurley captured this 46-inch striped bass while trolling Tsunami tandem rigs south of the Assateague Bridge near the Sliver. Collin was fishing on the "57 Chins" with Pat and Joe Hurley, Charlie Sitskorn, Bo "Rod Hog" Smeltzer and Kevin Baggett.



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On April 4th, Scott Lenox joined Luke and Joshua Blume for a flounder fishing trip out of Wachapreague, VA and were rewarded with 14 flounder caught on bull minnows in Drawing Channel. Joshua reportedly outfished the senior fishermen on this particular day.



Ocean City's own Gary Beach spent the winter in Sebastian, FL and found time to land a pending I.G.F.A. All-Tackle Length World Record speckled trout. Gary's catch, measuring 31-inches (79 cm), was caught while fishing on the "Pattern Setter" with Capt. Gus Brugger and Tom Collins when he hooked the speckled trout on a 4-inch D.O.A Cal Shrimp bait along the mangroves in the Indian River Lagoon.

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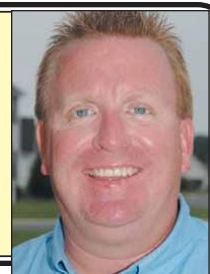


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Ocean City Fishing Report

by Larry Jock



If this past winter and spring is any indication of how fishing will pan out this season, just throw out your old log books because nothing will be the same. Thanks to the exceptionally warm winter we experienced, it looks to me like everything may be a couple of weeks to a month earlier than we have seen in the past. This should make things very interesting.

Bluefin Tuna / Sharks

For the second year in a row, the first bluefin tuna of the season was caught by Mike Sears on the "Wrangler". Mike caught his fish on Monday, April 29th, three days earlier than last year when he landed one on May 1st in the Washington Canyon. Capt. Craig Mercier took his crew 70 miles offshore to 500 fathoms in the Baltimore Canyon (200 line) where he said there were all the bluefin tuna you wanted to catch. After catching their one bluefin, the crew switched over to shark fishing where they released 2 blue sharks during the trip.

Striped Bass

Prior to the last week in



Bob and Kyle Mangell from Silver Spring, MD, Spencer and Frank Smith from Potomac, MD and Charlie Nixon from Bowie had a good day fishing on the charter boat "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente and mate Lizzy Brittingham. The group ended their day with 7 flounder in the box measuring between 18 and 21-inches. All of the fish were caught in the Thorofare on Gulp! Alive Swimming Mulletts during the outgoing tide in 61-degree water. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

January, the striped bass bite was mediocre with the majority of fish cruising down the 10-mile line. Most anglers,

including myself, pulled their boats thinking that the season was over, which, based on history, it was. However, that was not the case by a long shot. Big schools of fish started to appear inside the 3-mile line and the bite was on. Anglers who wanted to jig didn't have much success but those on the troll really tore them up. Bites started just south of the Silver

(Assateague Bridge) and slowly moved north up past the Indian River Inlet. Fish were feeding on enormous schools of bunker so those trolling mojos, parachutes, umbrella rigs and Stretch Imitators did very well. The bite finally settled down around mid-March and the weather since then has prevented anglers from getting out into the ocean on a lot of days, but when you could get out, stripers were still there to be found.

As with every spring run, the linesiders seem to hug the beach during their northern migration more so than in the fall. This sets up excellent fishing in early to mid-May for surfcasters fishing off Assateague Island and the beaches of Ocean City and southern Delaware. Anglers are pecking away at stripers in the surf, but the hot and heavy action hasn't started up yet. If we use history as a guide, then it should heat up very soon.

With water temperatures in the bay hovering around the mid 50's to low 60's, anglers tossing bucktails and Slug-Go's or trolling swim shads on light tackle have been able to catch striped bass around the bridges and the South Jetty.

Tautog

The big news so far this year goes back to January 11th, when Charlie Donohue from Philadelphia, PA boated a 23 lb. tautog that set a new Maryland state record. The 33-inch male blackfish was caught aboard the "Morning Star" on a green crab at an artificial reef. This wasn't the only big tautog caught by an angler on the

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"Morning Star" this past winter/spring. Capt. Monty had several fish over 19 lbs. with a couple of anglers being inducted into the "20 lb. Club".

Lately, with the minimum size increasing from 14-inches to 16-inches, tautog fishing on ocean reefs and wrecks has seen some days when the fish were flying over the rail and other days when anglers had to really work for a keeper. Green and white crabs were the ticket.

In the bay, tautog fishing has been better than expected. The increased minimum size had most worried that they would hardly see a keeper caught this year, but the bite has been good off the 4th Street Bulkhead, around the South Jetty and at the rocks off Martha's Landing in the West Channel.

Right now, tautog regulations stand at:

01/01/12 to 05/15/12
16" minimum
4 fish per person

05/16/12 to 10/31/12
16" minimum
2 fish per person

11/01/12 to 11/14/12
16" minimum
4 fish per person

11/15/12 to 12/31/12
SEASON CLOSED

However, state and federal fishery representatives are working on the possibility of extending the tautog season so that it will only close from 11/26/12 to 12/31/12. Obviously, nothing is guaranteed but it's good to know that they are looking at it.

Sea Bass

Right now, the sea bass season is closed. If you listen real hard, you can hear local head boat captain's heads exploding since most are convinced that the regulations are based on poor data. The season is scheduled to open on May 22nd, but I heard that the fishery management folks are

trying to get it opened on May 19th. Check this column or the Breaking News section at www.coastalfisherman.net for updates.

Anglers on ocean wrecks and reefs have been releasing some large sea bass. One angler told me that they ventured out to the Great Eastern Reef a little over a week ago and were releasing knotheads up to 20-inches. Capt. Monty on the "Morning Star" reported releasing sea bass up to 17-inches during a recent trip.

Flounder

The big news is the MD Fisheries Service reducing the minimum size for flounder this year from 18-inches to 17-inches. You know what that means? We'll all catch 16.5-inch flatties. Doesn't it always seem to be that way?

However, it doesn't look like that will be the case because quite a few flounder have already been caught since the season opened on April 14th. Since then, it has been tough to find a good stretch of days when the weather was good enough to fish.

Local charter boats, "Get Sum", "Lucky Break" and "Ocean City Guide Service" have all returned from trips with good catches in the box.

The hot spot has definitely been up in the Thorofare and on the flats, north of the Thorofare. In the Thorofare, anglers drifting between the yellow house on the tip of Captain's Hill to around the corner of the channel have landed good size flounder. Boats trolling over the flats have also produced good numbers.


The hot bait is the Gulp! Alive Swimming Mullet in white, chartreuse or pink. Pink tends to do well in the spring but after that, white becomes the top producer.

Let's hope for some good weather so anglers can hit the water in search of their favorite catch. We are off to a pretty good start.

Tight lines!



On April 1st, Mike Gillard from Brentwood, NY caught this 18lb. 6 oz. tautog on a green crab at an ocean reef. Mike was aboard the charter boat "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. Pictured at Bahia Marina.



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John Brockmeyer from Belair, MD landed the heaviest flounder we have seen so far this year out of Ocean City, a beautiful 28-inch, 8.25 pounder while drifting a spec rig tipped with a Berkley Gulp! south of the Ocean City Airport during the outgoing tide. John was fishing with Mike Brockmeyer, Bob Miller and Rick Reabis and the group ended their day with 4 keeper flounder in the box. Weighed at Oyster Bay Tackle.

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<p>3rd Annual Memorial Day Bluefish Tournament Chairman: Franky Pettolina Registration: May 25, 6:30 p.m. Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 26 & May 27 Awards Banquet: May 27, 6:30-9 p.m. <i>You do not need to be a member of OCMC to participate in this tournament</i></p>	<p>33rd Annual Small Boat Tournament Chairman: Bill Regan Registration: June 22, 6:30 p.m. Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 23 & June 24 Crab Feast/Awards Banquet: June 24, 6:30-9 p.m. <i>You do not need to be a member of OCMC to participate in this tournament</i></p>	<p>30th Annual Canyon Kick Off Tournament Chairman: Franky Pettolina Registration: June 28, 6:30 p.m. Fishing Days: (2 of 3) June 29 & 30, July 1 Awards Banquet: July 2, 1-3 p.m. <i>You do not need to be a member of OCMC to participate in this tournament</i> Free to all OCMC Boat members</p>	<p>8th Annual Kids' Classic Chairmen: Bill Regan, Annette Cropper, & Pat Svehla Registration: July 20, 7:30 p.m. Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 21 & July 22 Cook-Out: July 21, 6:30 p.m. for Wish-A-Fish Kids Carnival & Awards Banquet: July 22, 5-8 p.m. <i>You do not need to be a member of OCMC to participate in this tournament</i></p>
<p>4th Annual OCMC Ladies' Tournament Chairmen: Franky Pettolina & Amanda Shick Registration: August 2, 6 p.m. Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 3 & August 4 Awards Banquet: August 4, 6:30-9 p.m. <i>You do not need to be a member of OCMC to participate in this tournament</i></p>	<p>54th Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament Chairmen: Bob Wimbrow & Bill Fenwick Registration: August 30, 6:30 p.m. Fishing Days: (2 of 3) August 31, September 1 & 2 Awards Banquet: September 2 • Luau & Pig Roast 6:30-9 p.m. <i>You do not need to be a member of OCMC to participate in this tournament</i></p>		<p>34th Annual Challenge Cup Chairman: Jon C. Duffie Registration: September 13, 7 p.m. Fishing Days: (2 of 2) September 14 & September 15 Italian Night: September 14, 6:30-9 p.m. Awards Banquet: September 15, 6:30-9 p.m. <i>By OCMC Invitation Only</i></p>

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In mid-April, Paul Vreeland of West Ocean City, MD caught his limit of flounder while drifting live minnows in the bay behind Frontier Town aboard the “Mel-O-Jane”. Paul’s largest fish of the day measured 22-inches.



On January 1st, Charles Nichols of Berlin, MD and K.C. Harrington of Bishopville, MD caught and released these 2 stripers while trolling mojos on the charter boat “Lucky Break” with Capt. Jason Mumford.

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- Capt. Mark Sampson,
Fish Finder Adventures



On January 1st, Josh Fallon (left) from Bahia Marina landed the first striper of the year out of Ocean City during a trip aboard the "Patty Wagon Part Deux" with Kevin "The King" Weber. The fish was caught at Little Gull Shoal on a trolled mojo. Pictured at Bahia Marina.

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Driftin' Easy

by Sue Foster



"I'm here early in the season. Usually I come in the summertime. What's different?"

Springtime tactics can differ from summertime. The water is colder and the fish are a little slower. There's not quite as much variety. The little scrappy fish like spot and croaker aren't around yet, so you need to concentrate on the fish that are here.



Flounder are biting for sure and when I talk to serious flounder fishermen, the biggest mistake flounder anglers make in the early part of the season is to grab the rod and try to set the hook too fast. Since the water is colder, the fish move slower. Sometimes they mouth the bait for a bit before grabbing the hook. Anglers in boats will often find that the rod holder is their best friend. Use a rod with a soft rod tip like an Ugly Stik. When you see the rod tip bending over with the weight of a flounder, pick it up and set the hook.

Flounder can turn off if the water temperatures get too cold. Early season flounder anglers find that the outgoing tide has warmer water than the incoming tide. Thus, the beginning of the outgoing tide is a very popular tide in the spring as well as the last few hours of the outgoing. One or two hours before dead low tide is also good. Flounder fishing tends to be better on sunny days. The sun warms the water in the back bays and can raise the water temperatures by over 10 degrees! Overcast days can be unproductive. A good tide too

early in the morning can be unproductive if the water temps are on the "edge."

Spring flounder fishing can be really good in the upper reaches of the bay, like the area around the Route 90 Bridge or in the bay behind Assateague near Frontier Town between Buoys 8 thru 13. The upper reaches of the bay are good because the water temperatures are warmer in these areas. If you don't have a boat and want to get into some of this action, the bay party boats advertised in the *Coastal Fisherman* are a good way to go. Even if you are a new angler with a new boat, a few trips out on these party boats is a good learning experience.

"What rigs and baits should I use?"



Well, the usual high/low or long-leadered single flounder rigs always work well. We find that in the spring, colors like pink and orange are more popular than they are in the middle of summer. Anglers typically use live minnows hooked through the lips or frozen shiners hooked through the eyes. During summer, a strip of squid hooked alongside a minnow or shiner always works well. It also works well in the spring, but there are a lot of skates in the bay that can also be attracted to squid! To avoid them, it's better to tip your minnow or shiner with a gulp swimming mullet, a 3-inch curltail grub or even a strip of Fishbite bloodworm.

(Fishbite bloodworm looks really red in the water and makes an excellent trailer bait.)

"I hear there are tautog biting!"

Yes, in the spring and fall we have a nice tautog run. Tautog are also around in the summertime, but nothing like they are in the spring and fall. Anglers HAVE to use some kind of crustacean to catch tautog, so trying to catch them with minnows and squid is basically a waste of time unless you accidentally snag one.

Green crabs and sand fleas (or mole crabs) are the baits most tackle shops sell. You can also use clams or shrimp. You need to fish for tautog in rocky, snaggy areas like the inlets, the 2nd thru 4th Street Bulkhead, near the draw of the Rt. 50 Bridge, at the end of the left hand corner of the Oceanic Pier and at the end of 5th and 6th Streets. Anglers in boats fish the inlet rocks and along the rocks just offshore of the entrance of the Commercial Harbor and the area around Homer Gudelsky Park. The new size limit is 16-inches and you better be careful that the tautog measures up when fishing in a public area.

Tautog feed best early in the morning and just before dark, especially the larger ones. If you catch the time of day with a slacking tide, your chances increase! The beginning of the outgoing tide has been the best tide so far this spring. A low, outgoing tide usually is also good.



The one thing about early springtime fishing is that it's not a time to take the kids up to Northside Park to catch Norfolk spot. They just aren't in yet! Crabbing is good, but if you want to give the kids some action catching "just

anything" you really need to fish the 9th Street Pier or the Oceanic Pier. Early spring will see blowfish, snapper blues, skates and maybe little sea bass at some point. Just like in the summer, a little piece of squid and worm or artificial Fishbite worm, will usually catch you something!

"How about blues and stripers!"



These fish are usually haunting the Oceanic Pier, the Inlets and the Route 50 Bridge. Especially towards evening, lures such as Gotcha Plugs, Spec Rigs and soft bodies rigged on lead heads will hook blues and stripers. Halfway into the incoming tide, at high tide and at the very beginning of the outgoing tide is usually best.

"Is surf fishing any good?"

My goodness, the surf in May can give us action on big stripers, black drum, decent sized blues, sharks and skates. We don't have those scrappy little summertime fish like spot and kingfish, so don't waste too much time with small hooks and bloodworms. You are better off with a larger hook with cut bunker, mullet or mackerel when trying to catch a trophy striper. Of course, this can be "hit or miss," so if the kids just want to catch "anything", get a medium-sized high/low bluefish rig and bait up with some box squid. There are always dog sharks and skates, a chance at a snapper blue and maybe some blowfish!

Springtime fishing.... a little different than summer, but still, it's fishing!

Good fishing....

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



Londyn Magee of Millsboro, DE boated her first flounder, a 19-inch incher, during a trip with her Pop Pop, Bill Marshall, in the Indian River. Photo courtesy of Whitetail Taxidermy & Outdoor Supplies.



Towards the end of January, Pat Hurley landed this 45-inch striper while trolling Tsunami tandem rigs near the Sliver.

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Wes Pollitt of Salisbury, MD (right) was fishing in the Chesapeake Bay, south of the MD/VA line when he captured this 46-inch, 48 lb. striped bass while fishing with Gary Pollitt on the "Lady Katy".

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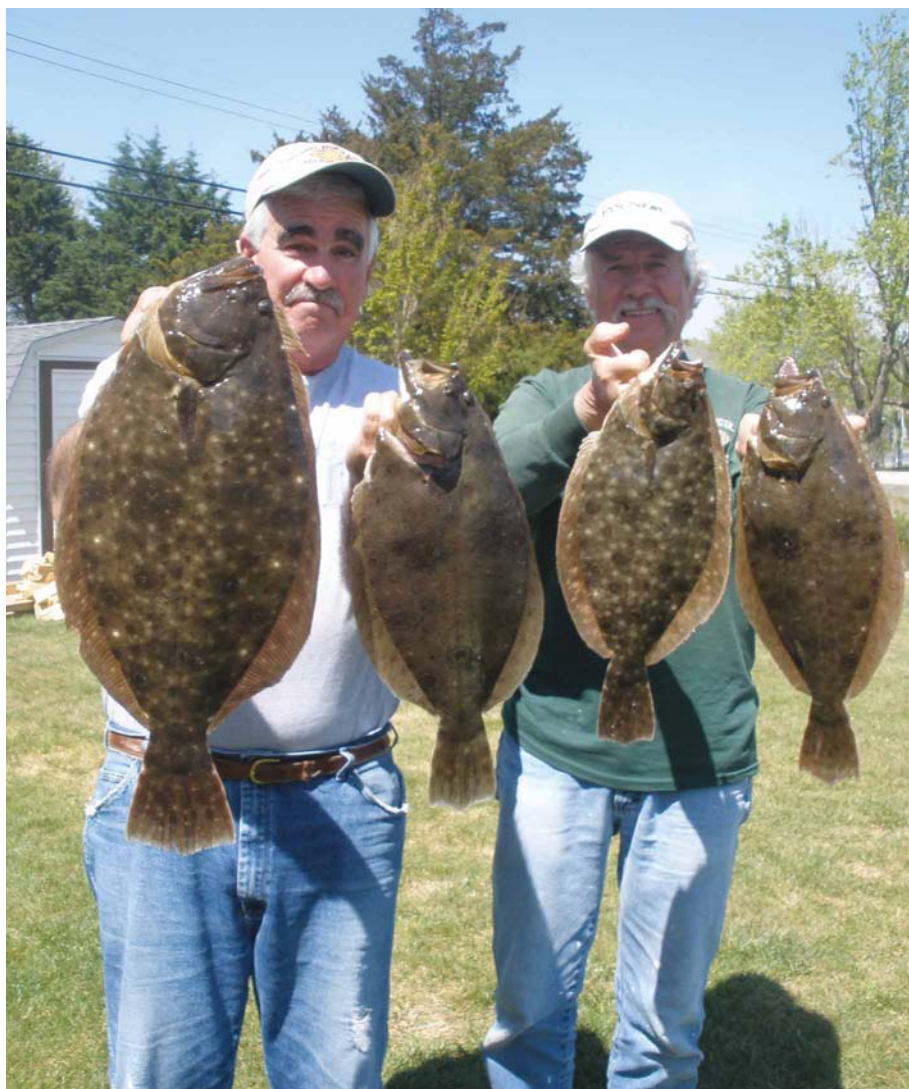
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On April 16th, Danny Cox and Greg Volpitta ended their day with 4 keeper flounder after drifting live minnows in the Thorofare aboard the "Ms' Der". The fish ranged from 17-inches to 22-inches with the largest weighing in at 4 lbs. 10 oz.



Bob Key fooled this 20 lb. 4 oz. tautog with a white crab while fishing on the head boat "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mate Mike Kinder. The fish was caught at an ocean wreck and is pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



For the second year in a row, Mike Sears of Pasadena, MD landed the first bluefin tuna of the year while fishing on the "Wrangler" with Darrin Pruitt, Colene Artrip, Capt. Craig Mercier and mate Tom Zapf. The 48-inch, 70 lb. bluefin was hooked on a trolled ballyhoo in 500 fathoms in the Baltimore Canyon. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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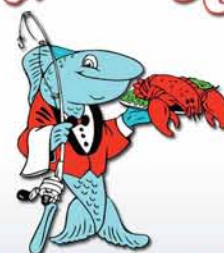
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The Galley

by Mama Jock



Welcome back! I have a lot of good recipes for Coastal Fisherman readers this year and I may even sprinkle in some side dishes to go along with the main course. Hope you enjoy them! Don't forget to send me your favorite recipes. You can email them to maureenjock@comcast.net.

Mama Jock

Barbecued Tautog Fillets

4 fresh tautog fillets
1 small zucchini, 1 small yellow squash and 1 carrot cut into strips
1 TBSP. fresh ginger, minced
1/2 lemon
1 clove garlic, minced
Pepper to taste

Cut 4 squares of foil (16

inches) and fold each in half for double thickness.

Mix together the zucchini through ginger.

Spread on each square of foil.

Top vegetables with the tautog.

Evenly sprinkle the lemon juice, garlic and pepper over fish.

Fold foil over all and crimp edges to seal.

Grill over medium-high coals for 15 to 20 minutes.

Serves 4.

Flounder Tacos with Fresh Salsa

1 large tomatillo, rinsed and chopped
1 medium tomato, chopped
1/2 small red onion, finely chopped

3 TBSP. cilantro, chopped
2 TBSP. lime juice, plus lime wedges for serving

1/2 jalapeño, minced (remove seeds for less heat)

Kosher salt

Vegetable oil, for frying

1 1/4 lbs. flounder

fillets, cut into 1 inch pieces

Pepper

1/4 cup flour or cornstarch

8 corn tortillas, warmed

1 cup shredded lettuce

Salsa:

Mix the tomatillo and the next 5 ingredients in a bowl and season with salt.

Heat 1/2 inch vegetable oil in a deep skillet or pot over medium-high heat.

Season the fish with 1/2 tsp. salt and 1/4 tsp. pepper, then toss with the flour in a bowl.

Fry the fish in two batches, turning as needed, until golden brown and just cooked through, 3-4 minutes per batch.

Transfer to paper towel lined plate to drain; season with salt.

Fill the tortillas with the fish, lettuce and salsa.

Serve the tacos with the lime wedges.

Serves 4.

Striped Bass with Avocado Salad

3 TBSP. fresh lime juice, divided
3 TBSP. plain Greek yogurt
1 TBSP. water
3/4 tsp. salt, divided
1 avocado, peeled and pitted
3 TBSP. extra-virgin olive oil, divided
4 striped bass fillets
1/2 tsp. pepper
1 bunch cilantro leaves
2 cups thinly sliced onion
Tabasco, optional

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Combine 2 TBSP. lime juice, yogurt, 1 TBSP. water, 1/4 tsp. salt and avocado in a small bowl; mash with fork until

smooth.

Heat a large ovenproof skillet over high heat.

Add 1 1/2 TBSP. oil to pan; swirl to coat.

Sprinkle fish evenly with remaining 1/2 tsp. salt and pepper.

Add fish to pan, skin side down, and saute for 2 minutes or until lightly browned.

Place pan in oven; cook for 8 minutes or until desired degree of doneness.

Combine remaining 1 TBSP. lime juice and remaining 1 1/2 TBSP. olive oil in a medium bowl, stirring with a whisk.

Add cilantro and onion; toss gently to coat.

Spoon about 3 TBSP. avocado mixture on each of 4 plates.

Top each serving with 1 fillet and 1/2 cup salad.

Serve with Tabasco.

Serves 4.

Pan-Roasted Striper Amandine

1/2 cup chopped almonds
4 striped fillets
Salt and pepper
2 TBSP. olive oil
1/3 cup amaretto
1/3 cup unsalted butter

In a small nonstick skillet, heat almonds over medium-low heat, stirring often, for 3 to 4 minutes or until toasted and fragrant.

Sprinkle tops of fillets with salt and pepper.

Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat.

When heated, add fillets, seasoned side down. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes or until golden brown; turn fillets and add almonds.

Stir in amaretto, scraping browned bits from bottom of pan with a wooden spoon.

Stir in butter.

Reduce heat to medium-low and cook for 2 to 3 minutes longer or until fish flakes easily with fork.

Place fillets on a serving platter.

Season sauce in pan with additional salt and pepper to taste and pour over fillets.

Serves 4.



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Bailey Tenerovich of Lewes, DE caught her first keeper tautog while fishing on the charter boat "Lil' Angler II" with Capt. Brian Wazlavek at the 14 Foot Light in the Delaware Bay.

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On opening day of flounder season, Jimmy Jarmon of Berlin, MD captured 3 keeper flounder (1 pictured) during a trip with Capt. John Prather of "Ocean City Guide Service". The fish were caught in the Thorofare on live minnows and measured between 19 and 22-inches.

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In early April, Jason Cortazzo of Lansdale, PA caught this 21-inch tautog while fishing on the charter boat "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford. The tog ate a green crab along the rocks off Martha's Landing.



Dick Woodhull from North Port, FL joined Becky, Bob, Robbie and Daniel Mealey from Framingham, MA for a flounder fishing trip aboard the charter boat "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente and mate Tyler Hasenei and ended up with 4 keepers in the box. All of the fish were caught in the Thorofare on pink and chartreuse Gulp! Alive Swimming Mulletts. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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On April 20th, Lennie Foxwell and Tim Mulligan, both from Snow Hill, MD caught these black drum while fishing off of Assateague Island. Both fish were fooled with peeler crabs with Lennie's fish measuring 30-inches and Tim's coming in at 27-inches. Pictured at Buck's Place.

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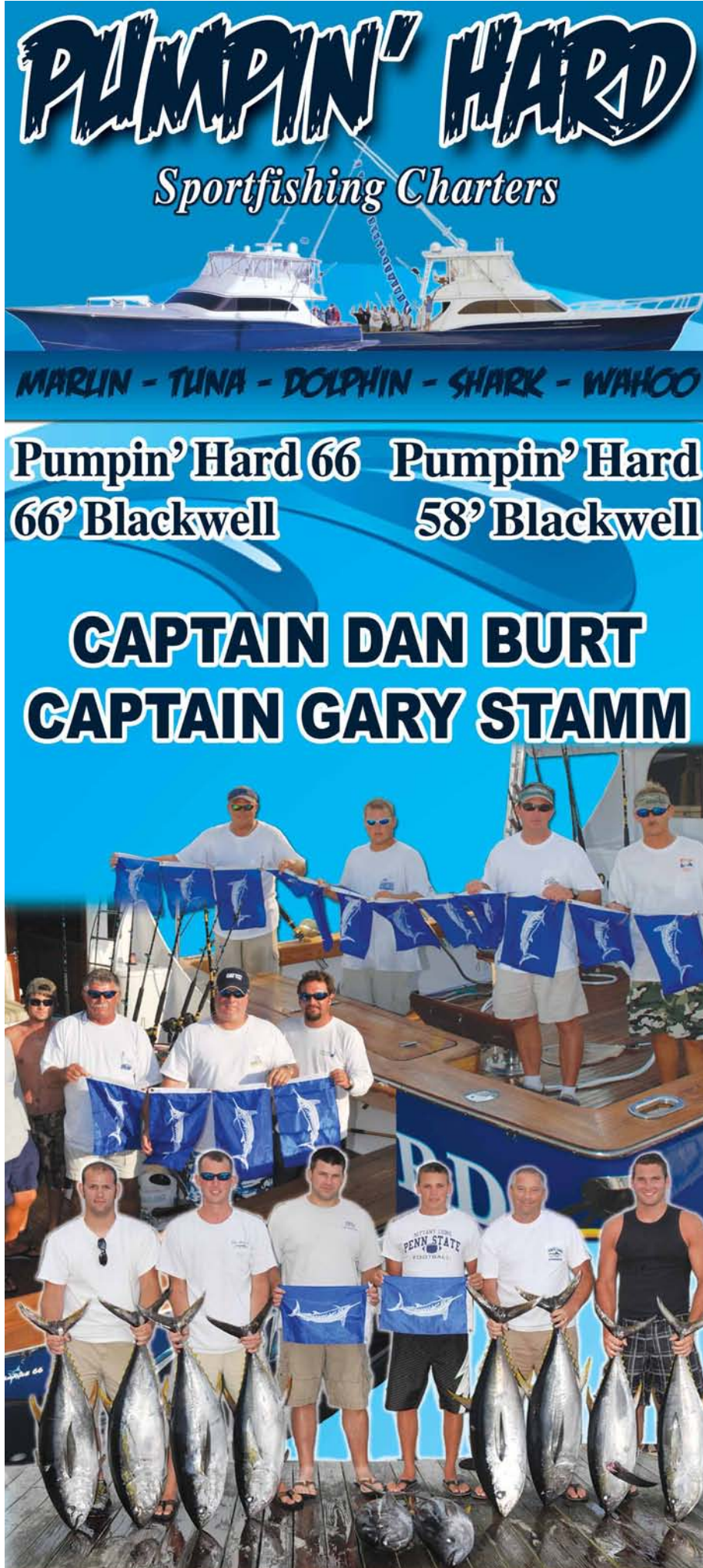
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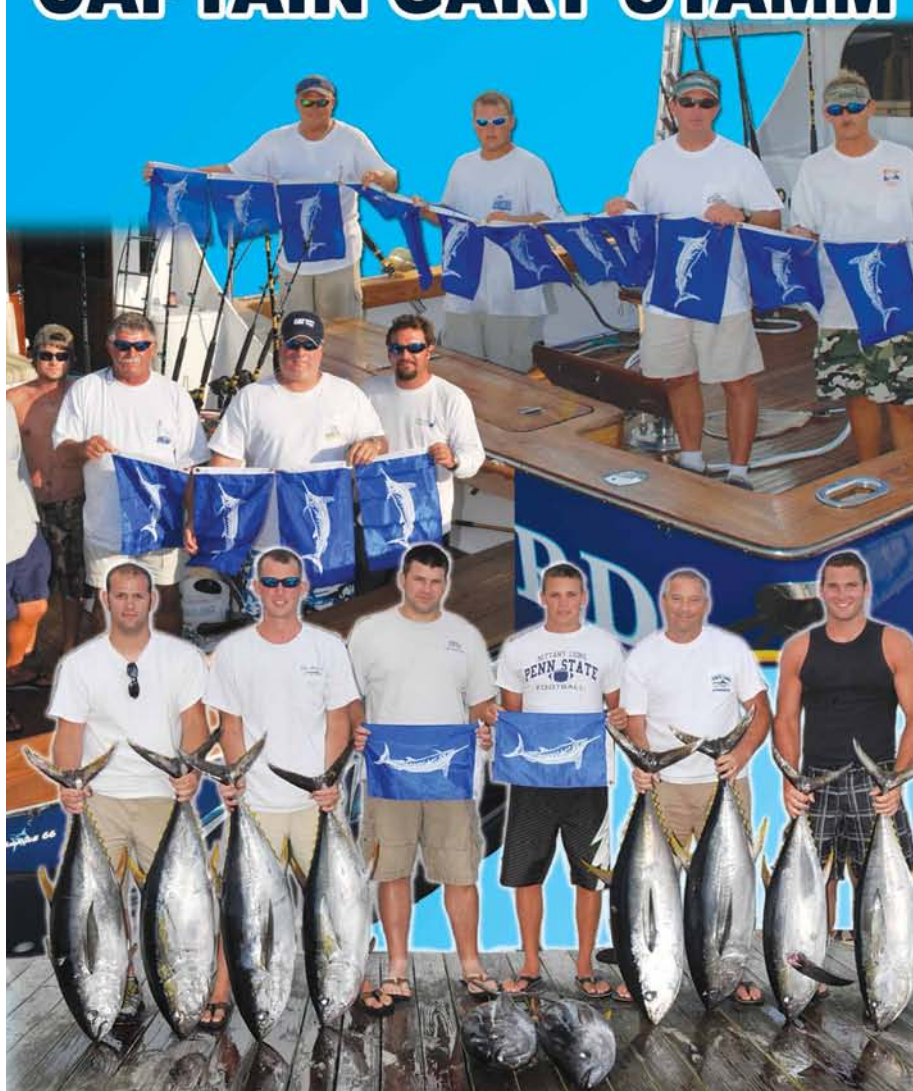
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In January, John Wittmyer from Crabs-To-Go in Berlin, MD took a trip to Los Sueños, Costa Rica and released this blue marlin, estimated at 400 lbs. John also released 5 sailfish, all while fishing on the "Tuna Bite" with Capt. Howard Lynch, Darren King and Patrick McCloskey. The group ended the trip with 2 blue marlin releases and 10 sailfish releases.

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Amanda Morris of Lewes Harbour Marina muscled in this 50 lb. amberjack that ate a live pinfish over a wreck in 300 feet of water south of Cudjoe Key, FL. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.

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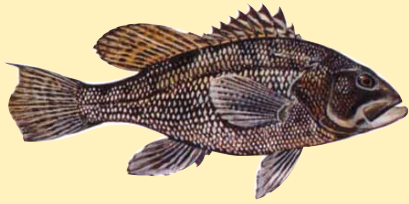
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BLACK DRUM
16" minimum
3 per person/day or 6 per boat/day



CROAKER
9" minimum 25 per person/day



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



SHEEPSHEAD
No limit



SPECKLED TROUT
14" minimum 10 per person/day



STRIPED BASS
28" minimum
2 per person/day



TAUTOG
16" minimum
1/1 - 5/15 & 11/1 - 11/16 4 per person
5/16 - 10/31 2 per person



SUMMER FLOUNDER
17" minimum 3 per person/day
4/14 - 12/16



WEAKFISH
13" minimum
1 per person/day

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On January 1st, John Murter of Upper Marlboro, MD caught the first tautog out of Ocean City, landing this 27-inch while fishing on the head boat "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mate Mike Kinder. The skinny tog, weighing only 12.75 lbs., ate a green crab at an artificial reef. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Kevin Weber of Ocean City, MD took time off from chasing stripers to partake in a little flounder fishing on opening day and was rewarded with 3 nice flatties. The fish were hooked while trolling near the Assateague Bridge. Pictured at Ake Marine.

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Lew Frey, Optimist President
Jim and Clare Gallagher, Winners



Photo: Charles Smith & John Harris

Contact Tommy Fowler 410-430-4531 fowlscay@cs.com





















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1st Fish of the Year

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

Species	2012	2011	Species	2012	2011
 Sea Bass	None Reported	May 22, 2011 Tyler Sumpter "Keep 'Er' Wet" Jack Spot	 Mako Shark	April 29, 2012 Joseph Cangianelli "Reel Life" Baltimore Canyon	May 1, 2011 Brett Coakley "Wrangler" Washington Canyon
 Tautog	January 1, 2012 John Murter "Morning Star" Artificial Reef	January 6, 2011 Mike Grybos "Morning Star" Ocean Wreck	 White Marlin	None Reported	May 29, 2011 Anthony Pino "Marli" Rockpile
 Striped Bass	January 1, 2012 Josh Fallon "Patty Wagon II" Little Gull	April 14, 2011 Capt. Skip Maguire "Skip's Charter" Sinepuxent Bay	 Blue Marlin	None Reported	June 10, 2011 Stevie Ramsey "Lady Luck V" Baltimore Canyon
 Weakfish	None Reported	June 4, 2011 Paul Gillespie East Channel	 Bluefin Tuna	April 29, 2012 Mike Sears "Wrangler" Baltimore Canyon	May 1, 2011 Mike Sears "Wrangler" Washington Canyon
 Flounder	April 14, 2012 Aric Gilley "Martini Time" Thorofare	April 17, 2011 Tommy Fowler Thorofare	 Yellowfin Tuna	None Reported	May 26, 2011 Phil Falgowski Wilmington Canyon
 Bluefish	None Reported	May 1, 2011 Alex Levantovsky "Morning Star" Artificial Reef	 Longfin Tuna	None Reported	August 21, 2011 Al Rittmeyer "Dog Haus" Baltimore Canyon
 Black Drum	April 20, 2012 Lennie Foxwell Assateague Island	April 30, 2011 Melson MaGee Fenwick Surf	 Bigeye Tuna	None Reported	May 31, 2011 Aaron Saulsbury "Magic Moment" Washington Canyon
 Sheepshead	None Reported	May 7, 2011 Sheldon Thomas "Kimberly Ann" Winter Quarter Shoal	 Dolphin	None Reported	May 22, 2011 Daryl Bathelme Lindenkolh Canyon
 Thresher Shark	None Reported	May 25, 2011 Jimmy Bunting "B" Buoy	 Wahoo	None Reported	May 22, 2011 Dave Woods Lindenkolh Canyon

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

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Capt. Greg Ignash
Capt. Ron Callis



GAME ON
47' Buddy Davis



LAST CALL
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WHY NOT
45' Ricky Scarborough
Capt. Wade Lober



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42' Ocean
Capt. Mark Radcliffe



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Capt. Mike Conner



ALL IN
40' Jersey Dawn
Capt. Chad Meeks



FISH FINDER
40' Custom
Capt. Mark Sampson



BLUE RUNNER
38' Henriques
Capt. Steve Reddish



FOOLISH PLEASURES
36' Topaz
Capt. Dale Lisi



PLAYTIME
35' Carolina
Capt. Ron Taylor



TAIL TO TALE
35' Bertram
Capts. John & Joel Wadkins



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Delaware Fishing Report

by Larry Jock



Welcome to the Delaware Fishing report. I am very sad to report that right before Christmas the fishing community lost Rick Willman, owner of Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE. Rick also took time out to write the weekly Delaware Fishing Report for the Coastal Fisherman over the last several years. Rick was an absolutely great guy who I enjoyed seeing each week when I dropped off the newspaper at his tackle shop. He always had a smile on his face and an upbeat attitude that I will miss greatly. I wish his wife, Deb continued success in running the tackle shop.

Sharks

Joe Morris mentioned that researcher Dewayne Fox came by Lewes Harbour Marina to tell of several big thresher sharks he and his crew encountered while netting for sturgeon. He said over the last week they've seen



Clark Koehn from Oley, PA boated this 17 lb. tautog during a trip aboard the "Miss Shyanne" with Capt. Dave Russell. The 29-inch bruiser ate a green crab at a Delaware Bay reef site and was weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

threshers to over 400 pounds while working south of Indian River. Sport sharkers should hook their first threshers soon.

Flounder

The best flounder bite last week was in the Lewes Canal, Roosevelt Inlet and to a lesser extent, in the Indian River where only a couple of flatties were landed before the water cooled off and shut down the bite.

Joe Morris at Lewes Harbour Marina reported that Lewes Canal boaters have been picking away at flounder, but the catching hasn't busted wide open yet. Young Dylan Churchill had a good initiation into the flounder fishing fraternity by capturing his first keeper flatties measuring 18 and 24 inches while drifting the Canal using a shiner tipped orange jig on Saturday. The Broadkill River also gave up a few flatfish during the week. Folks at the rails of

Cape Henlopen Pier had some flounder, but most were shorts. Using small tandem rigged jigs tipped with shiners or Gulp! was an effective presentation. Don't forget the annual Lewes Harbour Canal Flounder Tournament on Friday, May 18th.

Striped Bass

We are coming up on the anniversary of the epic striper bite in the Indian River Inlet that started around May 1st last year and continued strong for the next 3 weeks. Every night, it was all the fish you wanted with some very big lunkers thrown in. Many anglers said that it was the best striper bite they had ever seen. Nobody quite knew what caused it. Some thought it was the lights from the Indian River Bridge construction luring bunker into the inlet. Who knows?

Bert Adams at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Inlet

reported a good night time striper bite in the Indian River Inlet on Wednesday and Thursday beginning around 1:30 in the morning. Fish were weighed between 25 lbs. and 45 lbs. The bite slacked off on Friday night, and Saturday night produced only a decent bite at the end of the Indian River Jetty. There were also a couple of linesiders caught during the day in the Inlet. Most successful anglers are tossing swim shad lures and long-leadered flies. Colors of choice for the swim shads were chartreuse, bunker and sea trout.

According to Bert, stripers were also caught from the surf in North Ocean City up to 3R's Road in southern Delaware. Most are being caught on cut bunker.

Bill at Bill's Sport Shop said that he really didn't see much striper activity in the southern end of the Delaware Bay with most reports coming in about fish still being caught further north in the Bay.

Joe Morris at Lewes Harbour Marina said that surfcasters came across the occasional striper at Herring Point. Dave McGirk stopped by with an 18 lb. linesider that grabbed a chunk of bunker in the suds. On Sunday, Steve Fisher beached a 19.5 lb. rockfish and Jamie Kosiek landed a 22.1 pounder while soaking bunker at Cape Henlopen. Roger Guderian got a 13 lb. striped bass from Broadkill Beach with a bloodworm. Schools of stripers made appearances in the Indian River Inlet. Guys tossing Bombers, MirroLures, and Storm Shads from the jetties at night connected with good sized bass.

Bluefish

Although there was a decent bluefish bite in the Indian River Inlet in March, we really haven't seen many choppers since. A few have been caught by anglers off the beach, but really nothing to crow about and some were caught in the Inlet on Sunday morning. Coming off a very poor fall/winter run, anglers are starting to wonder what happened to the choppers we've religiously seen off our coast every year.

Tautog

Inshore anglers have had good luck catching tautog on ocean wrecks and reefs. Green and white crab have been doing the trick. In the Delaware Bay,



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On the left past Grotto's Pizza at the Leisure Point Entrance

Bill's Sport Shop reports that the Outer Wall produced good catches with fish averaging in the 6 lb. range, with the largest reportedly tipping the scale at 9.4 lbs. Anglers tossing bucktails tipped with green crab had the best results.

Joe Morris at Lewes Harbour Marina said tog fishing was decent on days when the wind didn't blow and the water was clean. On Wednesday, the crew aboard "Katy Did" had a nice catch. It was topped off by a pair of bruiser blackfish weighing 9.41 and 9.62 pounds that Chris Van hooked on two consecutive drops. Tautog sharpie Alex Levantovsky landed a 12.4 pound lunker on the "Grizzly". Bert Long checked in a 7.63 pound tog he took off the Inner Wall on Saturday. Some first time toppers brought in good fish over the weekend. Anna Neely nailed a 9.5 pounder on the "Katy Did" Saturday. Justin Martin muscled in a 7.5 pounder at the Ice Breakers. Bay water cleaned up and conditions were much better Sunday. Toppers along the Outer Wall had a good bite. Captain Pete on "Top Fin" told of fast action, returning with a limit of

nice tautog. Anglers aboard "Katy Did" limited out as well. Their boxful included five citations. Sam Scott scored a 9.15 pounder. Bob Murphy managed a 9.07 pound white chin. Bill Wiest wound in a 7.55 pounder. Steve Kiibler caught a 7.4, and Ben Strahl stuck a 7.24 pound tautog. Tog should cooperate through the end of the spring season.

Black Drum & Weakfish

A few black drum have been caught from surfcasters tossing from the beach in northern Ocean City up to 3R's Road. Sand fleas have done the trick.

Joe Morris reported that commercial netters continue to report increasing numbers of black drum and weakfish in Delaware Bay. The sea trout have been of varied sizes, indicative of more than one-year class, which seems encouraging. Hook and line catches of both trout and drum should pick up soon. Joe said the store will carry surf clams for drum, but he suggests reserving baits early in the week.

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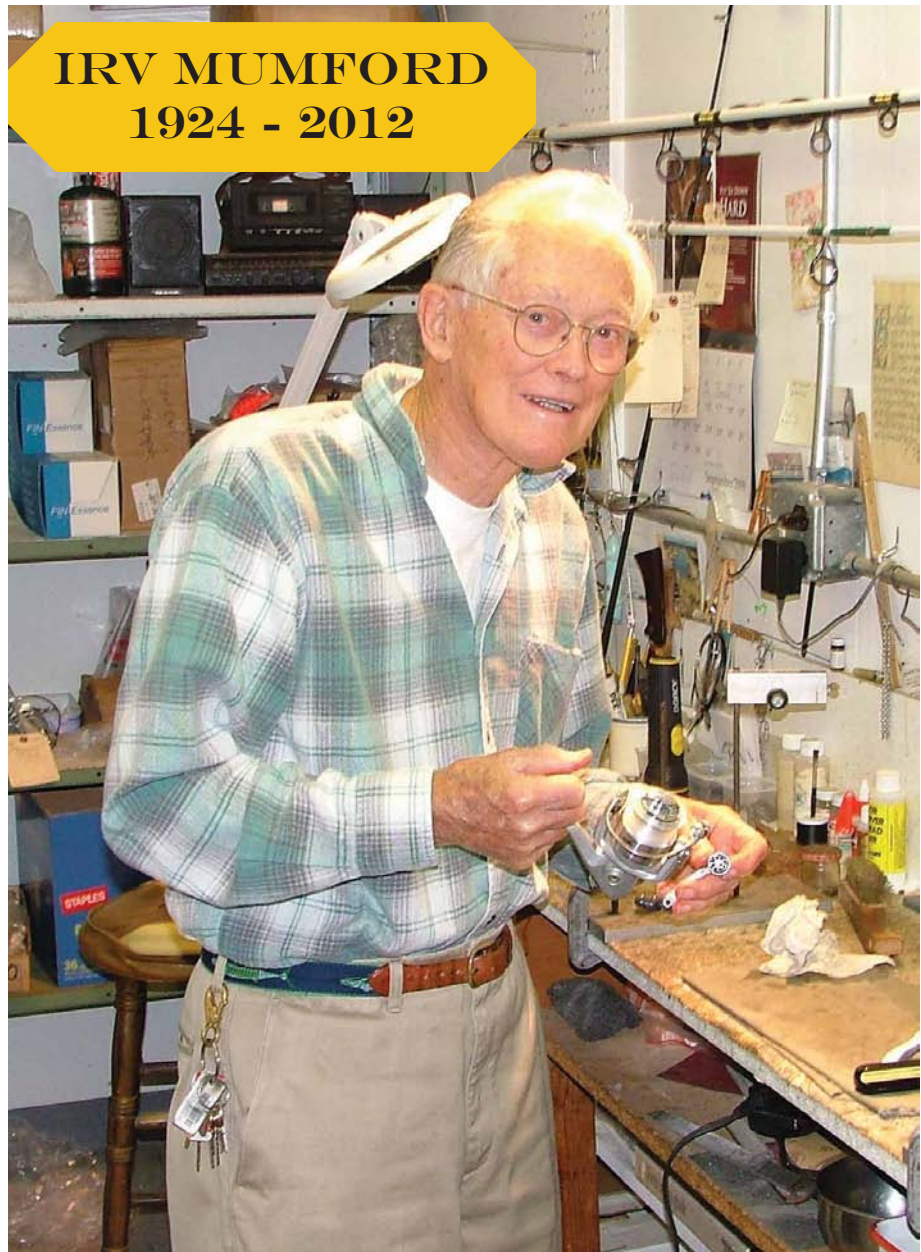






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BLUE CRAB

5" minimum
1 bushel/person



BLACK DRUM

16" minimum
3 per person/day



CROAKER

8" minimum No creel limit



RED DRUM

20" - 27" minimum 5 per person/day



SHEEPSHEAD

No limit



SPECKLED TROUT

12" minimum No creel limit



STRIPED BASS

28" except only 20" - 26" 7/1 - 8/31 in
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2 per person except catch & release
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16" minimum
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5/12 - 7/16 CLOSED



SUMMER FLOUNDER

18" minimum 4 per person/day
1/1 - 10/23
10/24 - 12/31 CLOSED



WEAKFISH

13" minimum
1 per person/day



The first mako shark caught this year came at the hands of Joseph Cangianelli while fishing on the "Reel Life" with Capt. Phil Williams. The 96.2 lb. mako was landed on Sunday, April 29th deep between the Baltimore and Poor Man's Canyons in 62-degree water. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.



Michelle Berezansky captured a pair of 20-inch flounder while drifting minnows in the Lewes Canal.



Chuck Wenzel of West Ocean City, MD landed this 19.5-inch flounder in the Thorofare while fishing on the "Martini Time" with Aric Gilley. Chuck caught the flattie on a chartreuse Gulp! Alive Swimming Mullet. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Ashley Beardsley of Long Neck, DE captured this 35-inch striper while fishing with bloodworms in the Nanticoke River.

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Ship To Shore

by Pat Schrawder



NEW FOR 2012

You know the old saying, "Good things come in small packages". That's how I feel about one of the great new products for this year from ACR. It is their ResQLink 2880 and 2881 PLB (Personal Locator Beacon).

I have covered EPIRB unit technology previously but, for those of you who may have missed it, the field of emergency locator beacons is one that has saved many lives of boaters over the years since its invention. These beacons now come in a variety of sizes and features, but they all work on the same principle. Once activated, either manually or automatically, your locator beacon sends a signal to COSPAS satellites with a unique identifier number for

your unit. That emergency signal, along with the personal information provided when you register your unit and your current location is sent to local "Search And Rescue" teams.



What is exciting this year is that these locator beacons are now available in much smaller sizes and lower prices, making

them available to almost any boater. The ACR ResQLink 2881 unit weighs 5.4 oz and measures 1.6" x 1.9" x 4.5". According to ACR, it is the smallest buoyant PLB on the market. It contains its own GPS receiver for exact positioning within 100 meters or less and the 406 MHz and 121.5 MHz signals should have contact with "Search and Rescue" within 5 minutes. It is simple to operate. You just swing open the antenna and press the "on" button. The 2881 model floats, has an LED strobe, will transmit for 30 hours and has a battery life of 5 years unless deployed in an emergency. It comes with a strap to attach the unit to your arm or other area. Remember, that "Search And Rescue" is looking for the signal where the PLB is located. If you want it to find YOU, then make sure you have the PLB attached to your body.

Another great feature of this unit and others is their website (www.406Link.com). For \$39.95 per year, you can register your unit with ACR and send "I'm OK" messaging. With this

optional service, you perform the normal self test on the PLB but, when you do, the signal is received by the 406Link antennas and processed through the Internet to send an email or SMS text message to a cell phone confirming that the unit is operating properly. A total of 420 such messages can be sent over the 5-year life span of the unit. For an additional \$20, you can sign up for the Plus service that will send that message to up to 5 contacts, along with a GPS location and a link to GPS mapping showing the satellite image of your location.

The list price for the original model is \$325 and \$360 for the enhanced model that floats. This is well worth its price especially when you consider its small size and the fact that you can also use it when you are hiking, skiing or just traveling in your car.

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

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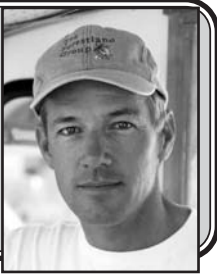
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Chum Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson



Whether you're a captain, a fishing guide or just someone with a boat who occasionally takes friends or family out fishing, you've probably come to realize that the fishing skills of those who go out with you can greatly affect the amount of fish that are caught throughout the day. While it's often said that "a carpenter is only as good as his tools," I think it's also fair to say that a really good carpenter can make-do with lousy tools and still produce fine work. In the same respect, really good fishermen can produce fish even when the anglers they have to work with are lacking in fishing skills themselves.

So often we hear accounts of folks who go out fishing for their very first time and land some giant blue marlin, tuna or other monster-size fish. Though the media will often headline such stories as "beginners luck," and those who don't know a lot about fishing will pass it off as just happenstance that someone with no fishing skills was able to land such a prize, the full story usually reveals that somewhere in the process there was an experienced angler

involved who helped set the stage so that his friend or client could hook and land such a fish. This is not to suggest that the beginner angler might not have hooked, fought and landed the fish by following normal fishing ethics and standards. The catch can be 100-percent legitimate and the angler deserving of all due credit. However, somewhere in the background there probably stands another fisherman, a captain, guide, or friend who deserves just as much recognition for the catch, because if it weren't for them the fish would never have been landed.

Just like a carpenter who might have really sharp and precise power tools to work with one day and nothing but a hatchet to do the same job with the next, from my own charter business I've come to know that whenever I take people out fishing there will be days when I have clients aboard who have fishing skills that really help to make my day easy and other times when every catch is a struggle. But I don't complain about the skills of my clients because if everyone were an expert angler then there would

be little request for those in my occupation. My clients are the tools I have to work with each day, and if I'm a good enough fisherman we should be able to pull off a decent catch even when my tools aren't very sharp.

It's all a matter of capitalizing on the strengths and working around the weaknesses of each angler. Say for instance you're offshore trolling with a man, his wife and a couple young kids. If the goal is to have everyone in the group catch fish then it might not be prudent to target strictly blue marlin and bigeye tuna on heavy tackle because the kids and possibly the wife won't be able to handle the physical demands of such a fight. A trolling spread that includes a couple heavy rods rigged for the big fish (for dad) along with some lighter tackle with smaller baits intended for dolphin, bonito and white marlin for the rest of the family might be just the ticket for providing that group with the kind of action they can both handle and enjoy.

Sometimes an angler's skill level is not apparent until they're actually put to the task of working a big fish to the boat. Those with experience can make it look easy; lift the rod - crank it down - lift the rod - crank it down, and don't crank if the fish is taking line. That's the way it's supposed to be done, but during the heat of the battle not everyone can get that rhythm no matter how much you coach them, and that's where a good captain can make up for lousy angler skills. By turning the boat so that the fish is always behind it and then slowly moving ahead just fast enough to keep tension on the line, all the angler has to do is concentrate on cranking the reel. If the angler gets tired, the captain might be able to slowly back down on the fish to help them regain line without so much physical work.

Poor casting ability is another aspect of fishing that can be a real challenge for a guide to overcome. But, where there's a will there's a way! I've spent a lot of time taking

people out to cast lures for bluefish and stripers in our inlet and back bay waters and for other fish down in Florida. Many times the fish will be holding in a specific location making lure placement crucial to getting a bite and sloppy casting just won't cut it. On such occasions when the "tools" I have aboard for making those casts (i.e. my clients) can't make it happen, I've often anchored the boat up-current and put floating/diving plugs on their lines so that they can just drift their lures back to where the fish are laid up and then crank them back into the current and through the strike-zone. We've done the same thing when using jigs and even bait by adding a small float to the line so that the offering can be floated instead of cast to the fish.

Boat positioning is most critical when working with fly-fishermen to ensure that the fish are within the effective range of each angler, the vessel is angled such that back-casts won't come back and foul on the boat, the wind is at the fisherman's back whenever possible and current will allow the flies to find their way into the strike zone. Whether using fly or conventional tackle, good casting always makes life easier for the guy running the boat. But when necessary, an experienced captain will use creative tactics to make up for angling deficiencies by his crew.

It's easy for someone to pin the blame for a poor catch on the lack of skill of the people they took out with them. But just as a great carpenter can build a beautiful home with little more than a handsaw and a hammer, the mark of a great fisherman might be that he's able to pull off a decent catch no matter what "tools" he has to work with.

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

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Rob Gearhart from Montgomery, PA was fishing off of the Indian River Inlet Jetty on April 21st when he hooked into this 42-inch, 32 lb. striper. Rob weighed his catch at Rattle & Reel Sporting Center.



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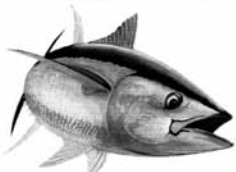
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(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - ties go to first fish reported)

Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
Sea Bass 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Mako Shark 	No Weights Reported	April 29, 2012 Joseph Cangianelli Baltimore Canyon 96.2 lbs.
Tautog 	January 11, 2012 Charlie Donohue "Morning Star" 23 lbs.	April 21, 2012 Clark Koehn Delaware Bay Reef 17 lbs.	Thresher Shark 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Striped Bass 	February 10, 2012 John Rogowitz Little Gull 41 lbs.	April 21, 2012 Rob Gearhart Indian River Inlet 32 lbs.	Bluefin Tuna 	April 29, 2012 Mike Sears Baltimore Canyon 70 lbs.	No Weights Reported
Weakfish 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Yellowfin Tuna 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Speckled Trout 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Longfin Tuna 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Flounder 	April 14, 2012 John Brockmeyer Behind OC Airport 8 lbs. 4 oz.	No Weights Reported	Bigeye Tuna 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Bluefish 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Dolphin 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Sheepshead 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Wahoo 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Cobia 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	White Marlin 	Most Releases in One Day None Reported	None Reported

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



Tautog sniper Alex Levantovsky of Philadelphia, PA captured this 16.25 lb. tautog on a rock crab at an ocean reef back in January. Alex was fishing on the head boat "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mate Mike Kinder.



This past winter saw a tremendous striper bite and Jesse Baird was there to capitalize on it, landing this 31 lb. 13 oz. linesider at Overfalls Shoal in the Delaware Bay. Jesse caught the fish on a bucktail and weighed his catch at Bill's Sport Shop.

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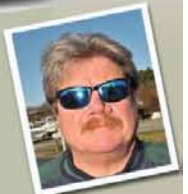
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Back in February, Billy Gee took advantage of an excellent striper bite, landing this 45 incher while trolling parachute rigs off of Sea Colony on the "Little Ebb".



This group of anglers on the "57 Chins" had a fantastic winter striper season, catching fish from the Indian River Inlet down to Winter Quarter Shoal. On this day at the end of January, they caught their limit while trolling mojos, Tsumai tandems and The King's secret lure inside the Sliver. Pictured are Joe Hurley, Bo Smeltzer, Collin Hurley, Charlie Sitskorn, and Kevin Baggett. Not pictured is the leader of this motley crew, Pat Hurley. Collin boated the largest striper this day, measuring 45-inches.



In early February, Ken Yuen was fishing with Capt. Chris Mizurak of the "Angler" when he captured this 10 lb. 8 oz. tautog while fishing with green crabs at an ocean wreck.



Katelyn Wingate of Fenwick, DE caught this 19.5-inch flounder in the Indian River back in March. It appears that pink is Katelyn's favorite color so it comes as no surprise that she fooled the flattie with a pink and white Gulp! Fluke Killer. Katelyn was fishing with her dad, Don Wingate.



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Virginia Fishing Report

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



In spite of the dominant breezy conditions keeping anglers close to shore again last week, the saltwater spring procession is well on its way. Once anglers can get outside of the inlets, the fish will be ready and willing.

The first species on most anglers' list is still red drum. Some days are better than others, but a few good days, with some boats releasing more than a dozen big reds, is evidence that the bite is on the rise. As we transition closer to the full moon, the bite will continue to improve along the breakers and turbulent shallow water of the barrier islands on the Eastern Shore. Most are targeting these fish off Smith and Fisherman Islands, but the catches are spread out, with fish biting close to the beaches in 3-feet of water, to well outside the inlets in up to 10-feet of water. Red drum are a local favorite due to their fierce strike and challenging fight, with some fish pushing up to around 60-pounds.

Black drum hook-ups are also on the rise. Although most of the fish are on the



Charlie Sitskorn of West Ocean City, MD wasn't known as the "Whiffmeister General" on this day when he ventured south to the Chesapeake Bay and was rewarded with a 48-inch, 50 lb. striped bass. Charlie was fishing by himself when he hooked the big fish while drifting a live eel below the Cement Ships in late December.

smallish side, some larger blacks are starting to show more activity. The largest fish are still coming from up the shore near Quinby and Machipongo, but scattered catches are coming from the Fisherman Island surf. Anglers have a good chance of

catching both red and black drum in the same areas, especially if both clams and crabs are offered. May is usually a good month for blacks, and Chris' Bait and Tackle's Black Drum Tournament runs for the entire month of May.

The flounder bite was still hit and miss last week, but scattered keepers are rewarding those who put in their time, especially in the Eastern Shore seaside inlets, Oyster, Magothy Bay and Back River Reef. Around the lower Bay, folks are finding the best luck drifting with cut bait and gudgeons around the 1st and 2nd islands of the Bay Bridge Tunnel, the ODU Reef and off the concrete ships. Scattered keepers are available in the Rudee Inlet and decent flatties averaging around 22-inches are coming from the Lynnhaven River. A few bigger fish pushing up to 5-pounds are also in the mix

within the Inlet where fish to around 5-pounds have been responding near the Great Neck Road Bridge and the Lesner Bridges lately.

Croaker continue to bite in various areas in the Bay, especially near Willoughby, Ocean View and off the Little Creek Jetties. The folks at the Ocean View Fishing Pier report good catches of croaker mostly in the evenings and at night, with anglers filling up buckets with fish measuring up to 14-inches. The biggest hardheads are still coming from the lower Bay rivers. Big round head, blow toads, and scattered flounder catches are adding some variety from the pier where anglers are enticing the most strikes with bloodworms.

The folks at Ocean's East 2 report that speckled trout are still around but folks are mostly turning to other activities. A few specks are still coming from the lower Bay inlets and the Elizabeth River along with some nice puppy drum pushing to 30-inches. Snapper and tailor bluefish were all over the lower Bay, especially within the inlets and around the HRBT last week. Anglers are also finding some decent gray trout and schoolie stripers mixed in with the blues at the HRBT while using Gotcha plugs.

A few medium-sized sheepshead are also becoming active on some lower Bay structures.

The coastal and Bay trophy striped bass seasons opened May 1st with one fish per person at 32-inches or larger, but most anglers will be more interested in drum and flounder.

A few boats reported good catches of blueline tilefish ranging to 12-pounds, nice black bellied rosefish and a few wreckfish on a recent deep dropping trip to the Canyon. Although the dogfish are still around, they are beginning to thin out.

For more information, go to www.drjball.com.

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Sue Foster, owner of Oyster Bay Tackle and Fenwick Tackle, took some time off this past winter to go fishing out of Long Key, FL. On this day she caught a beautiful speckled trout while casting a lead head tipped with a Gulp! Swimming Mullet.



Dave Beach of Ocean City, MD caught this 17.5-inch tautog on a green crab while fishing off the 3rd Street Bulkhead during the outgoing tide in mid-April. Pictured at Oyster Bay Tackle.



Over the winter, Ashley Farren boated this 23.6 lb. striped bass while trolling Stretch 25's at Overfall Shoals. Ashley was fishing on the "Scuba Doo" with Capt. Dave Potter. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Mike Meszaros caught this pair of cod during a trip aboard the head boat "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mate Mike Kinder. The largest fish weighed 9 lbs. and was caught at an artificial reef on a green crab.

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Go online to join the survey (including other great Maryland sport fish) at:

<http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/survey/index.asp>

Special thanks to Keith Fraser and AllTackle.com for supporting this helpful volunteer angler survey!



Shane Townsend ventured down to Wachapreague, VA to do a little flounder fishing and returned with this 6 lb. 10 oz. flattie caught while drifting live minnows. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Tackle Shop

by Larry Jock



The Boomerang Tool Company out of Los Altos, CA has come up with a line of fishing tools that share one common characteristic. They all have retractable lanyards. How many times have you



searched for a snip, a knife or a pair of pliers when you needed them? Here are products that you can attach to your boat or your clothing and have them available when you need them. No more searching.

The Boomerang Snip was the first of their products I

stumbled upon while in a local tackle shop. I was very impressed with the retractable stainless steel blades and tested them out on braided line, which they cut with ease. The Snip comes either with or without an LED light, which would definitely come in handy while fishing in low light conditions.

The Snip retails for \$11.95 without the LED light and \$14.95 with the light.

After contacting the Boomerang Tool Company, I got a hold of their Big Catch Pliers, which I like as much as The Snip.

The pliers also have a retractable, kevlar lanyard, but more importantly, have replaceable carbide cutters that easily cut monofilament and braided lines. The blades can be replaced with an allen wrench

and cost \$8.95.

The heavy duty, spring-loaded handles are covered with slip-resistant grips that feel good in your hand and really allow you to get a solid hold on whatever you are handling.



Although the company doesn't promote them as replaceable, the stainless steel jaw ends can also be replaced with an allen wrench. The ends are shaped more like needle nose pliers and would easily remove a hook imbedded in a fish's throat.

The pliers also have a quick release lanyard brake that prevents the lanyard from retracting.

The pliers have an MSRP of \$19.95, more than reasonable

for such a good pair of pliers. They are definitely worth the money.

The company also produces a Swift Cut Knife with a 3-inch stainless steel lockblade that can be opened with only one hand. The blade features a blunt end to prevent punctures, a 2-inch fine edge and a 1-inch serrated edge. You will want to sharpen the blade before you use it since it doesn't come with the sharpest of edges.



Like the pliers, the knife handle is made of slip-resistant material and the kevlar lanyard is locked until released with a quick release cable break.

The knife also come with a carrying pouch and retails for a pricey \$26.95.

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Flounder Magic

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Captain: Alan Bowmaster
Phone: 410-289-2565

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FISHING REPORT

4.18.12 12:39 pm

by Larry Jock

BE THE FIRST TO HEAR ABOUT FISHING REPORTS AND BREAKING NEWS BY FOLLOWING US ON TWITTER @COASTALFISHERMAN.

HAVE PICTURES OF YOUR CATCHES FROM OVER THE WINTER??? EMAIL THEM TO US AT COASTALFISHERMAN@COMCAST.NET TO GET THEM INTO AN UPCOMING ISSUE. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE ALL THE NECESSARY INFORMATION. THANKS!

TUESDAY, April 17, 2012

Flounder fishing was tough today. Anglers had to put up with the bad slurry we have had since opening day. Makes it tough to fish when that gunk gets on your lure almost immediately upon entry.

MONDAY, April 16, 2012

Paul Vreeland from West OC stopped by the office this morning with 3 keeper flounder caught on live minnows in the bay behind Assateague, south of the OC Airport. Largest measured 22-inches.

The "Get Sum" had 4 keeper flounder measuring between 17.5 and 21-inches during their morning trip. Fish hit on chartreuse and pink Gulp artificial baits in the Thorofare during the outgoing tide.

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On the opening day of Maryland's flounder season, Mike Tuel and Chris Tilghman of Ocean City, MD caught 4 keeper flatties while fishing in the Thorofare and the flats north of the Thorofare. One flounder was caught on a shiner while the other 3 were caught on bucktails tipped with live minnows. The fish measured between 17.5 inches and 19-inches.



Mike Acito from Midland Park, NJ and Dae Kim of Timonium, MD each caught a pair of big tautog while fishing on the head boat "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mates Mike Kinder and Rich Silvani. Mike's largest measured 28-inches and Dae's came in at 26.5-inches. All were caught on white crabs. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Viktor Tsvetanov, in pursuit of "Top Fisherman" honors at Mancini's Italian Restaurant in Fenwick, DE, landed this 28-inch striper while tossing a bucktail into the bay behind Ocean City. Owner Gabby Mancini can definitely feel Viktor breathing down his neck for the coveted award.




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Straight from the MD DNR Fisheries Service

Marty Gary

Assistant Director/Fisheries Ecologist - Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service

On behalf of my colleagues at Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service, welcome to another highly anticipated fishing season on Maryland's Atlantic coast. Our biologists have been busy for the past couple of months stocking trout in inland waters and in the Chesapeake Bay with the monitoring of anadromous fish spawning and our hatchery operations. Now, with the arrival of May, attention turns to Maryland's coast. The Maryland DNR has an entire team that works on our coastal fishery resources. Anglers wishing to obtain the latest information on fisheries management at the Maryland DNR can access that information through a variety of means, including:

- Subscribing to email updates on tidal, recreational fishing information at <http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/emailcontact.asp>

- Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MDDNRFisheriesService>

- Follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/#!/mddnrfish>

- On the Maryland DNR Fisheries website at <http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/>

- Follow the proceedings of the Maryland DNR Coastal Fisheries Advisory Committee at <http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/management/index.asp?com=cfac>

If you have any questions, always feel free to contact Keith Lockwood, our

recreational fisheries liaison via email at klockwood@dnr.state.md.us or by phone at 410-260-8289.

Licensing & Saltwater Registration Update and Reminders for Recreational Anglers

DNR has launched an all new licensing system. The new system is called COMPASS. It is a web based system, and it replaces the multi decade old system formally known as COIN. The COMPASS website is located on the MD DNR website at <https://compass.dnr.maryland.gov/dnrcompassportal>

The new system will provide greater flexibility for license and registration transactions for our fishermen. Because of the license and registration requirements in Maryland, anglers do not need to register with NOAA. This saves Maryland anglers \$15 a year.

Anglers will need to go through an initial enrollment by providing a baseline of information. Once enrolled, anglers can easily log in to purchase licenses, register and reprint licenses. An email account is required to enroll, and anglers have an option to receive email updates from the DNR on a range of activities. By purchasing a Maryland saltwater fishing license, anglers are automatically registered in the National Saltwater Angler Registry. Certain anglers that are exempt from purchasing a fishing license will still need to register with the State of Maryland. License exempt anglers can register for free online through COMPASS, or call the telephone help center for assistance at 1-855-855-3906. The call center is open 7 days/week from 7 AM until 7

PM. Exempt anglers will need to register if they are: passengers on a boat with a pleasure boat fishing decal, waterfront property owners (fishing from their property) and their family, anglers fishing in a free fishing area, and anglers in possession of a Virginia or Potomac River Fisheries Commission saltwater fishing license.

Species Management Updates

Thanks to its diverse and high quality fishery resources, Ocean City is a great fishing destination for Maryland's residents and visitors from other states. From the great inshore action for flounder, striped bass, bluefish and other species to world class offshore fishing for marlin, tuna, dolphin, and sharks, it's no wonder fishermen travel from all over to come to Ocean City. For this week's update we'll focus on two important inshore species that you can catch right now.

Summer Flounder

Clearly the most popular species in Ocean City, flounder can be caught by fishermen of all ages and abilities. From shore, boat or surf there is no more highly pursued fish than the summer flounder. For those that have followed flounder management over the years, they know how variable the seasons and creel limits have been in the past. The good news is that thanks to a coastal stock rebuilding plan, good data and cooperative management, flounder stocks are in much better condition now than in years past. The 2011 summer flounder stock assessment update indicated summer flounder are not overfished and overfishing is

CATCH A POACHER

"Poaching" deprives the public of the opportunity to use and enjoy Maryland's natural resources. Preserving our natural resources for our present and future enjoyment is everyone's responsibility.

IT'S ILLEGAL

- Taking sportfish or game out of season
- Taking of banned sportfish or non-game wildlife
- Exceeding creel or bag limits (legal quantity in possession)
- Taking game or sportfish with illegal methods or equipment
- Taking fish outside of established hours

REWARD

Citizens who supply the Natural Resources Police with information leading to the arrest and conviction of a violator will receive cash rewards. Be specific in the description of individuals. When possible, give name, addresses and vehicle descriptions. The anonymity of the information/caller is guaranteed.

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The Maryland Department of Natural Resources
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Tawes State Office Building, Annapolis, MD

not occurring. The summer flounder stock is considered to have reached its biomass target in 2010, and the stock is considered rebuilt, ahead of the rebuilding deadline of January 1, 2013. The total annual quota is divided between the recreational fishery (40%) and the commercial fishery (60%). Recreational bag/size limits and seasons are determined on a state-by-state basis using a technique known as conservation equivalency. Maryland came in under its quota in 2011. As a result, and because the stock is healthy, regulations will be allowed to ease this season. The 2012 minimum size drops a full inch to 17-inches with a daily creel limit of 3 fish per person, per day. The season length has also been expanded. The season began on April 14th and will run through December 16th. Some of the largest flounder of the year are caught during the late-April through mid-May period. Overall, the outlook for the 2012 summer flounder season looks very bright.

Tautog

Tautog (also known as blackfish) is yet another popular species for recreational fishermen. They can be caught inshore on rocky structure such as jetties and bridge pilings, and on the near shore wrecks and artificial reefs. Coastwide, they can be found throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. Because of their affinity for structure, they can be very tricky to catch. Stronger lines and terminal tackle are recommended to wrestle them out of the structure they inhabit. Beginner anglers can catch them, but often they are pursued by advanced anglers with specialized gear. They are excellent as table fare. Tautog are a member of the wrasse family. They exhibit slow growth, a low reproductive rate, and with their tendency to congregate around structure they can be susceptible to being overfished.

The 2011 tautog stock assessment update indicated spawning stock biomass has remained at low levels for the last decade. The current coastwide fishing mortality is estimated to be well above the tautog management plan's target. Overfishing has occurred since 2005.

The Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for tautog focuses on reducing fishing mortality to help boost the abundance of the fish. The plan also outlines a number of research and monitoring needs that are essential to ensuring better management of the tautog stock. In order to end overfishing and initiate stock rebuilding, the tautog fishery management plan required Atlantic coast states to implement measures to achieve a 39% reduction in fishing by January 1, 2012. In order to comply with the plan, Maryland proposed and adopted the following season for 2012:

- April 2nd through May 15th / 4 fish per person per day / 16 inch minimum size
- May 16th through October 31st / 2 fish per person per day / 16 inch minimum size
- November 1st through November 14th / 4 fish per person per day / 16 inch minimum size

DNR may extend the tautog season further into November based upon late breaking developments in the Atlantic Coast stock assessment. However, under current regulations the season will close from November 16 through December 31, reopening on New Year's Day 2013 with a four fish limit.

That is the latest update from the Maryland Department of Natural Resource's Fisheries Service. If you have a question you would like answered, feel free to send them to me.

Enjoy the start of the season and until next time....tight lines



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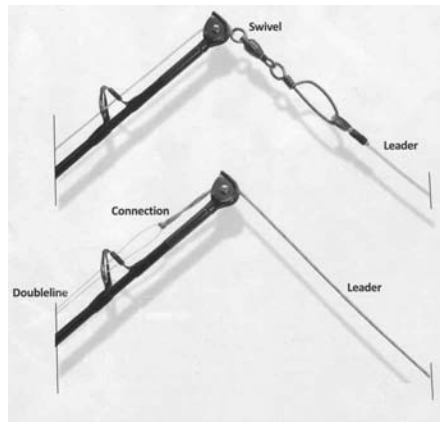
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NEW IGFA RELEASE RULES APPROVED

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Many fishing tournaments, especially for billfish, use IGFA's angling rules as their foundation. Central to this is the belief that IGFA rules stipulate that a fish is considered caught once the leader is wound to the rod tip or grasped by the mate or other person. However, no such language exists in IGFA's angling rules because these rules were designed for world records, where the fish is not



considered caught until it was weighed.

Over the years, IGFA has been approached by numerous individuals to codify a set of release rules. It is IGFA's hope that establishing a definition for an official release will not only institute a standard by which anglers can compare releases, but also, and more importantly, encourage anglers to continue releasing fish. At its recent annual board meeting in January, the IGFA Board of Trustees approved the following:

IGFA will consider a fish officially released when one of the following actions is completed:

- The mate is able to grab the leader
- The swivel hits the rod tip
- The connection (knot, splice, etc.) between the leader and the mainline/double line/ fly line

passes through the rod tip

Leader lengths must conform to current IGFA tackle requirements. Specifically, for line up to and including 20 lb. test, the leader may not exceed 15 feet. In lines over 20 lb. test, the leader may not be in excess of 30 feet. All leader measurements are inclusive of the lure or hook arrangement and are measured to the bend of the last hook. IGFA tackle requirements for fly fishing do not stipulate a maximum overall length for fly leaders. However, since IGFA rules do not allow class tippets heavier than 20 lbs., IGFA will adopt the convention of allowing a maximum fly leader length of 15 feet in keeping in accordance with the regulations for conventional tackle. Fly leader length is inclusive of the fly and will be measured to the bend of the last hook. Shock tippets may not measure more than 12-inches in length and class tippets must be minimum of 15-inches in length.

In addition to the suggested rule above, IGFA also recommends the following best practices for safe and ethical release of fish.

- Circle hooks are encouraged when fishing with live or dead natural bait.
- The hook should be removed if possible and will not cause additional harm to angler or fish.
- If the hook cannot be removed, the leader should be cut as close to hook as possible.
- Mates should refrain from manually breaking or "popping" leaders because this can cause additional harm to fish, especially those not hooked in the jaw.
- Ample time should be taken to revive exhausted fish by gently moving them forward in the water to get water flowing over the gills.
- Knotless, rubber coated nets should be used on fish that are netted.

For more information about IGFA International Angling Rules, contact IGFA World Records Coordinator Jack Vitek at 954-924-4246 or email jvitek@igfa.org.

BILLFISH FOUNDATION RECOGNIZES MARYLAND ANGLERS

Every time they fish on three oceans, anglers and captains -- like two anglers from Maryland -- are helping scientific research. They were



among 46 winners from around the world to receive The Billfish Foundation's 2011 Tag & Release Awards.

Since 1990 they've become the heart-and-soul of TBF's eminent conservation program committed to tag and release of billfish from the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans, while supplying valuable data critical to learning the pelagic species migratory habits.

Victoria Roberts of Stevensville, MD, a multi-time winner, took honors as the top tagging angler in the Atlantic Ocean for white marlin, while Paul Legnard of Arnold, MD won as the top release angler for sailfish, also in the Atlantic category. It was his first time win with TBF.

The TBF Annual Tag and Release Awards, presented during the Miami International Boat Show each February, is the world's premier big game fishing competition, with thousands

of TBF member anglers and captains from 70 countries invited to compete. The 2011 competition ran from Nov. 1, 2010 to Oct. 31, 2011 with "tagging data reports" and "release notification cards" generated from the ocean's temperate waters where a majority of the world's billfish inhabit. To qualify, active TBF members must have tagged and/or released five or more of a species. TBF's Youth Program, recognizing the conservation ethics and achievements of young anglers, has a minimum of three billfish in three age groups.

"Today, instead of catch-and-kill, more anglers are tagging more fish than ever before," said TBF Science and Policy Director Peter Chaibongsai. "We had a total of 5,399 release records and 4,410 tag records for the competition, an increase over last year."

"In the 22 years of TBF's program over 168,000 billfish have been tagged and of those more than 2,800 have been recaptured and most re-released. TBF's release category which began nine years ago, has logged in over 66,000 billfish releases."

Recently celebrating its 25th anniversary, TBF works worldwide to advance the conservation of billfish and associated species and to improve the health of oceans and dependent economies. Chaibongsai can be reached at 800-438-8247 ext. 107, at tag@billfish.org or at Peter_Chaibongsai@billfish.org.



Brandon Alberto of Berlin, MD was fishing in the Nanticoke River when he caught this 38-inch striped bass in late March.



Over the Easter weekend, Zack Graves from Courtland, NY was fishing from the surf in Ocean City when he landed this 40-inch striper on a chunk of fresh bunker. Picture courtesy of Oyster Bay Tackle.

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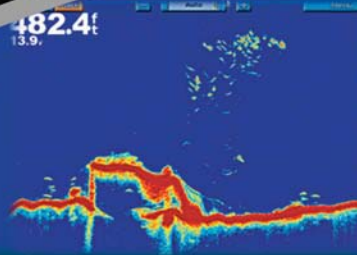
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Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"
Golden Tilefish	28"	35 lbs. or 40"
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 36"
Red Drum *	Any Size	45"
Sailfish *	Any Size	-
Seabass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"
Speckled Trout	24"	-
Striped Bass	40"	30 lbs. or 40"

* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program

*** Use curved-fork-length measurements

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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 ***	60"	100 lbs. or 60"
Yellowfin ***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"
Wahoo	60"	35 lbs. or 40"
Weakfish	24"	20 lbs. or 50"
White Marlin **	Any Size	Any Size

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

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Dave McKay of West Ocean City, MD and Laser Electric took a couple of trips to Wachapreague, VA this spring to flounder fish and was rewarded with some great catches. Here is one flounder, measuring 20-inches, that was part of his group's limit of flatties in March.



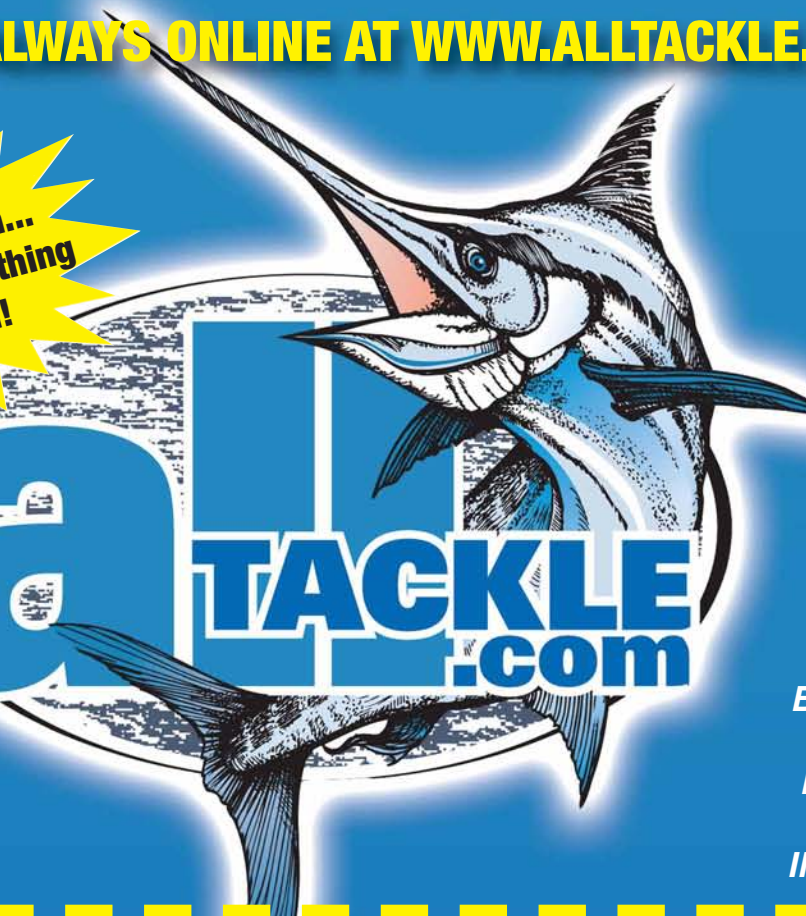
Before the regulations changed to a 16-inch minimum size, Brandon Steinhice caught his first keeper tautog of the year while fishing off of 6th Street in Ocean City. The fish measured 14.5-inches and was caught on a frozen sand flea. Picture courtesy of Oyster Bay Tackle.



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In January, John Wittmeyer from Crabs-To-Go in Berlin, MD took a trip to Los Sueños, Costa Rica and was rewarded with 5 sailfish releases and a blue marlin estimated at 400 lbs. John was fishing on the "Tuna Bite" with Capt. Howard Lynch, Darren King and Patrick McCloskey. The group ended the trip with 2 blue marlin releases and 10 sailfish releases.

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4th Annual Strictly Boaters Boat Show

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May 4-6

The boat show for boaters!

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June 7-10

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Bert Adams took time off from his Hook'em & Cook'em empire to do some fishing with Joe and Amanda Morris in the Keys over the winter. Bert landed this yellowtail while fishing at Maryland Shoal, south of Cudjoe Key. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.



Dave Offerman and Mike Johnston spent some time in Rin Con, Puerto Rico this past winter and ended one day with two wahoo in the box. The fish tipped the scales at 47 lbs. and 62 lbs.

TIDES & MOON PHASES

OCEAN CITY INLET

Wed. May 2	Low 11:02 am Low 11:40 pm	High 05:05 am High 05:39 pm
Thurs. May 3	Low 11:54 am Low -----	High 05:57 am High 06:32 pm
Fri. May 4	Low 12:38 am Low 12:45 pm	High 06:50 am High 07:26 pm
Sat. May 5	Low 01:33 am Low 01:35 pm	High 07:43 am High 08:21 pm
Sun. May 6 Full Moon	Low 02:28 am Low 02:24 pm	High 08:37 am High 09:16 pm
Mon. May 7	Low 03:18 am Low 03:15 pm	High 09:31 am High 10:10 pm
Tues. May 8	Low 04:11 am Low 04:07 pm	High 10:25 am High 11:04 pm
Wed. May 9	Low 05:06 am Low 05:02 pm	High 11:19 am High 11:58 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.



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• MAY •

29th Annual MSSA Spring Rockfish Tournament
May 4 - 6 • MSSA • 410-255-5535

Bill's Sport Shop Flounder Tournament
May 11 - June 8 • Lewes, DE • 410-255-5535

Lewes Canal Flounder Tournament
May 18 • Lewes Harbour Marina • 302-645-6227

3rd Annual Bluefish Tournament
May 26 - 27 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

• JUNE •

16th Annual Mako Mania
June 1 - 3 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7473

32nd Annual South Jersey Shark Tournament
June 7 - 10 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

54th Annual Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament
Ladies Event: June 9 Tournament: June 11 - 16
Morehead City, NC • 252-247-3575

32nd Annual Ocean City Shark Tournament
June 14 - 16 • OC Fishing Center
410-213-2442 or 410-213-1121

23rd Annual MSSA Tuna-Ment
June 22 - 24 • de Lazy Lizard • 410-255-5535

33rd Annual Small Boat Tournament
June 23 - 24 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

30th Annual Canyon Kick-Off
June 29 - July 1 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

• JULY •

4th Annual Pier Point Marina Flounder Tournament
July 7 - August 11 • Dewey Beach, DE • 302-227-2808

23rd Annual Ocean/Viking Showdown
July 11 - 15 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

25th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament
July 13 - 15 • OC Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

11th Annual Mid-Atlantic Tuna Tournament
July 18 - 21 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

8th Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic
July 21 - 22 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

Branch Kreppel Memorial Blue Marlin Tournament
July 27 - 29 • Sunset Marina • 410-213-9600

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Dave Furio was fishing with bunker head at the Navy Jetties and caught this 17 lb. striper, which he weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Over the winter, Joe Morris of Lewes Harbour Marina caught this 60 lb. amberjack on a butterfly jig in 300 feet of water above a wreck in the Florida Keys.

HAVE A PHOTO OF YOUR CATCH?

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coastalfisherman@comcast.net

Include in the email:

Angler's name & town

Names & towns of others in photo

Weight and/or length of fish

Bait or lure used

Location of catch

Please send the photo file at full size.

Do not compress it and do not run it through any photo software.

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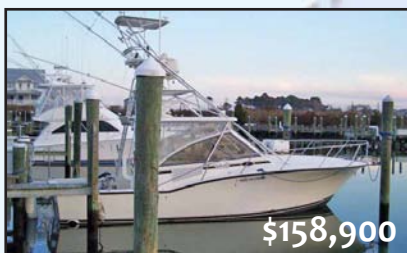
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