

Priceless

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COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOL 47 • • • M 22



The last few weeks have been all about tog fishing! Capt. Chris Mizurak on the head boat "Angler" has been getting his customers on some nice blackfish. On this trip Norman Katrabos shows off two nice blackfish up to 5 lbs with others getting ones to just under 10 lbs. The fish were caught at an artificial reef using crabs and the mates were Rich Fouts and Stephen Anderson.



The Thorofare was apparently the place to be in mid April for flounder! Zachary Klina from Selbyville, DE hooked this 19" flounder there using Gulp while fishing on his boat "Netfish and Chill".



We got this picture just after our Winter Edition was released! Anglers Jackson, Liam and Jeb were fishing only 2 miles off of the Indian River Inlet on Dec 29th trolling Mojoes. They boated 6 with two keepers.



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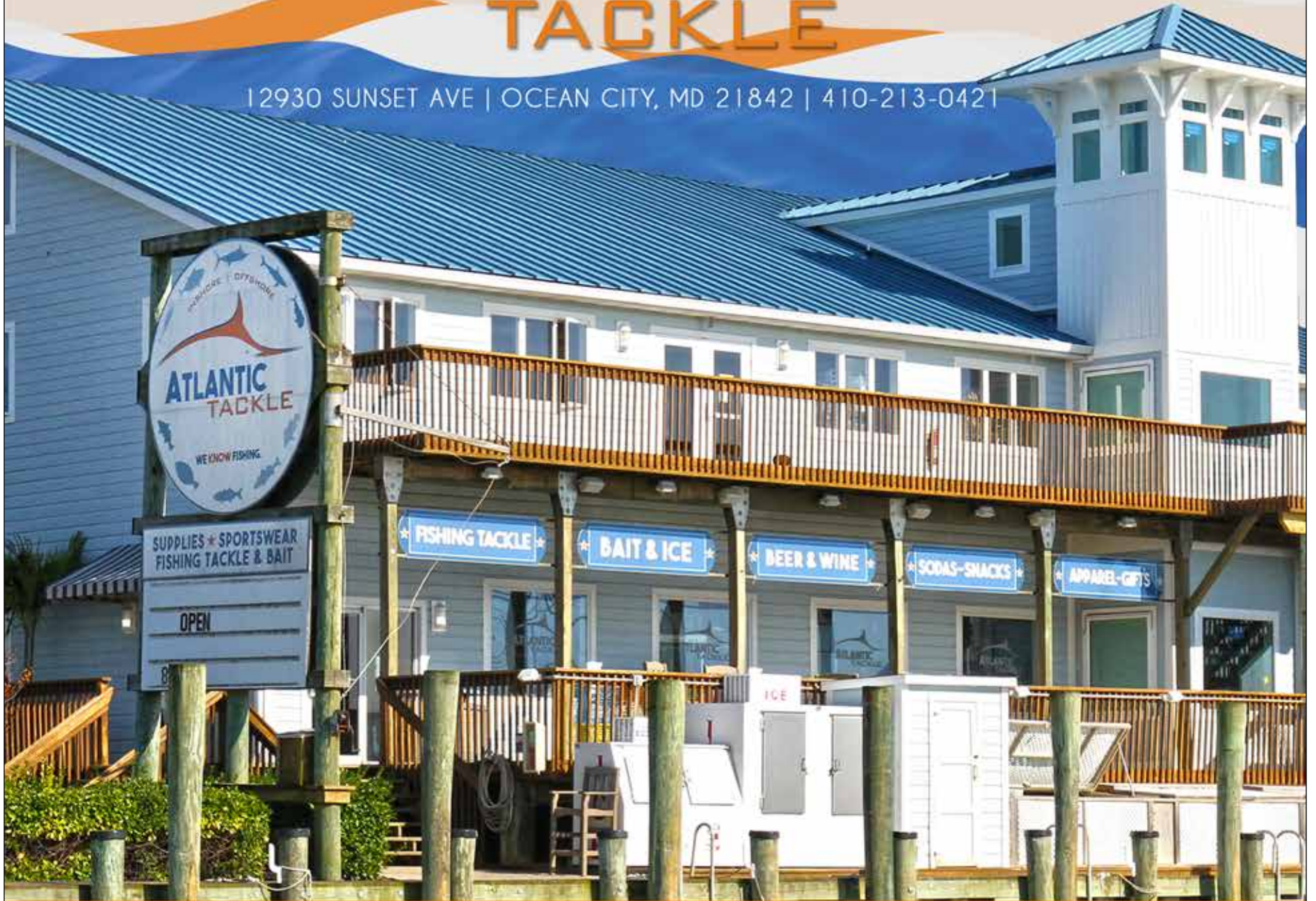
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Kelly Langion-Milano of North Babylon, NY traveled down to OC to try for tog with Capt. Chase Eberle on "Chasin' Tides". While only fishing for tog a few times before, she hit paydirt in late April boating this 18 lb whopper and potentially setting a new IGFA world record for women! She was fishing with husband James Milano, Jason Larson, Bruce Stout Jr., James Graham and Richie Negrón with mate Tanner Virden. All caught some nice size tog using white crab with all released except Kelly's.



Tom Berry caught one of the first black drum of the season!! He was out on Assateague Island on April 5th when this 32" drum hit a #7 circle hook with a buffet of bait made with peeler crab, sand crabs and some Fishbite's clam strips! The sand crabs were fresh as Tom dug them up on the beach.

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Welcome back to another season of the Coastal Fisherman, our 47th year in publication!

Spring this year has been busy in several areas, but our local inshore fishing just started to heat up mid April despite what felt like non stop wind all year! For example our first flounder for 2022 was caught while Scott Lenox was fishing in 29 mph winds. Several other First Fish also made the board for 2022 including seasonal usuals of tog, black drum, bluefish, rockfish. Don Mauzy also reported the first mako shark and probably the only one for 2022 given expected regulation changes. He ran out to the Norfolk Canyon in early February and caught the mako as well as an unusual barrel fish.

You can see these catches in this edition and keep track of who reports in our First Fish tracker. Submit your catch and you could be etched in glory in the Coastal Fisherman for all of 2022!

Speaking of regulation changes, there have been a couple for 2022 already in addition to the expected changes to the mako fishery. The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is an inter-governmental fishery organization responsible for the conservation of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and its



adjacent seas. 52 countries participate in this group and pledge to abide by any rules approved by the body. In 2021 ICCAT members agreed to ban mako shark fishing for 2022 and 2023, and they may extend the restriction further. Each country is then responsible to implement the regulation and NOAA in the United States has been working through their process with and expected implementation date in June. So for now, mako fishing is allowed under the same regulations as last year.

The other notable changes are to the regulations for flounder and black sea bass. All three states in our publication area (DE, MD, VA) have lowered the flounder minimum to 16" a 4 fish daily limit and raised the sea bass minimum to 13" with a creel limit of 15. The sea bass season was also shortened by a couple weeks to December 11th vs the end of the month, so no New Year's Eve fishing this year! As always we post weekly the regs for DE, MD and Federal so you can keep up to date!

These items and more are also shared through our weekly Delaware and Maryland fishing reports. New for 2022 is also the introduction of a Virginia Fishing report from Capt. Matt Abell of Seahawk Sport Center in Pocomoke City, MD. He will keep us up

www.coastalfisherman.net to date on the action on the Virginia Peninsula.

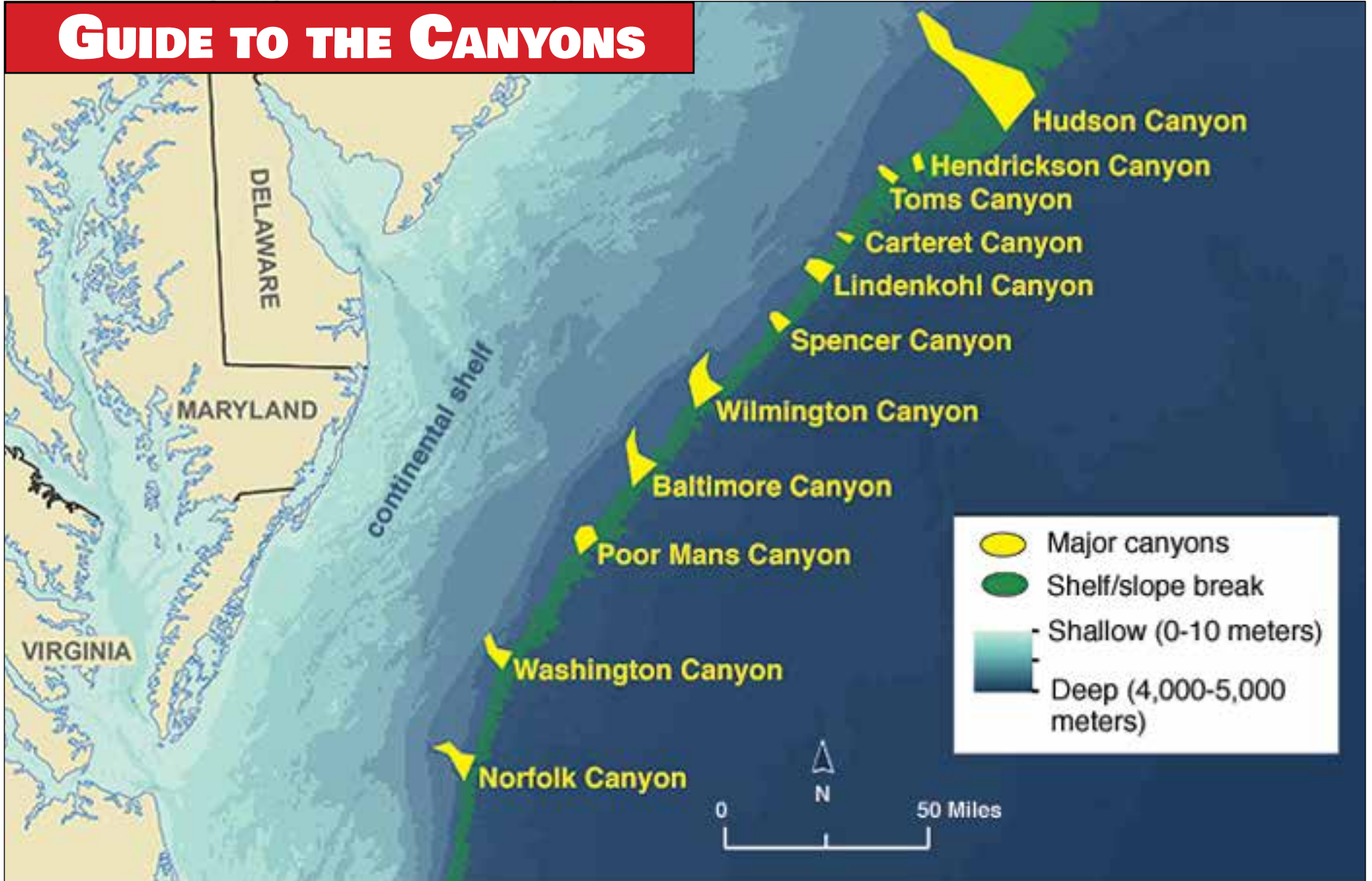
As for offshore fishing, the water is still too cold for most captains to make a run. Several boats remain on the hard still! There are several charters running for tog with several private boats finding some nice blackfish as well. The crew on "Chasing Tides" with Capt. Chase Eberly put angler Kelly Kellz onto a pending Women's AGFA World Record tog that tipped the scale at 18 lbs. with a girth of 24". Capt. Chase has been having a good spring in general! Several headboats have also been boating some nice tog at natural and artificial reefs. Norman Katrabos graces this week's cover with a couple nice tog he caught on the "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak.



Last year was also a colder start to the season, but by the end of May we had filled our First Fish for bluefin, yellowfin and bigeye tuna so reports should be coming in soon.

Lastly we have some news, the Coastal Fisherman is moving to a new office. After more than 20 years at our current local, our lease is not being renewed to make room for some J-1 employees for the Crab Alley restaurant. I guess we fell victim to the times. Fortunately we are not going far and are moving 350 yards west and to 12703 Sunset Ave, Suite #8 and will be operating from there starting May 24th. §

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Good friends and avid fisherwomen Emily Blunt, Leah Simpson and Alyssa Simpson got in on the mid April drum run off of Assateague Island catching these three beauties using sand fleas. They were joined by Derrick Simpson.

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Even before the new Maryland regulations for flounder kicked in, some nice size flatties were being fished up. Brian Smith pulling in this 18 inch from the Thorofare on April 2nd in the evening on an outgoing tide using white Gulp and a top and bottom rig.

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Tipsy Tiki captains Dan Mergott of Berlin & Jeremy Michalski from Ocean City along with Doug Mergott of Long Island, NY and Jake Coleman from OC slipped in a trip on New Year's eve of 2021 to a deep ocean wreck on the "Tracey Lee". They were rewarded with a limit of sea bass, some porgy, bluefish and two monster door mat flounders at 28" / 8.5 lbs and 27" / 7 lbs.

Local snakehead killer Dick Wetzel dropped off some more fillets at the office after an unusually successful day fishing for this invasive fish. It was the last day of March and with the water still running cold, he fooled these two and four others alternating between chatter baits and 3 1/2" paddle tail swimbaits.

MARYLAND REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY



BLACK SEA BASS
13" minimum / 15 per person/day
May 15 - December 11



BLUEFISH
8" minimum
3 per person/day or
5 per person/day Charter



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



COBIA
40" minimum
1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/15
Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers



CROAKER
9" minimum
25 per person/day



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



SHEEPSHEAD
4 per person/day



SPECKLED TROUT
14" minimum
4 per person/day



STRIPED BASS
28-35"
Less than 3 miles from shore
1 per person/day



SUMMER FLOUNDER
16" minimum
4 per person/day



TAUTOG
16" minimum
4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15
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4 per person/day 11/1 - 12/31



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OCEAN CITY FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Welcome back to a new year of fishing in Maryland. The year of 2022 will hopefully be an epic year for us in the Ocean City area. We begin this year with colder temps than in previous years. To have nights in the 30's at the end of April is not helping the season get off to a quick start. Despite the cold start the first flounder of the season has been caught by Scott Lenox, reeling in a nice keeper flounder to start off the year. The first rockfish keeper also came in from none other than Big Bird Cropper and Shaun Flaherty. Shawn caught a nice 30" slot fish off the Rt.50 Bridge using

the famous Roy Rig.

Rockfish, Black Drum & Bluefish

Rockfish was a little slow to start but has really turned on in the past couple of weeks. Tons of small fish are feeding around the bridges. Roy Rigs, bucktails, and swim baits are accounting for most of the catches. The Rt.90 Bridge was the hot spot 2 weeks ago but in recent days the Rt.50 bridge as well as the Verrazano Bridge have really turned on. David More took a quick 2 hour drive out to Assateague Island drive-on beach and caught a beautiful striper. The fish was over

slot and returned to the water safely. Many of the fish being caught in the bays are under slot and the ones on the federal side of Assateague Island are over the slot limit. The bait of choice on the beach right now is surf clams and bloodworms. Most anglers are using clams because the surf is beginning to fill up with big black drum heading up to the Delaware Bay to spawn. The hot bait currently in the back bays are swim jigs and paddle tails as many of these fish are smaller than those on the beach. Casting to the bridge pilings seems to be generating the best strikes. On the beach, the black drum bite has been fantastic! Tom Berry caught a nice 32" black drum off the beach last Monday, while Freddie Donaway and his crew pulled in 3 nice drum, all good eating size, in the 35-40" range. Chris Peters was using crab scented Fishbites and secured a huge black. His picture can be seen in the magazine... he is the one biting the fishing pole. Gary Harmison caught a personal best black drum weighing 51 lbs. Mann Choi was celebrating his 40th birthday and pulled in a nice 35" black drum. Quis Tayla was also on the Island for about 3 hours and pulled in 4 fish, all of which were trophy black tog. Most anglers fishing the beaches are using a 7/0 circle hook with a big piece of fresh clam secured to the hook with either rubber bands or sewing thread. These

fish are big so don't be afraid to use the biggest clams you can find. Kevin Zissimos also got a nice 32" black off the beach. Now through the middle of May is the time to get out and target these big ugly brutes. Surf clams and fresh clams in general are often hard to find this time of the year, so crab can be used instead of the clam. The last of the outgoing and beginning hours of the incoming tides have been reported as the best times to fish for these trophies. I fished out of Virginia last week and our 50 lb. fish came 1 hour into the incoming tide. And they were caught on fresh clam on a 7/0 circle hook. For many anglers without a big offshore boat these fish afford the best opportunity to catch a big 50+ lb. fish from shore. Bluefish have still been slow this year with only a few reports of small blues being caught in the surf as well as the back bays near the bridges.

Tog, Sea Bass & Flounder

Sea Bass season opens on May 15th and judging by the catch from tog fishermen, it looks to be a great early season. Tog is in full swing and when the wind cooperates the anglers are catching some huge fish. Fish Bound Charters has been out a few times and has seen great action. Many of these fish are big breeder fish and have been returned to the water to protect the population, however, Kane reports that his clients have been able to take home lots of smaller fish for dinner. Fresh clam and crab make the best baits for these fish. Tog are notorious bait thieves so small circle

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hooks are recommended. Proper wreck positioning is also crucial in catching these elusive fish. It has long been said sea bass fishing is exciting but tog fishing separates the novice angler from the seasoned angler. Tog is a great eating fish with nice white flaky meat.

Flounder season has started off a little slow but is quickly picking up. Dual flounder rigs tipped with squid and minnow combo have been working the best. The flounder are scattered all over the backwaters of Ocean City and have not settled into their seasonal spots yet, but most reports are saying that the rear bay behind Assateague Beach is the most consistent for quality fish. Pat Degroodt got a nice 19" flounder in the Thorofare using a big mud minnow. The ocean has not given up a lot of flounder yet, and with water temps still low with cold nights we are going to need a few warm 70 + degree days to get things rolling.

Crabs & Clams

Crabbing both up north at Indian River as well as Ocean City bays has been slow, but the crabs coming in are very large. I pulled my pots on Tuesday and only had 15 crabs for 4 pots but none of the crabs were under 7". Also noted that most were male crabs. This time of year we tend to see a lot more females. Clams are very slow with most anglers having to rake very deep to find clams. As the water temps rise so should the clams..

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Chris Peters of Ocean City got it on in mid April! He landed this huge black drum off of Assateague Island using crab scented Fishbites. Extra credit for the bite marks on the rod!



Danny Cox of West Ocean City got on the water early and snagged his first of many flounder for the season! He got these two on April 8th in the Thorofare using minnows, the largest was 21" and 3.6 lbs.

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. MAY 4	High 10:54 am High 11:21 pm	Low 05:11 am Low 04:35 pm
THUR. MAY 5	High 11:36 am High -----	Low 05:58 am Low 05:17 pm
FRI. MAY 6	High 12:05 am High 12:22 pm	Low 06:48 am Low 06:04 pm
SAT. MAY 7	High 12:53 am High 01:13 pm	Low 07:38 am Low 06:56 pm
SUN. MAY 8 1st Qtr. Moon	High 01:48 am High 02:11 pm	Low 08:26 am Low 07:53 pm
MON. MAY 9	High 02:47 am High 03:13 pm	Low 09:12 am Low 08:53 pm
TUE. MAY 10	High 03:44 am High 04:11 pm	Low 09:57 am Low 09:56 pm
WED. MAY 11	High 04:36 am High 05:03 pm	Low 10:41 am Low 10:58 pm

source:usharbors.com

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

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



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Mother's
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PANDORA

HEAVIEST

Fish of the Year



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

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
Bluefish 		No Weights Reported	Thresher Shark 		
Black Drum 	 April 16 CW Wells Assateague Island 70 lbs.	 April 23 Joe Burns Indian River Inlet 6.1 lbs.	Bigeye Tuna 		
Cobia 			Bluefin Tuna 		
Flounder 	 April 8 Danny Cox Thorofare 3.6 lbs.	 April 26 Frank Marshall Ocean Wreck 2.1 lbs.	Longfin Tuna 		
Sea Bass 			Yellowfin Tuna 		
Sheepshead 			Dolphin 		
Striped Bass 			Swordfish 		
Tautog 	 April 22 Kelly Langion-Milano Artificial Reef 18 lbs.	 April 22 Billy Thornatore Ocean Wreck 7.5 lbs.	Blue Marlin 		
Wahoo 			White Marlin 		

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



We got a frantic call from Bob Hudson of Ocean Pines on April 20th about a really big perch he caught! It was huge but he did not have a scale, so we told him to bring it down to the office and we weighted it at 1 lb, 14 oz on our unofficial scale. That put this mighty fish as a contender for a new Maryland State record, well over the 1.7 lbs existing one from 2016. He found this one in the Thorofare around 54th Street when he saw some moving water and tossed in his Roy Rig. Thanks to Crabs to Go in Berlin for providing the certified scale weight of 1.85 lbs for the Maryland DNR.

This is a multi-section advertisement for Bethany Auto Parts. At the top, there is a row of brand logos including Sitka, Blue Water Country, Costa, Calcutta, Seachoice, Huk, Gulp!, Pelagic, St. Croix, Penn, and Shimano. Below the logos is a large photograph of the store's exterior, which is a modern white building with blue accents and a fish logo on the roof. A sign above the entrance says "WE'VE GOT YOUR BAIT & TACKLE!". To the right of the building is a "CARQUEST AUTO PARTS" sign. In the bottom right corner, there is a large red and blue graphic that says "AUTO PARTS BETHANY MARINE SUPPLIES". Below this graphic is a Facebook icon with the text "Find us on Facebook" and a thumbs-up icon with "NO SALES TAX!". At the bottom of the ad, there is a row of four small photos showing the interior of the store, which is filled with various clothing items like t-shirts and jackets. On the left side of this row, there is text that says "Full Line of 'TOP BRAND' Outerwear for Men & Women". At the very bottom, there is a line of contact information: "13 Atlantic Ave. on Rt. 26 • Ocean View, DE ... 302.539.0555 ... email: info@bethanyautoparts.com".

13 Atlantic Ave. on Rt. 26 • Ocean View, DE ... 302.539.0555 ... email: info@bethanyautoparts.com

FISHING CHARTERS



Little Laura Topping caught her first fish while fishing with Capt. Jason Mumford on the "Lucky Break". She was with her Grandfather George Topping trolling the south bay on the outgoing tide when they caught this and several other schoolie rockfish.



Capt. Dave Caffrey of "On The Run" Charters took a 'fun fishing' trip last week. He landed this 21" flounder using Gulp in the Thorofare and boated two keeper togs that hit on sand fleas near the Ocean City Jetty.

Ocean City, Maryland

Lucky Break

Inshore Charters

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DRUM • TAUTOG & SHARKS!

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TOG • SHEEPSHEAD

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ONThERUNCHARTERS.COM

FISHING CHARTERS



While the charter boat "Fish On" with Capt. Andrew Dotterweich is based at Singer Island in Florida, she spends the summer months at Sunset Marina in OC! Owner Todd Willard and crew traveled down for a trip in early February and loaded up the fish box with a mix of dolphin and snapper as well as releasing a couple of sailfish and a really nice african pompano!

Spring Mix II

Ocean City, Maryland Islamorada, Florida

SPORTFISHING CHARTERS

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Per Person

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Spring Mix II

FISHING CHARTERS



Bob Telford loves tog fishing on the headboat "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak, and today was a very rewarding day! These two chunky blackfish were caught at an artificial reef using crabs. The mates were Rich Fouts and Stephen Anderson.



Jenn Wagner and Noah Bergersen from Chesapeake, MD are showing some sass with these two flounder they caught in the Thorofare using the white Gulp while fishing with Capt. Jason Mumford on the charter boat "Lucky Break". The two fish measured 18½" and 16½".

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- 4 UNDERWATER LIGHTS FOR BAIT FISH ATTRACTION
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FISHING CHARTERS



Mate Kevin Twilley on the charter boat "Fish Bound" got the tog action going in the early part of April! This trip saw plenty of shorts as well as keeper fish while working an ocean wreck.

Capt. Monty Hawkins on the headboat "Morning Star" out of the Ocean City Fishing Center has been getting his anglers on some tog action. This trip took a little more work to get on the bite, but the crew also dropped reef blocks to continue the Ocean City Reef Foundation artificial reef efforts!

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Tue. - Fri. & Sunday
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Tuesday
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\$50 Adults \$25 Children
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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Bert Adams got anglers onto some nice tog while fishing on the headboat "Capt. Bob II". Kevin Lee caught this one at Site 10 using green crab.



The headboat "Judy V" out of the Indian River Marina found her first flounder catch of the season on a warm April 12th. Angler Frank Marshall was actually tog fishing when he hooked into this 18" and 2 lb flattie!

Deep Sea Fishing
JUDY V.

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FISHING CHARTERS



While the charter boat "Fish On" with Capt. Andrew Dotterweich summers in OC, she spent her winter months in her home port of Palm Beach. This late March trip saw the catch of a beautiful and rare allison yellowfin tuna!

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FISHING CHARTERS



Another slamming tog caught by Bob Telford while fishing on the headboat "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak out of the Talbot Street Pier. This one took a crab bait at an artificial reef and tipped the scales at 9½ lbs.



Bluewater Advisory's own Mark Debinski got in some early April fishing with Capt. Jason Mumford on the "Lucky Break". Over two days they fished for schoolie stripers on the outgoing tide and hammered some tog at the tip of the south OC Jetty using blue crab and shrimp.

Think you have what it takes to Reel in the Big One? Book Today!

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The cleaning table at Lewes Harbour Marina kicked off the season in early April with this load of tog caught from a charter on the "Katydid".



George Sauer and his grandson Owen Reed pulled some nice drum from the surf off of the Virginia part of Assateague Island using crab and sand fleas for bait. Pictured at Captain Steve's Bait & Tackle.

A promotional poster for the PBR Challenger Series. At the top, a silhouette of a bull is positioned above the text "Bull on the Beach" in a stylized font. Below this is the "PBR" logo in a red triangle, followed by "CHALLENGER" in large white letters on a blue background, and "SERIES" in smaller white letters on a blue banner. The background of the poster is a sunset over a beach. In the foreground, two cowboys in blue shirts and cowboy hats stand on either side of two large, detailed bull heads. The cowboy on the left has "RESISTOL" on his vest, and the cowboy on the right has "COOPER TIRES" and "ARIAT" on his vest. At the bottom center, the text reads "JUNE 3, 4 & 5TH Ocean City, MD" and "More information and Tickets at TICKETMASTER.COM".



Danny Cox from West OC and Greg Volpitta from Monkton, MD jumped into the 31st Annual Capt. Zed's Flounder Tournament in Wachapreague, VA that runs from April 22nd until May 1st. They caught 20 keeper flounder over the first weekend of the event using minnows with the largest at 21".



Joshua Twilley only got one bite while he was fishing in early April at Assateague Island, but it was the one bite that counted! This one came at the last of the outgoing tide using clam for bait.

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Another fish hits the chart for first of 2022! Morgan Mericle of Gaithersburg, MD pulled this bluefish from the sandbar near the south Ocean City Jetty on April 20th using a Roy Rig. He was fishing with Big Bird Cropper on the "Lost Time".



Kara Kansler from Selbyville, DE is all smiles showing off this 21" flounder she found in the Thorofare in mid April. Gulp did the trick to fool this fattie!

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UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

MAY

Old Inlet Annual Spring Surf Fishing Tournament

May 7 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974

Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament

May 20 • Lewes Harbour Marina • 302-645-6227

Cast for a Cure Team Surf Fishing Tournament

May 21 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974

13th Annual Memorial Day Tournament

May 28 & 29 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

JUNE

1st Annual Blues for D.U.

June 3 - 5 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

2nd Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament

June 17 - 18 • Ocean City, MD • 410-212-7159

South Jersey MidAtlantic Tuna Tournament

June 22 - 26 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

7th Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament

June 24-26 • Indian River Marina • 302-227-3071

43rd Annual Small Boat Tournament

June 25-26 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

4th Annual Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam

Kayak Fishing Tournament

June 25-26 • Ocean City, MD • 410-868-5488

JULY

40th Annual Canyon Kick Off

July 1-3 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

MidAtlantic Cup

July 4 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown

July 6-9 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

35th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament

July 8-10 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1613

Jimmy Johnson's Quest for the Ring

July 10-16 • Atlantic City • www.FishHardEvents.com

For complete tournament coverage results, pick up the *Coastal Fisherman* every week from May through September or log on to our website at www.coastalfisherman.net



Big smile for young angler Jaxon Snead! He and his father Skylar wrestled this 30" black drum from the surf off of Assateague Island using sand fleas and Fishbites.

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JULY 8-10 2022

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Capt. Ron Callis



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Capt. Mike Moss



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HEADBOAT



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YEAR ROUND HEADBOAT FISHING
Capt. Monty Hawkins



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& Dock Bar.

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Ship to Shore

STEVE'S MARINE SERVICE
by Steve Katz



Welcome to the 2022 Coastal Fisherman! I am honored to continue the Ship-to-Shore column and collaborating with the Coastal Fisherman crew!

Last fall, our industry was booming with sales of boats and all related equipment. The limited supply chain was expected to begin to open up over the winter and spring. Most of you know that is not the case, many products are still in short supply and with no end in sight to shortages and delays.

One company who has not stopped growing is Seakeeper. Just a few weeks ago I attended the Seakeeper dealer training school in Tampa, Florida. They had just completed construction of a brand-new training facility to train and educate dealers and employees all year long. This is an ambitious plan along with their ambitious sales forecast for 2022 should make for a busy year for Seakeeper and its dealers. Last fall, Seakeeper purchased a 250,000 square foot

building on twenty-five acres near their existing factory in Pennsylvania. Once they transition into the new facility, their capacity will increase and they plan to better meet demand.

This bustling scene is repeated at other marine manufacturers, whether boat builders, boat yards, marinas and service companies demonstrating both a surge in demand and shortage of materials and often the workforce. Boaters around the country have embraced patience, or at least settled for long delays when getting work done on their boat or buying parts and supplies. Luckily, most of the major marine manufacturers have been accurate in projecting delays, allowing boaters to schedule appropriately. Many informed boaters and anglers have gotten used to the "new normal" and put their orders and service calls in earlier than ever. Just recently, a customer ordered a new Garmin chartplotters

knowing there was a backorder situation and was given a delivery date about 2 months later, and to their credit, Garmin shipped as scheduled, though it does not always work so smoothly, with many customers waiting for products for months past the due date.

What's new and trending for Spring 2022? Finally, the annual Miami Boat Show along with other winter shows went on as scheduled. There was fantastic attendance at all the fall, winter, and spring shows. Marine manufacturers often introduce new products during the winter boat shows and this year the announcements were spread out through the winter, but new and updated products still hit the market and often instantly created backorders! Luckily for early adopters, the two popular products below are currently available to purchase.

Simrad introduced their new Simrad NSX product

at the Miami boat show, this is the latest evolution in chartplotters and fish finders for powerboaters as a new midrange product in the Simrad line. Available in 7, 9 and 12-inch display sizes and based on a new operating system built from the ground up to redefine boating experiences. Garmin, last fall, announced the GMR Fantom™ 18x and GMR Fantom 24x solid state dome radars, offering 50 watts of output power for long range and better target detection on the water, even at high speeds. Equipped with Garmin's signature MotionScope™ technology, the new high-powered Fantom 18x/24x radomes can detect and highlight moving targets in different colors, providing mariners with valuable vessel position information, track weather and more.

Raymarine announced the Cyclone™ radar, the newest range of open-array radars, conceived and crafted to give mariners the confidence to tackle the harshest conditions, gain distinct advantages in the hunt for fish, and safely navigate busy waterways. All-new Cyclone radars are available in 3, 4 and 6-foot arrays and in

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two high-power output options for each size. Each model features innovative detection technologies, including Cyclone Bird Mode, that elevates Cyclone into a class all its own.

While software almost tops the list for spring tune-ups, this year is no different. This winter, the major manufacturers, Garmin, Furuno and Simrad released software updates, some minor fixes, and some major improvements such as the new Garmin user interface.

Last Fall, the National Marine electronics association held its annual conference and expo, with the product awards continuing to be a highlight of the week. Members of the National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) vote for eligible products in 18 product categories.

This year Furuno

dominated the awards at the 2021 NMEA Conference by winning 7 NMEA Product of Excellence Awards, continuing their long-running streak of taking home more accolades than any other manufacturer!

Garmin won the Manufacturer of the Year award for the seventh consecutive year and was also awarded five NMEA Product of Excellence awards in the multi-function display (MFD), autopilot, safety, multimedia entertainment and mobile application utility categories.

Whether maintaining, updating or even purchasing a new boat, carefully planning, scheduling and patience is necessary to avoid disappointment.

Until next time...

Stay Grounded!



Capt. Andrew Dotterweich kept the charter boat "Fish on" busy during her winter months in Palm Beach. Owner Todd Willard shared this picture of John Centrella with a beautiful african pompano they caught in February.

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The Thorofare remains the hot spot this spring for flounder! Liz Dolmetsch boated this nice 17" fish while drifting white Gulp. Fellow Angler Scott Dolmetsch got in on the action landing a pair at 19" and 20".

Gary Neal got an early start last week fishing for stripers from the shore west of the Indian River Bridge. He caught this one and another one early in the morning at low tide using a 1/2 oz. jig head with white grub.

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CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES

	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u> **		<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u> **
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"	White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size
Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	SHARK:		
Cobia	44"	45 Lbs. or 48"	Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	Mako*	Any Size	250 lbs. or 83"
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	Thresher*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Golden Tilefish	35"	35" or 40"	Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	TUNA:		
Red Drum*	36"	45"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"
Sailfish*	Any Size	-	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"
Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"
Speckled Trout	24"	-			
Striped Bass	40"	44"			
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"			

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



Anglers Don Mauzy and Kyle Krabill had quite the trip in early February! They made a run to the Norfolk Canyon on the "Never Enough" to find some warmer water and were rewarded with this unusual catch barrel fish as well as nice mako shark.



Our first keeper rock for 2022 was caught by Shaun Flaherty on April 20th! Shaun was fishing with Big Bird Cropper on the north side of the Rt. 50 Bridge in 51° water when this 30" rock hit on a Roy Rig. This was lucky as the fish were not chasing baits in the cold water.

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FIRST 2022

Fish of the Year

(AS REPORTED TO THE COASTAL FISHERMAN - MUST BE REPORTED WITH PICTURE WITHIN 48 HOURS OF CATCH)

Species	2022	2021	Species	2022	2021
 Bluefish	 April 26 Morgan Mericle South OC Jetty	May 8 Gavin Murray Gull Island	 Thresher Shark		May 22, 2021 Patrick Snell "MAKO me CRAZY" Twin Wrecks
 Black Drum	 March 29 Jay Phillips Assateague Island	March 31 Allen Sklar Assateague Island	 Bigeye Tuna		May 28 Pete Gudiatis "Blood Money" Poor Man's
 Cobia		June 17 Shannon Pickens South OC Inlet	 Bluefin Tuna		May 7 James Hammond "Hot Lick" Norfolk
 Flounder	 April 3 Scott Lenox Thorofare	April 18 Danny Cox Rt. 90 Bridge	 Longfin Tuna		July 17 Morgan Michael "Reel Fun" Baltimore Canyon
 Sea Bass		April 12 Camryn Baeder Inshore Wreck	 Yellowfin Tuna		May 28 Bill Pino "Blood Money" Poor Man's
 Sheepshead		June 17 Veronica Cannuli Outside OC Inlet	 Dolphin		June 10 Michael Seicke "Second Chance" S. Poor Man's
 Striped Bass	 April 20 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	May 6 Buddy Martin East Channel	 Swordfish	New Category for 2022	
 Tautog	 March 27 Michael Guigley Stinky Beach	January 1 Mike Sadowski "Tide Runner" Ocean Structure	 Blue Marlin	New Category for 2022	
 Wahoo		June 17 Gary Welch Washington Canyon	 White Marlin		June 13 Brad Young "TUNAFOWL" Washington Canyon

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



Another first fish to report! Jay Phillips pulled in the first black drum of the season from the surf off of Assateague Island on March 2nd. The fish fell for the peeler crab Jay was using to catch stripers!



Angler Bill Beriese found a mega size mama tog while fishing with Capt. DJ on the charter boat "Double Trouble". She was 31 3/4" with a girth of 24" and an estimated weight of 20 lbs. After getting the measurements, she was released back in the water to swim another day.

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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



TRU DAT FISH

Ingredients:

- 2 6-8oz. drum fillets
- 4 tbsp. butter
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 4 drops Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 tsp. Cajun seasoning
- Fresh ground black pepper
- 2 tsp. fresh parsley, minced
- 1 tsp. chives
- 3-4 tbsp. bread crumbs
- 2 tbsp. parmesan cheese, freshly grated

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Butter a baking dish and place fillets in the dish. In a skillet, melt 4 tbsp butter with garlic, Worcestershire sauce, Cajun seasoning, pepper, parsley and chives. Cook on low for 2 minutes.



Brush both sides of fish fillets with the butter and herb mixture.

Mix bread crumbs into the remaining butter mixture and sprinkle over the fillets.

Bake for 12 minutes or until fish flakes easily.

ONE-DISH ROCKFISH

Ingredients:

- 5 cups fresh spinach
- 2 (6 ounce) fillets rockfish

10 cherry tomatoes, halved

1/2 cup vegetable broth

2 tablespoons minced fresh dill

1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

1/2 teaspoon lemon pepper

1/4 teaspoon onion powder

Salt and ground black pepper to taste

2 slices lemon slices

2 slices onion slices

1 teaspoon butter

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F

Layer the spinach in the bottom of a 2 quart baking dish. Lay the rockfish atop the spinach. Scatter the tomatoes around the fish. Pour the broth into the dish. Season the fillet with the dill, garlic powder, lemon pepper, onion powder, salt, and pepper.



halved.

1 jalapeno seeded and finely diced (if you prefer more heat, keep the seeds in)

1/4 medium red onion diced

1/2 cup loosely packed cilantro chopped

1 clove garlic finely minced

Juice of 1 lime

1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

1/4 teaspoon ground cumin

1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

For Serving:

1 lime cut into wedges

Sea salt

Directions:

Preheat grill to high heat. Clean and oil grates well (this will help prevent the fish from sticking). Pat fish dry with a paper towel. Brush with olive oil and sprinkle with salt, cumin, garlic and black pepper on both sides. Set aside.

In a large bowl, combine tomatoes, jalapeno, red onion, cilantro, garlic, lime juice, extra virgin olive oil, salt, cumin and pepper. Stir well. Add more salt to taste, if needed. Set aside.

Place black sea bass on the grill, skin side down. Grill until fish is opaque and flakes easily with a fork. Flip halfway through cooking time. These fillets tend to be thin, so they will cook quickly. Remove from grill. Spoon salsa over fish. Sprinkle with sea salt.

Serve with lime wedges and additional salsa. You can also sprinkle with feta cheese, for a salty, briny twist.

Notes:

Black sea bass fillets tend to have



Place the lemon, onion, and butter on the rockfish. Cover the entire dish with aluminum foil.

Bake in preheated oven until the fish flakes easily, 20 to 25 minutes.

BLACK SEA BASS WITH GARDEN SALSA

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 -2 pounds black sea bass fillets (check fillets carefully for pin bones), skin on, descaled
- 1 teaspoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper

For the Salsa:

- 2 medium tomatoes diced (or about 2 cups cherry tomatoes,

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quite a few pin bones. Prior to grilling check fillets carefully and pull out any pin bones with a tweezer or your fingers.

You can also score the skin prior to grilling to prevent the flesh and skin from curling up, but this is optional.

EASY BLACKENED TAUTOG

Ingredients:

- 1 tautog fillet (8oz.)
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- Pinch of cumin
- 1 teaspoon thyme or oregano
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 lemon

Directions:

Rinse tautog fillet in cold water and pat dry with paper towels.

Mix spices in a small bowl and cover the fish entirely.

Heat butter on the skillet (it has to be very hot) and place fish in it. Cook for 4 minutes on one side and than for another 3 minutes on



another side.

Move to the plate and squeeze some lemon on top. Serve.

Notes:

Do not move fish during cooking otherwise it may stick to the skillet.

You can check the internal temperature my sticking meat thermometer into the thickest part of the fish. It should read 145 degrees Fahrenheit when fully cooked.

Top fish with chopped green

onions, lemon slices, chopped cilantro or parsley.

If you want to slice the fish, move it to the cutting board and slice into equal pieces using a sharp knife.

FLOUNDER WITH BROWN BUTTER, LEMON AND TARRAGON

Ingredients:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- Salt and pepper
- Pinch of cayenne
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 4 flounder fillets of equal size, 6 to 8 ounces each
- 3 tablespoons cold unsalted butter, cut into chunks
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons roughly chopped parsley
- 1 teaspoon roughly chopped tarragon
- A few tarragon leaves, for garnish
- Lemon wedges

Directions:

Put flour in a low bowl or pie



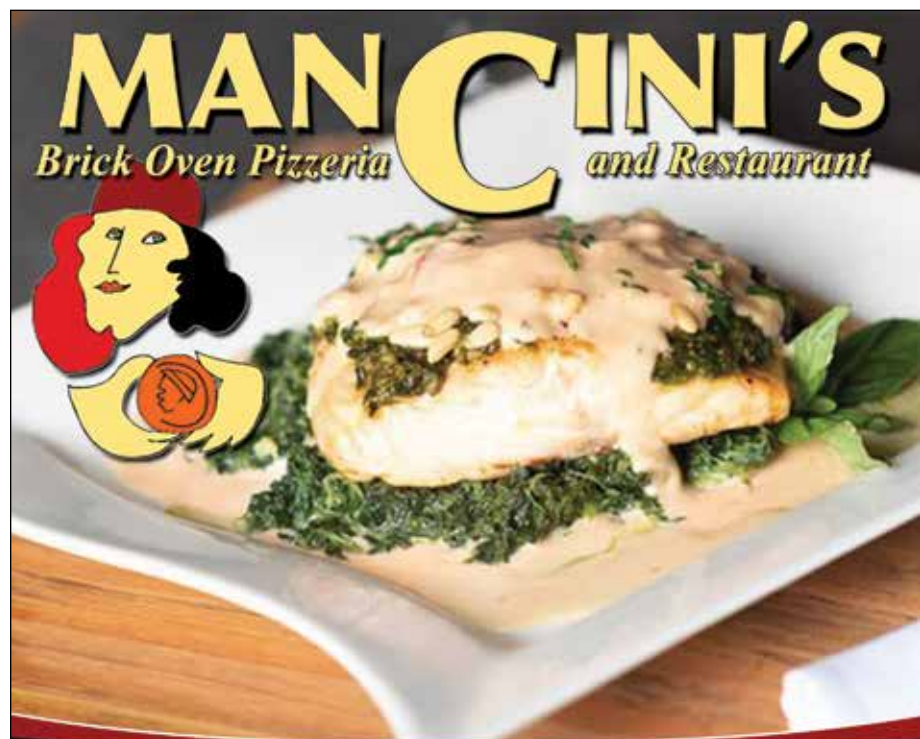
plate and stir in a generous amount of salt and pepper and a pinch of cayenne.

Place a large cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat. Add olive oil and tilt pan to coat bottom.

Season the fillets lightly with salt and pepper. Dip each fillet quickly into flour mixture, shaking off excess flour.

Lay fillets in skillet in one layer. Cook for about 2 minutes per side, until golden. Transfer cooked fish to a warm platter.

Leave the heat at medium-high and add cold butter. Let butter sizzle until foamy and brown, but do not let it burn. Add lemon



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juice, parsley and chopped tarragon and swirl to incorporate.

Spoon butter sauce over fish.
Garnish with a few tarragon leaves and serve immediately with lemon wedges.

CLASSIC GIN & TONIC

2 ounces gin

4 ounces tonic water

Garnish: 2 lime wheels or other seasonal garnishes you may prefer.

Directions:

Fill a highball glass with ice, then



add the gin. Top with the tonic water and gently stir. Garnish with lime wheels or seasonal garnishes.



To the brave go the spoils! Magen and Tom Buterbaugh with Bryan Mullins braved the cold late March weather to get out on the water. They did well catching a few stripers near the Rt. 90 bridge and it would seem their boxer approves!

The 2022 fishing season is here and we are excited to capture the moments in the COASTAL FISHERMAN! Whether it's surf fishing, a private boat or charter service, send us your catch for us to review.

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Who knows, you just may find yourself gracing the pages of the Coastal Fisherman elevating you to ROCKSTAR STATUS!



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KEYS TO TAKING A GREAT FISH PICTURE!

Email it to coastalfisherman@comcast.net
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INCLUDE IN THE EMAIL:

- Angler's full name and town
 - Names & towns of others in photo
 - Weight and/or length of fish
 - Bait/lure used
 - Location of catch
 - Name of boat, if any
- Please do not compress the photo and do not run it through any photo software.

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

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

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Angler Jennifer Fields of Tournament Yacht Sales fished on the "Tarheel" in this year's Pescadora Billfish Championship this February in Costa Rica. She and the crew of the all ladies event not only took 1st Place out of 40 boats, but Jennifer was recognized as the top angler beating out 171 other women. This earned her the prestigious Pescadora Billfish Championship IGFA Angler of the Year award!



The new "Billfisher" spent the winter month in Costa Rica participating in several notable tourneys. In the Pescadora Billfish Championship anglers Kourtney & Judy Duffie with Kelly Gerlach of team 'Bills & Boobs' took 2nd Place overall with 2,040 pts. Kourtney was also recognized for the 2nd year winning the Pescadora Billfish Championship Hook & Hand Angler of the Year award!

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 60 Charter Limit 10 per person/ 60 per Boat</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>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>	<p>71" Minimum Fork Length Male Shortfin Mako</p> <p>78" Minimum Fork Length Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead</p>	<p>83" Minimum Fork Length Female Shortfin Mako</p> <p>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, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White</p> <p>Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov</p>



Several OC locals spent some time in Costa Rica fishing several tournaments. Anglers Jackie Tenuto, Jennifer Fields, Natalia Frost, Nichole Scotti and Paige Bayliss took top honors in the Pescadora Billfish Championship with 3,000 pts. They were fishing on the Bayliss boat "Tarheel" with Capt. John Bayliss, cheerleader Jimmy Fields, Ronnie Fields and mate Jorge Carrillo.



Ocean City's own Shelby Zimmer had a fantastic March fishing in Leg 3 of the Los Sueños Triple Crown! She and fellow anglers Matt Weber, Kelly Weber, Anthony Weber, Paige Bayliss and Nicole Scotti with Capt. Austin Robins took 1st Place for the Leg releasing 27 sailfish and 6 marlins. The "Max Bet" also took 2nd Place Overall for the Tournament.



Jackie Tenuto also fished in both the Leg 3 Ladies and Series of the Los Sueños Triple Crown. Anglers Jackie, Jill Yates, Dawn Samuals and Susan McCart took 2nd Place in the Ladies Leg and with the crew of Jackie, owners Jill & Scott Yates, Zac Yarbrough and Luke Lulfs they took 1st Place in Leg 3 of the tourney and placed 2nd Overall missing first place by just a few hours. Working both events were Capt. James Breen and mates Kyle O'Connor and Rob Constantineau.



Team "Billfisher" took 3rd Place Overall during the 3 Legs of the Los Sueños Triple Crown Ladies Only Tournament in Costa Rica last winter. Angler Judy Duffie accompanied by Jonathan Duffie, Jon Duffie, Capt. Billy Gerlach and mate Noah McVicker released a total of 9 sailfish and 2 marlins over the 3 days of the events.

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For the last few months fishermen who reside on this side of the equator have been waiting and preparing for this very moment, when the ice is gone, the waters are warming, and fish are returning from their southern or deep water wintering grounds. The new fishing season is upon us - here it is - ready to go - happening now- welcome to it!

This is also a time when angler's hopes and aspirations are at their zenith, we've scrubbed the winter grime off our boats, our tackle is tuned, hooks are sharp, we've added a few new accessories to our tackle boxes, maybe even picked up a fancy new fishing shirt or two to keep us looking sharp when we posing for photos with our catch or tooling around the docks at the end of the day. This is going to be our greatest

season ever!

But if we had to make a list of what would constitute a "great season", I wonder what that list would look like. Tournament wins, a freezer full of fillets, our picture on the cover of the Coastal Fisherman, catching a particular type of fish, a plaque for catching the biggest or the most of some kind of fish this year? Whether they realize it or not, I'm pretty sure that most anglers start each season, and each fishing day, with some sort of goal in mind. Such goals may be as lofty as trying to set a world record or as simple as helping a grandchild catch their first fish. Goals can be good, they help us to be properly prepared for our trips, stay focused on what we need to do to achieve our desired outcome, and can provide us

with a little extra satisfaction from a "job well done" or "mission completed" when it's all over.

But as good as fishing goals can be, they can also prove to be counterproductive when they become too much of an obsession for those in pursuit of them. Problems can and often do arise when anglers get so focused on a particular goal that they lose sight of better judgment. While heading out the inlet one morning I saw a fellow in a relatively small boat fishing off the tip of the south jetty. As I passed I mentioned to my 1st mate that the guy seems so focused on getting his casts into the rocks that I hope he's also paying attention to the big swells coming in from behind him. We learned the answer to that 15 minutes later we heard someone call the Coast Guard over the VHF radio to report a boat with one person aboard that had been washed up onto the south jetty. When we returned a few hours later we saw parts of the demolished hull that were still among the rocks. I guess the guy was so focused on catching a tog or a striper that he lost track of the perils of his environment that were sneaking up from behind.

Perhaps nowhere do goals play a bigger role for anglers than in tournament fishing, and nowhere in fishing do anglers' goals get them in trouble than in tournaments. I'm guessing that it's safe to say that almost no one enters a tournament unless they have a goal to win it. Even those who realize that they have only a slim chance of winning still have a goal to do their best and hope that between their own skill and a little (or a lot) of luck, they might end up somewhere in the winners circle when it's all over. Unfortunately, history has shown that sometimes an angler's goal to catch a winning fish instead lands "them" in a very bad

situation.

Too often, the goal to win a tournament prompts fishermen to forego their better judgment and put out on the water on days when the weather or sea conditions would normally keep them tied up to the dock. More than just a few boats and even lives have been lost because someone decided that to meet their goal to win they would gamble with the safety of the boat and crew.

Over goals can also erode relationships. I have some friends who are brother-in-law's and one of them owned a big boat and they used to fish together every weekend. They really made for a great team, they were good anglers and had a lot of fun together. After a few years they decided to enter a big tournament for the first time. Unfortunately, even before they left the dock on their first fishing day things started to get bad between them. As they prepared for the event they began to disagree and argue about how to set up the boat, the bait and the tackle. Essentially they had different goals for what they wanted to accomplish in the competition, one was hell-bent on winning and the other just wanted to have a fun week of fishing the way they always did in the past. Neither was right or wrong but it caused enough friction between the two that when the week was over the one took all his stuff off his brother-in-law's boat and they never again fished together - the boat was sold that winter.

I'm not suggesting that setting fishing goals are a bad thing - they're not. Picking up a fishing rod and having a specific goal in mind for what you want to accomplish with it can "at times" provide a much more rewarding experience than just going for the easiest catch. In 2000 I set a goal to catch my first permit and I wanted to do it on a fly. Permit live in tropical waters and are considered by many to be the most challenging saltwater fish on the planet to take on a fly. It took 13 years to accomplish that goal and

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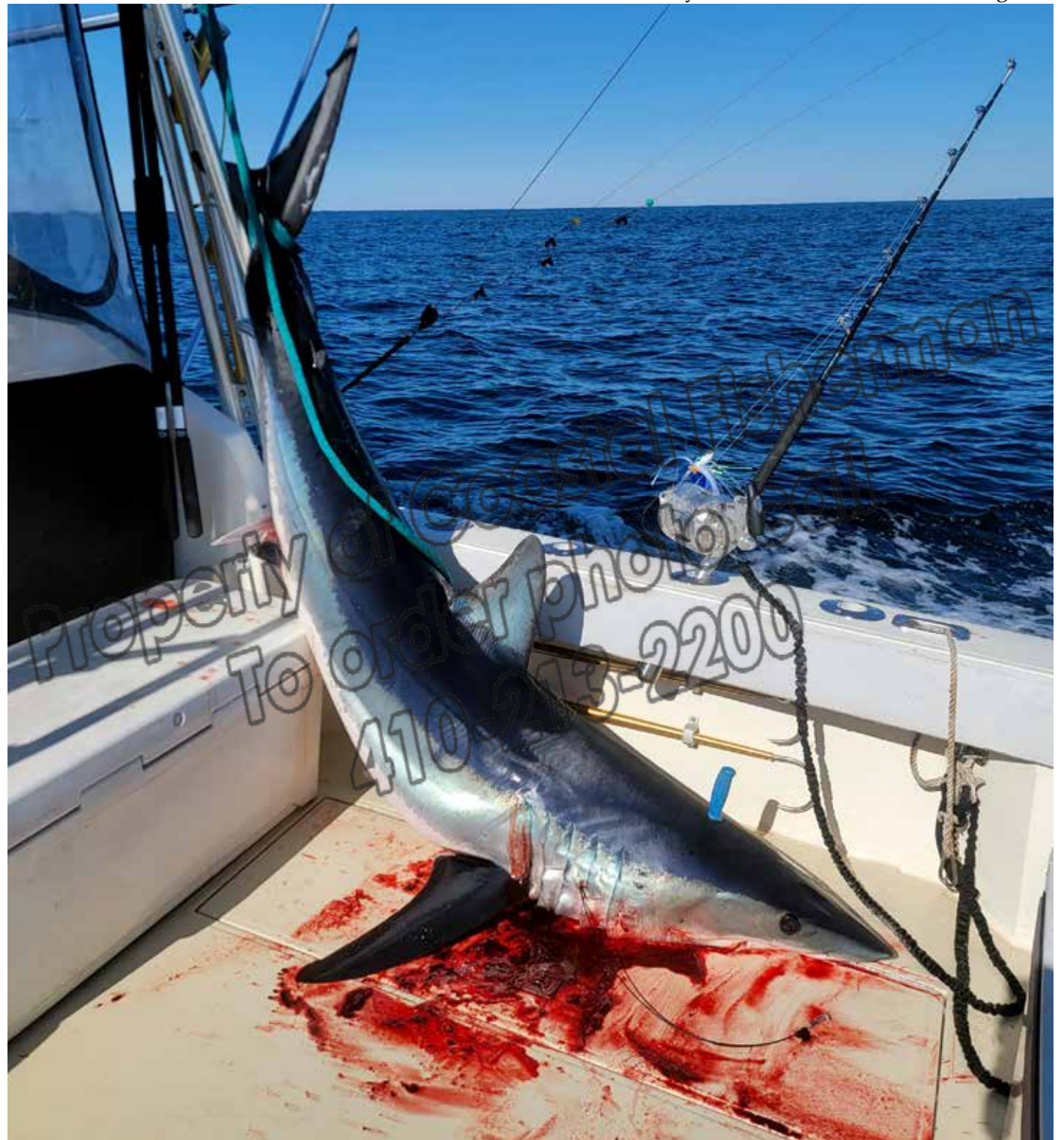
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most of the pursuit occurred while fishing with my wife during our winter jaunts in the Florida Keys. At the same time she set out on a goal to land more than just a couple world record fish on fly tackle. In the process the two of us spent hundreds of wonderful days on the boat learning, practicing, and sometimes inventing new fishing techniques, trying new tackle, and always exploring new places.

It worked for us because, despite our rather lofty aspirations, we never forgot that the number one goal was to have fun every day. No fish or record was worth having a miserable day on the water and we knew that an enjoyable day on the water had nothing to do with whether or not we accomplished our other goals.

So there you have a simple ending to a long winded story. A fresh new season is upon us and many of you probably already have some goals in mind for what you hope to accomplish before it comes to an end. Don't be afraid to set big goals and pursue them with commitment and enthusiasm. But, as one of the greatest things about fishing is the inherent uncertainty of it that cannot be overcome by any amount of money, time or talent. Make sure that nothing stands in the way of what should be the number one goal of every fisherman - to have a safe and enjoyable 2022 fishing season! §



This will be a rare image for some time as the US will be banning mako landings through 2023 starting some time in June. For now however the fishery remains open. Don Mauzy on the "Never Enough" chased some warm 65° water in the Norfolk Canyon from the Chincoteague Inlet on Feb. 9th and put angler Kyle Krabill on this nice mako. This one fell for an 8oz Joe Shute with a horse ballyhoo.

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Alex Osborne and his father are both members of the Lewes Tog Club. They worked the Wall in mid April on their family boat the "Tog Gypsea" and boated this 5.25 lb fish using green crabs. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Joe Burns from Dagsboro, DE took advantage of some warm late April weather to pull this black drum from the surf just south of the Indian River Inlet. The 24" fish weighed in at 6.1 lbs and was caught using Fishgum Sand Flea on the outgoing tide.

This advertisement features a photo of the Lewes Harbour Marina building with a sign that says "Tax Free Shopping!". Below the photo is a large sign for "LEWES HARBOUR MARINA Fishing & Boating OUTFITTERS" with the text "Authorized Fishing License Agent" and "BAIT • TACKLE • FUEL • MARINE SUPPLIES". A grid of brand logos includes Costa, G-loomis, Interlux, Power Pro, Gulp! Alive, XTRATUF, Penn, Seigler, MagicTail, Daiwa, LHMwear, Toadfish, Shimano, and Baitmasters. At the bottom, it provides the website "LEWESHARBOURMARINA.COM" and the address "Located at the end on Anglers Rd on the Lewes Canal • 302.645.6227".

This advertisement has a red and yellow background. It features a speech bubble saying "Wanna Lift?" and social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. The main text reads "OCEAN CITY BOAT LIFTS & MARINE CONSTRUCTION, INC. GOLDEN Boat Lifts". A starburst graphic says "Check out our Lifts at the Ocean City Fishing Center!". Below this, it lists services: "BOAT LIFT INSTALLATION • SERVICE REPAIR • MARINE CONSTRUCTION" and "ELEVATOR LIFTS • FOUR PILING LIFTS • SWIVEL LIFTS • DOCKS & PIERS". A photo shows several boat lifts in a marina. A starburst at the bottom left says "Serving Maryland, Delaware & Virginia". The bottom right contains the phone number "410.352.5095" and the website "oceancityboatlifts.com".

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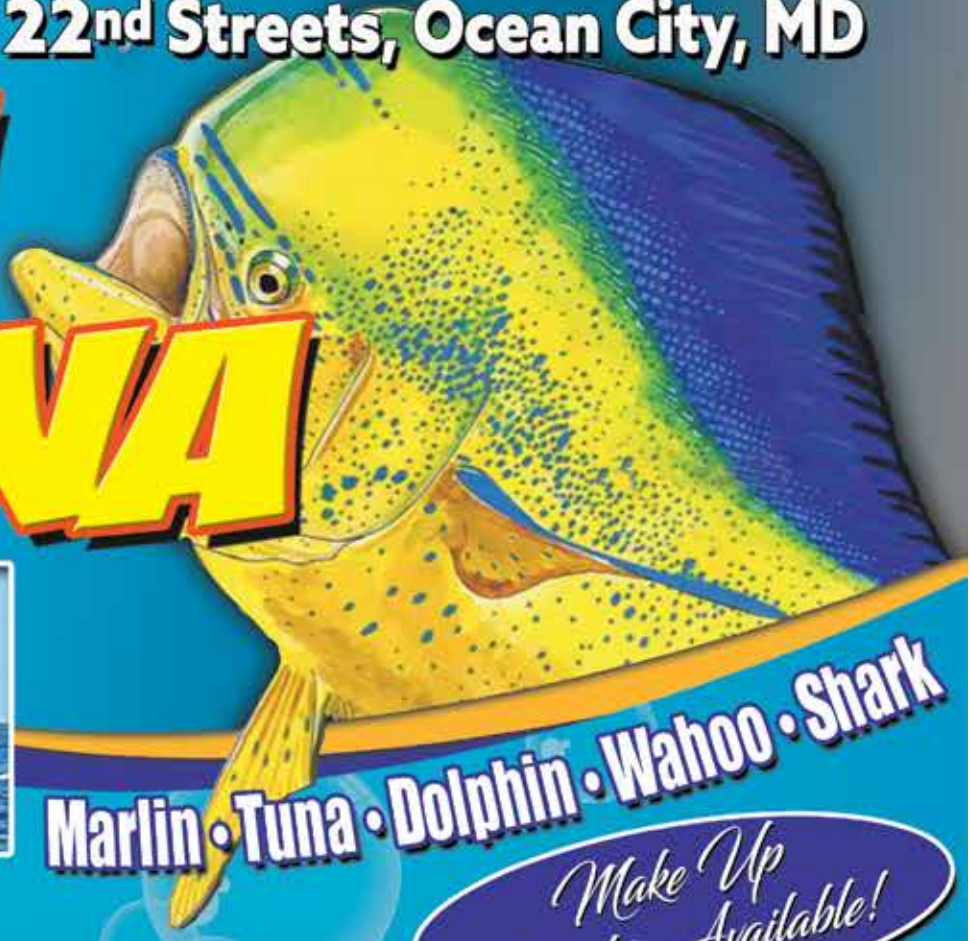
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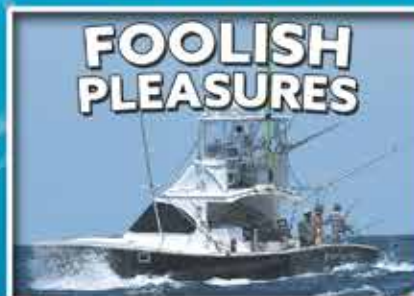
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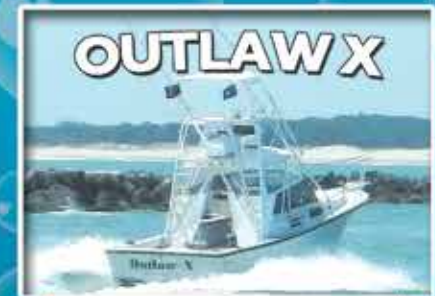
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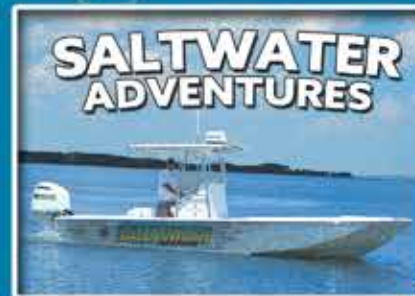
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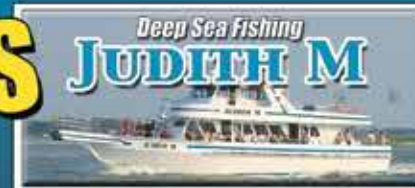
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The first tautog reported to us this year was from Michael Guigley from Mohnton, PA. He found this 16 1/4" fish off the rocks by Stinky Beach (Homer Gudelsky Park) using frozen sand fleas.



The first fish of a species caught for the season is a hot contest among local fisherman. This year's 'First Flounder' was caught by Scott Lenox on April 3rd in the Thorofare. Despite the 25 mph winds, Scott worked one of his OC Deadly Double rigs with a 5" white Gulp in 51.5° water to fool this 18" flatfish.

DELAWARE REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY



BLACK SEA BASS
13" minimum / 15 per person/day
May 15 - December 11



BLUEFISH
No minimum size
3 per day / 5 per day Charter



BLACK DRUM
16" minimum
3 per person/day



COBIA
37" Minimum • 1 per person or vessel



CROAKER
8" Minimum • No Limit



RED DRUM
20-27" minimum
5 per person/day



SHEEPSHEAD
No limit



SPECKLED TROUT
12" minimum
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STRIPED BASS
28-35" except 20-25" only from
7/1 - 8/31 in DE Bay
1 per person/day
Catch & Release only from
4/1 - 5/31 on Spawning Grounds



SUMMER FLOUNDER
16" minimum
4 per person/day



TAUTOG
16" minimum
4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15
4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31



WEAKFISH
13" minimum
1 per person/day



Billy Tornatore and his fellow anglers got the right charter from Capt. Brent Wiest on the "Katydid" from Lewes, DE. Billy hooked this citation 7.55 lb tog and the charter returned to the dock with their limit of tog.

Joshua Twilley pulled an 18" flounder from the Thorofare in late April while fishing in the evening on the outgoing tide. The flatfish was fooled by a top and bottom rig with a white Gulp.

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DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



The 2022 fishing year has finally begun. After a long cold winter everyone looks forward to the early season as well as a season without Covid and more businesses open full time. This season starts with much colder temps than in past years. So welcome back and let's see how the season is shaping up so far.

Bluefish, Rockfish & Black Drum

Water temps are still cool with bay temps around 55° and ocean temps in the low 50's. As the water temps begin to warm the rockfish are starting to show up. Not many keepers can be found but the numbers are definitely increasing. Delaware Bay, a big spawning area, is starting to have staging stripers getting ready for the spawn. Gage Taylor caught a very nice fish in the 50 lb. mark. Reyn Davis fished the Delaware River last Thursday and caught a few nice rockfish including a keeper slot fish. Reyn stated he would not give up his secret keeper location. Dan Kramer said the surf has plenty of small stripers but no keepers so far. Bloodworms and surf clams are the best baits for this time of the year both on the surf as well as in the bay areas. No reports of anything but small rat rockfish at Indian River Inlet so far, but

if the temps ever warm up even a little, we hopefully will see a spring blitz. Black drum are here and ready to be caught. The big numbers haven't arrived yet to spawn in the bay, but those being caught are all large fish. Michael Deller came up with a nice drum caught off the beach north of the inlet. He stated there's not a ton of fish, but if you put the time in they are here. Natasha Wheatley also pulled a slob of a black drum off the beach well over 50 lbs. fish was returned to the water unharmed to be caught again. Mike Chambers used blood worms to entice a nice 30 inch drum onto his surf rod. This is the perfect eating size. As these fish get over 50 lbs. they develop worm parasites, that although harmless, are not appealing to the dinner plate. Over the next few weeks the drum will arrive to spawn on the shoals in the Delaware Bay. For many, this is the time to target a trophy fish over 50 lbs. that can be caught on daily light tackle including spinning gear. The 2 drum I caught this season, one 55 lbs. and one 35 lbs. were both caught with clam on a spinning reel with an Okiaya rod.

Tog & Flounder

The wind has been pretty tough over the past few weeks

making deeper wreck run very uncomfortable. The anglers that have made it offshore have been rewarded with some big tog, many in the double digits. The "Katydid" left Lewes Harbour on a chilly morning last week and returned with a limit of blackfish for their clients. Several spawning size fish were returned to help with population. "Gale Force Charters" also returned to the docks with some nice tog as well. Fresh clam is the best bait for this time of the year. "No Limit Sportfishing" said when you hit the right piece of structure out in the ocean it was drop and reel many times bringing in some trophy tog. Captain Jon reported many were 12-14 lb. fish. Jon stated a quick picture was taken and the fish quickly returned to the water. I find it very nice to see our captains as anglers looking out for these breeder fish. This time of year many bigger fish are filled with row for the new hatchlings and should be returned. There are plenty of smaller eating size fish around that will not upset the balance of the new hatchlings this year. The tog keep anglers occupied as the angling world waits for the start of sea bass season which begins on May 15th. The anglers this year will be greeted with a season limit of

13" and a creel limit of 15. We got very lucky with the limits of both sea bass as well as summer flounder this year. Flounder will remain 4 per person but the size will drop to 16". Speaking of flounder, not many reports have come in of flatties being caught yet from the Delaware waters. A few of them are around, but reports are slow and fish are spread out mankind it hard to target any specific area. Anthony and Robbie did have some luck fishing the Lewes canal and managed a couple of nice big keeper flounder. Joe Ribinski managed a nice pair of 19" flounder in the Indian River Bay. As the water warms we should begin to see much more consistent catches of flounder both in the bays as well as the ocean. Flounder will take many baits with the two most popular being squid and minnow combinations, or the ever popular Gulp baits in the larger size. You will have to decide which color works best as is seems Gulp is now up to 4,500 colors...ha ha! Many local lure makers have their versions of the flounder rigs but I have found that the traditional top and bottom rig with an extra long leader on the bottom line works best. If you don't want to tie your own, Aqua clear rigs are very dependable and available at most tackle shops and area stores including Hockers and Bethany Auto Parts.

So as we start our season of 2022 remember to keep those lines tight and the fins up! \$

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It was a great day for Tog fishing at the Wall in the Delaware Bay on April 24th. Archer Morgan and his son Seth released 22 fish and had six keepers. They used green crab and sand fleas. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.

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LONG NECK

Short's Marine
 Rick's Bait & Tackle





The Spring black drum run has been strong and angler CW Wells pulled in a monster from the surf! He was fishing mid-April on Assateague Island using frozen peeler crabs at the very beginning of the incoming tide when this 49½" and 70 lb drum hit the line. It took a full 20 minutes to get it to the sand.

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SUNOCO



President of the Ocean City Marlin Club Ryan Freese got to spend some quality time in Costa Rica with his wife Monica along with Chris and Missy Evans from Ocean City. They caught this nice bull dolphin on the "Dream Girl" with mate Burro Gonzales and it shows the rich iridescent blue the fish normally has while in the water... beautiful fish!

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VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



It is a great time to be fishing the lower Eastern Shore. The seaside is producing good flounder action inside the beautiful barrier of the ESVA. The best bites have been during the last half of the ebb in 4-15 feet of water. During the last few Sea Hawk Charters we have witnessed a pattern of increased hook ups on pink mylar teasers tipped with Gulp and silversides. However, illusive clean clear water is your best ally in the quest to fill your cooler with succulent flatfish. That being said, as of May 1st, Virginia has joined Maryland and Delaware by lowering the size limit to 16 inches.

The surf has been producing some good numbers of

black drum and a few rock (to be released). Folks have been stopping by the shop and grabbing Aquaclear modified fish finder rigs, clams, crabs and orange clam Fishbites. My good friend Jimmy from Capt. Steve's Bait and Tackle has seen similar activity from the sportsman of the suds. Jimmy also added that the 2 hours on both sides of high water have been the most productive tidal window in regard to these white water trophies. Sand mullet kingfish have just started to show up on the beach. You will want to use small float style T&B rigs tipped with baits like blood worms, shrimp, and crab to tempt these tasty treats into the frying pan.

The mid bay is awaiting a much anticipated peeler run which will kick fishing into high gear. There have been several red and black drum brought across the gunwale. Frozen peelers and hard crabs can claim a hand in boating these shallow water brutes around the grass beds of the Tangier and Pocomoke sounds. There have been a few specs starting to take paddle tail jigs like Bass Assassin and Old School baits on 1/4 oz - 3/8 oz jig heads. As the water warms, this fishery will just get even better.

The lower Chesapeake is also on the verge of heating up. Earlier this week I had the chance to speak to Chad Parks of Earning Stripes

www.coastalfisherman.net Sportfishing. While they are preparing for another busy season, he reported black drum are biting in and around some of the inlets of the southern ESVA. Sea clams and chowders are doing the trick on flood tides. There has also been a consistent bite of reds in the surf zone around Fisherman's and Smith Islands. Hard crabs casted in the white water on fish finder rigs are the weapon of choice. Lastly the CBBT, as well as some inshore wrecks, are producing some decent tog action.

Don't forget the first annual Smith Island (MD) Fishing Tournament will be held on May 20th-22nd. Check them out on Facebook or call the shop for more details. Most importantly grab your family, fishing partner or even the dog and get out there and enjoy this awesome place we call home! §

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George Sauer from Snow Hill, MD got onto this spring's black drum run early. He wandered down to the Virginia part of Assateague Island in early April and caught this monster on the outgoing side of the high tide using crab for bait.

Dock *and* Dine

DELAWARE

LEWES ↑

6 7

5

Rt. 54

2 3

4 1

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Our own Capt. BJ Pietryak couldn't wait for the fish to come up to Delaware, so he sauntered down to Oyster, VA with Tim Tribbitt to try his luck! They both got their limit of 2 black drums weighing in at 50 lbs and 35 lbs.

Pat DeGroot's first time out this year also yielded his first keeper flounder! Pat pulled the 19" flatfish out of the Thorofare when it fell for his big old mud minnow.

TOURNAMENT SERIES

2022 SCHEDULE

* You do NOT have to be a Member to Participate in this Tournament

<p>UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!</p> <p>13th ANNUAL FRANKY PETTOLINA MEMORIAL DAY TOURNAMENT To benefit the Catherine & Charles Kratz Memorial Foundation and Scholarship Fund Registration: May 27, 6:30 - 8:00pm Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 28 & 29 Weigh-Ins: May 28 & 29 4:30-7:00pm at Sunset Marina</p>	<p>43rd ANNUAL SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT Registration: June 24, 6:30-8:00pm Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 25 & 26 Weigh-Ins: June 25 & 26, 3:00-6:30pm at Sunset Marina</p>	<p>40th ANNUAL CANYON KICK OFF * Registration: June 30, 6:30-8:00pm FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 1, 2 & 3 Weigh-Ins: July 1-3, 5:00-7:30pm at Sunset Marina</p>	<p>18th ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC * To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation Registration: July 15, 6:00-8:00pm Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 16 & 17 Weigh-Ins: July 16, 3:00-6:30pm and July 17, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina</p>
<p>14th ANNUAL OCMC LADIES' TOURNAMENT "HEELS & REELS"* To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund Registration: August 4, 6:00-8:00pm Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 5 & 6 Weigh-Ins: August 5 & 6 5:30-7:30pm at Atlantic Tackle</p>	<p>64th ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT * Registration: September 1, 6:30-8:00pm Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 2, 3 & 4 Weigh-Ins: September 2, 3 & 4 6:00-8:00pm at Sunset Marina</p>	<p>44th ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP Registration: Sept. 7, 6:00-8:00pm Fishing Days: (2 or 3) Sept. 8, 9 & 10 No Weigh-Ins</p>	<p>7th ANNUAL OCMC vs OCLTC SHOOT-OUT Angler Meeting: July 21, 7:00pm Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 22, 23, 24 No Weigh-Ins</p>

Check for Updates on our **WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA**

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John McFalls, Secretary of the Atlantic Coast Sportfishing Association (ACSA) presents the 2021 "Angler of the Year Awards" to Ron Smith (Ocean Division) and Shaun Flaherty (Bay Division) in a January Ceremony. Congratulations to both!

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