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COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME 41 • • • NUMBER 20 • • • SEPTEMBER 14, 2016



Last Sunday, Bahia Marina held it's 11th Annual Flounder Pounder and Rich and Baron Daiker from Reisterstown, MD swept the leaderboard with big flatties weighing 3 lbs. 6 oz., 3 lbs. 12 oz. and 6 lbs. 15 oz. Rich caught the winning flounder while fishing with live bunker at the inside of the South Jetty during the outgoing tide. When the tide switched, the duo anchored in the West Channel, south of the Rt. 50 Bridge where Baron caught the 2nd place flounder and Rich jumped into 3rd place, hooking both on live bunker. For their three fish, the father and son team took home \$7,960 in award money.



When the seas calmed down after Tropical Storm Hermine, anglers on the charter boat, "Marli" took the opportunity to venture out to the Washington Canyon where they returned with 3 white marlin releases, a blue marlin release and 31 dolphin (6 pictured). All of the fish were caught on trolled ballyhoo. Fishing with Capt. Mark Hoos and mate Mark Stephens were Harry Finke from Elkton, MD, Mark Grabenstein from Owings Mills, MD, Dave Rudolph from Castalia, OH, Bill Rudolph from Huron, OH, Alex Grabenstein from Frederick, MD and Larry Grabenstein from Annapolis, MD. Mark, Dave and Larry each released their first white marlin and Alex released the blue marlin. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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Roger Lewis and Harry Prince were fishing at the Twin Wrecks with Shannon Pickens when they caught 12 flounder (2 pictured), 12 sea bass and a pair of dolphin, all on squid and Gulp!



Price Phillips muscled in this 53 lb. wahoo while fishing in 20 fathoms at the Fingers. Joining Price on the "Rag Doll" were Rick Garner, Jake Garner and Capt. Joe Garner, all from Ocean View, DE. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em in the Indian River Marina.

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Ryan Rohrbaugh from York, PA had a great day fishing in the East Channel in front of the Lazy Lizard. Ryan ended up with 3 flounder (2 pictured) caught on 6-inch Gulp! artificial baits. The 2 largest flatties both weighed an even 8 lbs. with one measuring 27 3/4-inches and the other an even 28-inches.



Last Friday, Justin Jaghab and John Whitney from Manalapan, NJ, Frank Geck from Peach Bottom, NJ, Rob Lewis and Chet Wood from Bel Air, MD and Tom Volarich from Annapolis, MD returned to the Indian River Marina with 3 nice size yellowfin tuna after spending the day trolling 5 miles north of the Washington Canyon. Their largest yellowfin tipped the scale at 77 lbs. gutted. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.

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Ocean City Fishing Report

by Larry Jock



Tropical Storm Hermine blew through our area early last week and by Thursday, anglers couldn't take it anymore and headed outside the Inlet. Understandably, dirty water conditions made fishing in the bay and on inshore lumps very difficult with cloudy water found all the way out to 6-miles off the coastline.

The Bahia Marina Flounder Pounder was held on Sunday with Rich and Baron Daiker sweeping the leaderboard with flatties weighing 3 lbs. 6 oz., 3 lbs. 12 oz. and 6 lbs. 15 oz. Rich told me that all of the fish were caught while using live bunker for bait. He fished the outgoing tide around the inside of the South Jetty where he picked up the first place fish before heading to the West Channel, just south of the Rt. 50 Bridge, where Baron caught the 2nd place fish and Rich landed the 3rd place flatie, both during the incoming tide.

Rich has become known for catching big flounder and he told me that the best tip he could give someone looking for a big flatie would be to not be afraid to let them eat, especially when using live spot or bunker. He said, and I agree, that those large fish need time to swallow the good size bait and too many anglers don't give them enough time and end up with a spot or bunker with

scrapes down it's side and a lot of missing scales. Rich told me a story where he was fishing with his cousin when a Beatles song came on the radio just as a flounder took his live spot. He simply turned to his fellow anglers and told them that when the song was over to clear all the lines and get the net. Well, that's what they did and Rich ended up boating a flounder that weighed close to 9 lbs. after waiting almost 3 minutes to set the hook. Kind of a funny story, but one that also drives the point home.

Many anglers in the tournament said that the bite was slow, with most of the fish coming to the scale after being caught in the West Channel off Martha's Landing (see page 25). This makes sense since this is the time of year we start seeing flounder "stacking up" in preparation for their trip to ocean structure. The bulkhead along the East Chanel, the pilings around the Rt. 50 Bridge, the holes along the South Jetty and along the rocks off Martha's Landing are all prime spots right now.

Anglers were surprised this week with a good weakfish bite in the Ocean City Inlet and around the South Jetty. Fish were keeper size and caught on squid and Gulp!. There were

also a good number of sea bass in the Inlet late in the week and throughout the weekend. We should also be coming up on the time when speckled trout can be caught just north of the Rt. 50 Bridge between the East and West Channels.

Inshore, we didn't have a single cobia report after the storm, which was kind of disappointing since before Hermine it was as good as we have seen it.

Anglers venturing out to ocean structure, and even along natural bottom, found solid catches of flounder and an improved sea bass bite. Capt. Kane Bounds on the "Fish Bound" continued to put his anglers on the meat, returning with boat limits of flounder after fishing in 100 to 120 feet of water.

Offshore, the inaugural Shoot Out between members of the Ocean City Light Tackle Club and the Ocean City Marlin Club took place on Thursday and Friday with the Light Tackle Club prevailing 2,700 points to 2,400 points. Both teams caught and released 24 white marlin during their 2 days of fishing, but the difference was the 2 blue marlin releases by the Light Tackle Club anglers. On Thursday, most of the action took place near the 800/800 in the Washington Canyon and moved to north of the Poor Man's on Friday. Outside the tournament, most of the boats headed to just south of the Baltimore Canyon and returned, on average, with 4 to 6 white marlin releases. On Thursday, anglers on "Rhonda's Osprey" had an exceptional day, returning with a Grand Slam

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consisting of 16 white marlin, a spearfish and a blue marlin release.

A few yellowfins were caught over the weekend in the Washington Canyon but we didn't hear of any bigeyes. Late on Sunday, I did see the "Game On" returning to the Ocean City Fishing Center with 4 tuna flags flying after fishing in the Washington.

The wahoo bite before the storm was really turning on and we did see a couple caught last week out of Indian River in addition to a pair caught on the "Par Five" on Friday and one caught on the "Moore Bills" last Thursday.

Dolphin are all over the ocean with catches coming back from anywhere between the Baltimore and Washington Canyons and closer to shore at the Hot Dog and other inshore lumps. The fish aren't as large as we have seen, but the numbers are strong.

Upcoming Tournaments

This weekend is the 6th Annual MSSA Mid-Atlantic Flounder Tournament on September 7th & 18th. Registration is Friday at Atlantic Tackle from 6-8 PM. Fishing is from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM with local weigh-ins at Hook'em & Cook'em and Atlantic Tackle.

Also this weekend is the 38th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Challenge Cup pitting members of the Ocean City Marlin Club against those from the Cape May Marlin & Tuna Club. Our local guys have been on the short end for the last couple of years, so hopefully this years event will see an end to Cape May's successful run.

The A.M.S.A Red Drum Tournament, scheduled for September 15th, 16th and 17th has been cancelled.

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is published weekly from May through September and annually in January by Coastal Fisherman, Inc. at 12748 Sunset Avenue, Ocean City, MD 21842

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Debbie Coates from Newark, DE caught a 17-inch flounder while fishing on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mates Dan Iacangelo and Adam Keller (both pictured). Debbie caught the flattie on a chunk of tuna along natural ocean bottom. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Little Parker Fallon, age 2, caught his first fish, a throwback striper while fishing with Adam Hoerner and his parents, Katie and Josh Fallon. The linesider made the mistake of eating the live spot being drifted in the Ocean City Inlet by the future Striper Sniper.

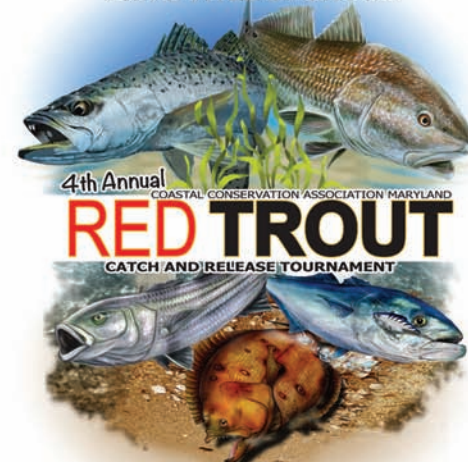


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While fishing with shiners from the 3rd Street Bulkhead, Dustin Blickenstaff from Smithsburg, MD hooked this 21 3/4-inch, 4 lb. 3 oz. flounder.



Bob Marlin, Brandon Ksiazek, Cory Gambacorta, Tony Benedetto and Evan Clark returned to the Indian River Marina with a pair of wahoo weighing 33.7 and 37.1 lbs. Both were caught on skirted ballyhoo at the Chicken Bone. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.

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Narrowtooth, Night, Sand Tiger,
Sevengill, Sixgill, Smalltail,
Whale, White



Wyatt Greene from Annapolis, MD is now sitting at the top of the Indian River Marina leaderboard after catching a 76.7 lb. yellowfin tuna while fishing on the "Finominal" with his brother, Cole, his dad, Duncan and Capt. Fred Wick. The big yellowfin was hooked on a trolled ballyhoo in the Baltimore Canyon and weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.



This 23 1/2-inch flounder should have never went for the minnow and Gulp! combination being fished by Gary Benedict of Fayetteville, PA. The 5 pounder ended up on the cleaning table at Bahia Marina.

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Colin Herlihy celebrated his bachelor party with an offshore trip aboard the charter boat, "Marli" with Capt. Mark Hoos and mate Mark Stephens (pictured). Colin was rewarded with his first white marlin, hooked on a trolled ballyhoo in the Poor Man's Canyon.

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Chum Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson



There's been a lot of discussion about the town of Ocean City's decision to prohibit the use of kayaks or other vessels (or devices) to deliver shark baits out from the beach. Considering how popular land-based shark fishing has become over the last decade or so, it shouldn't be a surprise to anyone that this new regulation has not been well received by some members of our fishing community.

For the sake of those who are not up on this type of fishing, I should probably point out that land-based sharking has gone on for a lot of years, but it's really only been during the last decade that it has blossomed into something done by more than just a relatively small number of hard-core anglers dedicated to that type of fishing. The expansion of this fishery is almost exclusively the result of the advent of the modern style kayak which allows fishermen to paddle hefty-size shark baits out beyond the breakers, many hundreds of yards from the beach, where they stand an increased chance of being picked up by a large shark. Before these kayaks became so readily available, anglers had to "cast" their baits out, which severely limited the size of bait they

could throw, the distance they could get the bait out from shore and the size of the tackle they would have to land a large shark with.

No longer a sport practiced by mostly experienced big game fishermen, now anyone with a kayak and a big rod and reel can spend their early evening playing tug-o-war with few big sharks on the beach and still have time to take the wife and kids to the boardwalk for caramel corn and rides before bedtime!

To stop large sharks from being landed on their beaches the Mayor and City Council didn't have to "ban" shark fishing, all they had to do was say that kayaks could not be used to deliver baits, knowing that such an action would effectively put an end to most of the sharks being landed from the beach.

The prohibition has prompted many to ask "If shark fishing is something the public enjoys, is legal, the sharks are always released and no one has been hurt, then what's the problem? Why ban it? And hasn't the town got bigger issues to worry about?" Some have drawn up their own conclusions that the town was just bowing to the complaints of a few

beachgoers who didn't know a thing about sharks or shark fishing, and even suggested that for reasons of public relations the town was trying to "hide" the fact there are sharks in our local waters.

Unfortunately social media images and videos of people sitting on the backs of sharks or "waltzing" with them in the surf has ruined it for anglers who have safely, ethically and without a lot of hoopla been sharking from our beaches for many years. Considering all the safety issues for both "fish" and "fisherman" that revolve around this type of fishing, I'm actually somewhat surprised that either the town of Ocean City, Maryland DNR or even the National Park Service (Assateague Island) didn't take some kind of action sooner to at least curtail "some" of the antics that have occurred on the beach over the last few years.

Handling a shark through the entire catch-and-release process can be tricky and somewhat dangerous enough from a boat, standing in knee deep water while breaking waves push the animal in unpredictable directions adds an increased level of danger for fishermen, their helpers and sometimes even for bystanders who might move in close for a better view of the landing. And in an era when everyone has a video camera in their pocket, you can bet that more than just a few folks have succumb to the temptation to put their better judgment on hold and ham it up

a bit when they know they're being videoed. YouTube is full of videos of anglers and bystanders doing stupid and dangerous things with sharks before they turn them loose. Other than one fellow who apparently was tumbled while kayaking out a bait and impaled on his own hook, I don't know if any serious injuries on Delmarva's beaches yet, but the way things have been going you better believe an injury is on it's way - and it's not going to be pretty because even a "little" shark bite is bad news!

To minimize the danger of handling a live shark in the surf, beach anglers will often drag them by their tail or by the leader up and out of the water before dehooking, measuring, tagging, photographing and any other procedures they choose to perform before dragging it back down to the water for the release. Unfortunately, while this action will help minimize the chance of injury to the fisherman, it can result in the eventual death of the shark.

Sharks are pretty tough on the outside and able to recover from severe external injuries, but on the inside they aren't so sturdy and are very susceptible to damage from mishandling. Lifting or dragging a shark by its tail can lead to damage to its vertebra that can end its life. If the hook is imbedded in the shark's esophagus or gut, dragging it by the leader can greatly magnify any internal injuries the shark has already sustained. Removing the shark from the water also intensifies

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stress levels while oxygen depletion saps the animals strength. Sand in the gills and warm air temperatures also work against the odds of the shark surviving a catch and release on the beach.

This leaves anglers in somewhat of a quandary. Should they risk their own well-being by releasing sharks in the water? Or should they risk the life of the shark by hauling it up onto the sand and then back into water before releasing it? Either the angler loses a hand or the shark loses it's life, two options – choose one. Understandably, many anglers will choose to put their own safety over that of the shark, which was an argument we heard by fishermen when the state of Delaware decided to prohibit anglers from removing surf-caught sharks from the water before release.

Sandbar, dusky and sand tiger sharks are the three most commonly hooked species of sharks from the beach. According to National Marine Fisheries Service, the population status of these three species is at such low levels of abundance that they are considered to be

overfished and they have been placed on the “prohibited species list” which means that they cannot be taken at any time, and technically (by NMFS regulations), cannot even be targeted for catch-and-release. So as far as our local sharks are concerned, those three species are among those that need the most “conservation” - not the most “exploitation”.

Sand tigers are the largest sharks commonly taken off the beach. Anyone who fished for sharks back in the 70's and early 80's remembers how easy it was to pull up to almost any wreck or shoal, 3-10 miles offshore, and tug on as many of these sharks as their arms and backs could withstand. Compared to most sharks, sand tigers are slow, sluggish and anything but exciting on the line, but their large size and wicked-looking teeth have always made them an eye-popping catch for novice shark anglers. The ease that these sharks could be caught was their downfall, and by the mid-90's they were all but wiped out of our local waters. In 1997 they were one of the first sharks to make the prohibited list and it

took almost 10-years until we started to see them show up again in some of their former haunts. With still a long way to go before they can be considered “out of the woods”, every sand tiger is precious to the recovery of the species.

Unfortunately sand tigers have some habits that make them even more susceptible to post release mortality than most other sharks. Most sharks swim constantly, so when they pick up a bait there is a good chance that the line will come tight allowing the circle hook to properly set in the jaw. Sand tigers are able to retain air in their stomach giving them additional buoyancy so they can swim very slowly and, with just a little current, can even hover in one place. This allows them to pick up and immediately swallow a bait without coming tight on the line, permitting the hook to get inside the stomach and, even with a circle hook, have a better than average chance of impaling in the gut or esophagus. Therefore, as anyone who has caught them from the beach knows, an alarmingly high percentage of sand tigers end up being gut-

hooked, and a “gut-hooked” shark can eventually end up being a “dead” shark, particularly those that also have to endure the ordeal that some anglers choose to put them through up on the sand.

The complex task of managing our marine resources is a job for our state and federal fishery managers, not the town of Ocean City's. But the folks in City Hall “are” responsible for public safety issues that occur within our city limits. If they didn't do anything to curtail what has been happening on the beach, and someone got hurt, you can bet that everyone and their brother would be jumping on them for not taking action sooner. The mayor and city council did what was needed to be done to keep the public safe and along the way a few shark that species will benefit from a little extra and well-needed conservation.

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



Ocean City Marlin Club

2016 Tournament Series

38th Annual Scott Smith & Charles Kratz Challenge Cup

Registration: September 14, 7:00 PM

Fishing Days: (2 of 3) Sept. 15, 16 & 17

Italian Night: Sept. 16, 6:30 pm

Awards Banquet: Sept. 17, 6:30pm

4th Annual OCMC Rockfish Tournament*

To benefit the Jimmy Fund

Registration: December 2, 6:00 PM

Fishing Days: (5 of 9) December 3-11

Awards Banquet: December 11, 6:30 PM

* You do NOT have to be a Member to participate in this tournament

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2016 COASTAL FISHERMAN Heaviest Fish of the Year

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

Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
 Sea Bass	May 29, 2016 Irving Drummond "Morning Star" 5 lbs.	June 13, 2016 Kevin DiPoalo DelJerseyLand Reef 6 lbs. 3 oz.	 Mako Shark 100 lb. minimum	August 12, 2016 Hunter Pusey "Rumor Has It" 223 lbs.	June 16, 2016 Luke Brubaker "Michael D" 231 lbs.
 Tautog	May 9, 2016 Karl Maier "Fish Bound" 20 lbs. 2 oz.	March 1, 2016 Rich Seagraves Ocean Wreck 14 lbs.	 Thresher Shark	June 4, 2016 Jeff Green Fingers 455 lbs.	June 4, 2016 Rick Passwaters "A" Buoy 477 lbs.
 Striped Bass	May 9, 2016 Rick Findley Ocean City Surf 35 lbs.	April 24, 2016 Nick Rholetter Upper DE Bay 31 lbs. 15 oz.	 Bluefin Tuna	April 23, 2016 Josh Ensor Wilmington Canyon 133 lbs.	July 11, 2016 Brooks Vaughn Massey's Canyon 142 lbs.
 Weakfish	July 19, 2016 Finn McCabe West Channel 3 lbs. 10oz.	June 2, 2016 Rod Grodzicki Inner Wall 7 lbs. 8 oz.	 Yellowfin Tuna	July 3, 2016 Brian Stempowski Rockpile 125.8 lbs.	NEW September 4, 2016 Wyatt Greene Baltimore Canyon 76.7 lbs.
 Cobia	June 30, 2016 Emma Zajdel Little Gull Shoal 94.6 lbs.	August 1, 2016 Darin Cathell Delaware Coast 76.6 lbs.	 Longfin Tuna	July 2, 2016 John Brittingham Fingers 48 lbs.	June 5, 2016 Jeff Drury Lindenkohl Canyon 54 lbs.
 Flounder	July 5, 2016 Jennifer Vojna Martha's Landing 9 lbs. 13 oz.	August 20, 2016 Tony Munoz Old Grounds 11 lbs. 14 oz.	 Bigeye Tuna	August 10, 2016 Rich Kosztyu Wilmington Canyon 236.5 lbs.	August 20, 2016 Mason Coursey Poor Man's Canyon 210 lbs.
 Bluefish	August 19, 2016 Big Bird Cropper Rt. 50 Bridge 15 lbs. 4 oz.	May 1, 2016 Andrew Stuchlik Henlopen Pier 17 lbs. 11 oz.	 Dolphin	August 3, 2016 Jimmy Willey Washington Canyon 54 lbs.	NEW August 1, 2016 Nick Kincaid Hot Dog 28.8 lbs.
 Sheepshead	July 20, 2016 Bill Bollhorst Ocean City Surf 10 lbs. 3oz.	July 18, 2016 Joseph Crowley Outer Wall 14 lbs. 6 oz.	 Wahoo	July 1, 2016 Charlie Long Washington Canyon 102 lbs.	NEW September 10, 2016 John Mancuso Poor Man's 74 lbs.
 Black Drum	May 15, 2016 Timothy Witig "Fish Bound" 65 lbs.	May 14, 2016 Rylie Tingle Coral Beds 66.7 lbs.	 White Marlin	Most Releases in One Day (trolling only) August 5, 2016 "Billfisher" 23 releases August 7, 2016 "Boy's Toy" 10 releases	

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



Braydan Cobb, age 7, was fishing from the dock off 9th Street in Ocean City when he hooked into this 18 1/2-inch flounder.



John Mancuso from Lewes, DE hooked this 74 lb. wahoo last Friday while trolling ballyhoo in the Poor Man's with John Hazzard from Georgetown, DE and Capt. Jim Short from Wilmington, DE on the "Not Right". The guys also released 3 white marlin during their trip. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em in the Indian River Marina.

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One of the first boats to venture offshore after Tropical Storm Hermine blew through our area was "Rhonda's Osprey" with Capt. Joe Drosey at the helm and mates James Doerzbach and Matt Bierley. Tom Erb, Dave Erb, Nate Sauer, Willie Erb, Cole Erb and Steve Davies teamed up to release 16 white marlin, 1 spearfish and 1 blue marlin. Tom, Dave and Cole each released their 1st white marlin and Nate earned a Grand Slam with releases of a white marlin (his 1st), a blue marlin and a spearfish. All of the action took place in the Poor Man's Canyon. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



Back in July, Aron and Ethan Burke from St. Louis, MO were treated to an offshore fishing trip by their uncle, Ed Markiewicz in celebration of their graduation from high school. The duo ended up boating a pair of bluefin tuna, weighing 52 and 63 lbs. The fish were caught on skirted ballyhoo at the Hambone while fishing on the "Over-Board" with Capt. Dustin Lorah.



While giving his best Arnold Schwarzenegger pose, Brian Green shows off the fat 22-inch flounder he caught while fishing in the West Channel with a shad dart tipped with Fishbites bloodworm.



Last Friday, anglers on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" returned to Bahia Marina with their limit of 24 flounder and a few sea bass after fishing at the Bass Grounds. The fish were mainly caught with strips of bluefish.

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



It was a white marlin and dolphin weekend for most boats that headed offshore and on Saturday, anglers fishing on the charter boat, "Marli" released 6 whites and caught 2 dolphin outside the Rockpile. Joining Capt. Mark Hoos and mates Mark Stephens and Raul Gonzalez were Alan Stephens, Isaac Sapp, Henry Hoffman, Brian Stephens, John Wheeler and Kelly Ricketts. Pictured on C-dock at Sunset Marina.



Daris Clark from Bayshore, Long Island took largest fish honors during a trip aboard the headboat, "Capt. Bob II". Daris' flattie measured 24-inches and weighed 4 lbs. on the scale at Hook'em & Cook'em in the Indian River Marina.



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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Mark, Kathy, Mitchell and Lindsey Drew, Billy Ketterman and Kirby Short, all from Bishopville, MD released 5 white marlin and caught 17 dolphin in the Poor Man's Canyon last Saturday during a trip aboard the "C-Boys" with Capt. Luke Blume and mate Jon Henry. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



Last Saturday, sea bass snapped better than they have been and a triggerfish even showed up in the mix for anglers fishing on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mates Dan Iacangelo and Adam Keller. Frank Turner, Brett Paris, Bobby Carroll and George Rowe each caught some knotheads on clams and squid over natural bottom and at artificial reefs. Bob Carroll boated a triggerfish at an artificial reef. Pictured back at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Anglers on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" continued their assault on flatties, this day returning with 20 keepers from the Jackspot. Steve Schneider caught a 23-inch, 4 lb. 4 oz. flounder and Darrell Doupnik led the way with a pair that measured 25 and 26-inches. Darrell's largest tipped the scale at 7 lbs. 2 oz. All were hooked on bucktails tipped with Gulp! Weighed at Bahia Marina.



David Konick and his buddy ventured out to the Bass Grounds on David's 1954 Chris Craft Sea Skiff and loaded up on 15 Spanish mackerel and 20 bluefish.

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

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

OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Johnny Laviola, age 7, caught this pufferfish while drifting in the East Channel in front of the Lazy Lizard.



Brian Roberts, Stephen Lewis and John Lewis from the Big Fish Classic present Capt. Monty Hawkins with a \$2,500 check to the Ocean City Reef Foundation.

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Last Friday, Tracy Gauger and Terry Anderson from Millsboro, DE, Bruce Kenney from Gumboro, DE, Chess Hedrick from Harbeson, DE, Paige Lynch from Houston, DE and Art Knipple from Harrington, DE caught 29 dolphin and recorded 4 white marlin releases during a trip aboard the charter boat, "Marli" with Capt. Mark Hoos and mate Mark Stephens. All of the action took place in 70 fathoms near the Rockpile with Tracy, Terry and Art each releasing their first white marlin. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



Nancy Flanagan from Wilmington, DE caught a pair of flounder, measuring 21 1/2-inches and 26-inches, while fishing at "B" Buoy on the "Mis-Aligned". The flatties were hooked on Spro bucktails tipped with Gulp artificial baits. The largest fish weighed 6 lbs. 3 oz. on the scale at Hook'em & Cook'em.

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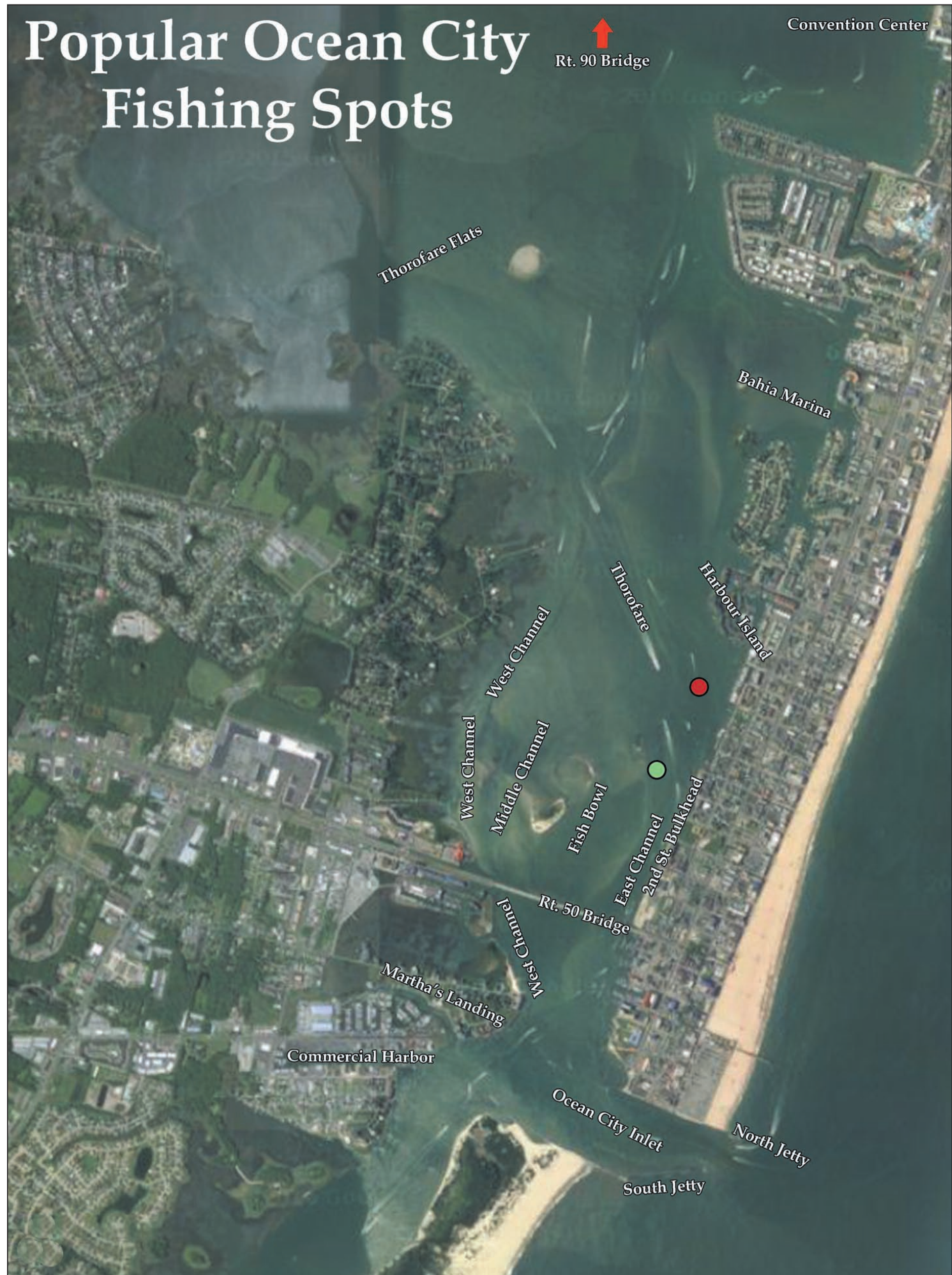
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BAY FISHING CHARTERS



When the seas settled down after Tropical Storm Hermine, anglers on the headboat, "Morning Star" headed out to some ocean structure and were rewarded with a batch of black sea bass along with some flounder, measuring up to 20-inches. Fishing with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mates Dan Iacangelo and Wes Pollitt were Roy Hurd and Ben Carlson, both from Snow Shoe, PA, Ken Hall from Neshaminy, PA and Fred Reifner from Carney, MD.

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Melanie Beck from Vineland, NJ and Linda McFeaters from Mays Landing, NJ are all smiles after catching a tableload of croakers during a trip aboard the charter boat, "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford. All of the hardheads were caught in the East Channel on strips of squid. Pictured at Frontier Town.



Last week, Sam, Jeremy and Sammy Brash from Johnstown, PA took a trip on the charter boat, "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente and ended their day with 3 keeper flounder, measuring up to 17-inches. All of the fish were caught on Gulp! Swimming Mulletts in the East Channel. The "Get Sum" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Brian Leader was deep dropping just outside the Rockpile when he hooked into this good size golden tilefish. Brian was fishing on the "Keep Er Wet" with Capt. Dave Sumpter when they caught 7 goldens during their trip. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

MARYLAND REGULATIONS

State Waters Only

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 12.5" minimum 15 per person/day 5/15-9/21 & 10/22-12/31</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH 8" minimum 10 per person/day</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day or 6 per boat/day</p>	 <p>COBIA No limit</p>
 <p>CROAKER 9" minimum 25 per person/day</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 18" - 27" 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD No limit</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 4 per person/day</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 28"- 38" and 44" and greater Any Combination 2 per person/day</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 5/16-10/31 2 per person/day</p>	 <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 16" minimum 4 per person/day</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

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Delaware Fishing Report

by Larry Jock




Well, it's always interesting to see what happens to the local fishing scene after a big weather event, and I think most would agree that the effects of Tropical Storm Hermine were minimal at best, other than keep folks at the dock for several days.

At the Hook'em & Cook'em Tackle Shop in the Indian River Marina, Capt. Bert Adams said that some nice size flounder have been caught in the Indian River Inlet during the outgoing tide. On Saturday, Bert had one angler come in to the shop after hooking 10 flatties up to 6 lbs. while fishing with sand fleas. The best flounder bite has been by the Coast Guard Wall for anglers using Gulp! and minnows for bait. Anglers are having to weed through a lot of throwbacks to get their keeper, but it is worth it since the majority of keepers are in the 21 to 24-inch range.

Like in Ocean City, the trout bite in the inlet has improved. On Friday, fish were caught up to 7 lbs..

Bert said that the bite has been kind of crazy with one day croakers dominating the scene, but absent the next when small bluefish show up. The hardheads love Fishbites or any cut bait while those hooking into small gators are finding the best luck in tossing anything silver and shiny.

In the surf, it's your typical sharks and skates at night and bluefish chomping on cut mullet during the day.



This 7 lb. 13 oz. flounder fell at the hands of Evan Falgowski while jigging with bucktails tipped with shiners and squid on ocean structure. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

Inshore, we are seeing water temperatures hovering around 72-degrees and the dirty water extending from the beach out to around 6-miles, but even so, some nice flounder catches are taking place in 70 to 85-feet of water. "A" Buoy, "B Buoy" and

all around the Old Grounds continues to be the best spot for big flounder.

Sea bass fishing hasn't been red hot, but if you are looking for a nice size knothead, then Bert said your best chance would be at the Radford wreck

www.coastalfisherman.net

which is part of the DelJerseyLand reefsite. Last weekend, Gulp! outperformed cut bait for the first time in quite a while.

In addition to sea bass and flounder, anglers on headboats out of Indian River are finding thick schools of croakers only 6 miles off the beach in 60 to 65-feet of water. Most of the weakies are in the 10 to 12-inch range with larger trout closer to the beach.

Fenwick Shoal was a consistent producer all summer and anglers are still finding a few bluefish and Spanish mackerel.

Offshore, boats started venturing outside the Inlet last Thursday with most heading to the Washington Canyon in search of yellowfin tuna. Those looking for white marlin found also found them in the Washington Canyon but the better bite was in the Poor Man's and just south of the Baltimore. On Thursday and Saturday, anglers on the "Finominal" released 15 white marlin.

Dolphin are being caught all over the ocean and, like white marlin, the best action is in the Washington and just south of the Baltimore, but anglers are also finding them on the inshore lumps as well.

Wahoo were caught at both the Elephant Trunk and the Hambone where a 74 pounder was boated.

There is only 1 more *Coastal Fisherman* left this season, so if you have any pictures you would like to submit, you can do so by emailing them to coastalfisherman@comcast.net.

Until next week, tight lines!

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The first Indian River Marina boat to head offshore after Tropical Storm Hermine rolled through the area was the "Capt. Ike II" with Capt. Dave Collins at the helm, who pointed the bow to the Hot Dog where he jumped on a good dolphin bite last Thursday. Frank Orsini from Hockessin, DE caught a 23.5 pounder, Dominic Paloni from Lancaster, PA boated a 26.3 pounder and Nick Kincaid from Bear, DE took top honors with a 28.8 lb. dolphin. They also caught 110 lbs. of peanut dolphin and recorded 2 white marlin releases during their trip. Photo courtesy of Hook'em & Cook'em.

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12.5" minimum
15 per person/day
5/15-9/21 & 10/22-12/31



BLUEFISH
No minimum size
10 per person/day



BLACK DRUM
16" minimum
3 per person/day



CROAKER
8" minimum
No creel limit



STRIPED BASS
28" - 37" or 44" or greater
2 per person/day



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



SHEEPSHEAD
No limit



SPECKLED TROUT
12" minimum
No creel limit



COBIA
No limit



SUMMER FLOUNDER
16" minimum
4 per person/day



TAUTOG
Season closed thru 9/29



WEAKFISH
13" minimum
1 per person/day



Eric Mellette and Skip Courtney pose with the white marlin caught and released by John Lloyd who ended up being seasick and sprawled out in a beanbag chair right after the fish was leaded. The white marlin, in addition to 9 dolphin, were hooked in 100 fathoms near the Rockpile while fishing on the "Short Fuse".

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Off Season Preparations

This is the last Ship-to-Shore column for the 2016 season. I hope everyone has had a good season and were entertained and educated while reading this column. If you have any topics you would like covered next year, please contact myself or Larry at the *Coastal Fisherman*.

A new product was just announced. McMurdo, a major electronics manufacturer (with USA headquarters in Maryland), announced that they have designed the world's first four-frequency EPIRB. The McMurdo SmartFind G8 EPIRBs will be the world's first distress beacons that can support each of the four frequencies used in the search and rescue process: 406MHz and 121.5MHz for beacon transmission; GNSS for location positioning and

AIS for localized connectivity.

The addition of GNSS and AIS is new for any EPIRB up until now. The GNSS capability allows the beacon to use satellite constellations such as GPS (USA), Galileo (Europe) and GLONASS (Russia). The additional AIS channels on the new EPIRB will send position signal information to standard AIS electronic equipment on nearby vessels for complementary, local tracking and rescue capabilities. All of these features in one device can result in faster detection of positioning coordinates and enhances the accuracy of the emergency location. The new EPIRBs are also designed to be fully compatible with MEOSAR, the next generation of the C o s p a s - S a r s a t international search and rescue satellite system.

There is a lot that goes on in the fall and winter

seasons in the fishing and boating world. The fall and winter boat shows are popular events to check out the new boats, accessories and, of course, marine electronics. Whether it's Annapolis, Ft Lauderdale, Miami, Palm Beach or Ocean City, there is no shortage of good events to visit.

Many of us in the marine electronics industry are gearing up for the annual trade-only NMEA (National Marine Electronics Association) conference at the end of September. This is where the worlds marine electronics industry professional get together for a week of training, trade show meetings and networking to learn about the latest and greatest in the industry. It is not just an event to show off new equipment, but an industry conference to share knowledge and exchange ideas between dealers, manufacturers and other industry leaders that allow NMEA members to keep improving the marine electronics industry.

Keep an eye out for the

NMEA product award recipients, often proudly announced by the winning manufacturers a few days after the event.

Whether you have downtime this fall before taking your boat south or preparing for the winter here in the mid-Atlantic, take an inventory of your marine electronics, (include serial numbers, too) and review the system you have and how the components are performing. There may be some off-season service that you need, a software update, repair or an upgrade of your existing hardware. Talking with dealers and manufacturers at the boat shows is a good way to learn about your options for your existing systems and learn about new hardware. Many dealers and manufactures have special prices and rates during the boat shows or throughout the winter season here in the mid-Atlantic.

In preparing for winter, if possible, remove your marine electronics from your boat. It's always better to have them in a

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safe and secure, temperature controlled environment than left sitting out in the weather on your boat.

If the wiring looks confusing, take pictures and label the wires before you disconnect them. This also gives you an opportunity to clean your electronics and closely look over the hardware, wiring and connectors to be sure everything is in good condition for next spring.

It is best to use a microfiber cloth and distilled water to clean your electronics and screens. Harsher cleaners may damage sensitive screens and components.

While on the topic of winter, be sure to keep your batteries fully charged with a multistage charger during the off-season, even if you disconnect or remove your batteries, they need to be kept fully charged to prolong their life. A fully charged battery will read 12.65 volts when tested with no load. If you disconnect your batteries from your boat systems, be

sure you remove the drain plug or provide other means to let the accumulated water drain out of your boat. A little rain and snow can lead to a "sinking" while on land.

If you are not using your boat in the winter, you may be able to suspend your satellite music, satellite weather or satellite TV service for the winter months, saving you some money and keeping your account active for an easy Spring start-up. Canceling the account may cause financial penalties and a headache in the spring when trying to re-activate the service.

If your boat is headed south for the winter, Fall is a good time for marine electronics software updates. This way if there is a problem or a learning curve, you will have time to get it worked out and it won't interfere with a critical fishing trip. Also, review your navigation charts. Be sure your electronic charts are up-to-date and have the correct coverage for your trip south. Test and operate all of your equipment such as

FLIR camera, spotlights, satellite phones and other critical gear to be sure everything is functioning properly for your trip.

If your boat is going to be out of the water for the winter or for fall maintenance, it would be a good time to investigate adding or replacing your fishfinder transducer. It seems that lots of people are interested in a CHIRP upgrade (or side scan type of sounder) and with the wide variety of transducers, mounting styles and prices, adding a CHIRP transducer to your system may not be as expensive as you thought.

I wish everyone a wonderful off-season and thank you for reading Ship-to Shore.

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

September 14, 2016 Coastal Fisherman Page 37

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Chris Beltzer from Queens, NY caught this 2 lb. 11 oz. flounder on a strip of squid at an artificial reef while fishing on the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Dean Lo and Rich Fouts.



This 19-inch flounder was fooled by a bucktail tipped with squid being fished by Mike Runkles of Damascus, MD. Mike was drifting in the bay behind Assateague Island, just south of the inlet.

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Jigging a bucktail tipped with a white Gulp! artificial bait was the ticket for Anthony Garbarino of Lewes, DE when he captured this 20-inch, 3 lb. flounder. Photo courtesy of Hook'em & Cook'em.

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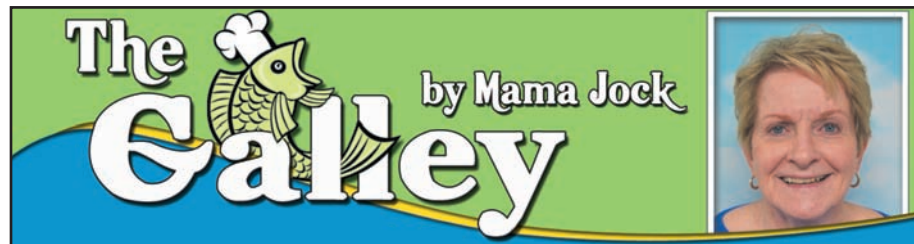
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plus more for greasing
dish
1/4 cup mayonnaise
3 tbsp lemon juice
1/4 cup chopped green
onions
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
2 tsp. freeze dried dill
(optional)
2 dashes tabasco sauce
4 flounder fillets

Pre-heat broiler.
Grease 13x9 baking dish
with a thin coat of butter.

Mix together parmesan
cheese, butter, mayo, lemon
juice, green onion, salt, pepper,
dill, & tabasco in small bowl

until well blended.

Arrange fish in a single
layer in baking dish.

Broil fish for 8 minutes or
until it flakes with a fork.

Remove from oven and
carefully spread parmesan
mixture over top.

Broil 2 additional minutes,
or until bubbly and lightly
browned.

Garlic Shrimp and Sun- Dried Tomatoes with Pasta in Spicy Creamy Sauce

1/2 lb. shrimp, peeled and
deveined
4 oz. sun-dried tomatoes
in olive oil
Salt
1/4 tsp. paprika
6 garlic cloves, minced
1 cup half and half

1 tsp. dried basil
1/4 tsp. crushed red
pepper
1 cup Parmesan cheese,
freshly grated
8 oz. fettuccine pasta

If using sun-dried
tomatoes in oil (in a jar), make
sure to drain sun-dried
tomatoes from oil, before
using them. Reserve 2 TBSP. of
this drained oil for sauteing as
described below.

In a large skillet, saute
minced garlic and sun-dried
tomatoes in 2 TBSP. of oil
reserved from the sun-dried
tomatoes jar. Saute for 1
minute until garlic is fragrant.

Add shrimp and sprinkle
with a small amount of salt
and paprika.

Cook on medium heat for
about 2 more minutes.

Add half and half, basil,
and crushed red pepper to the
skillet with shrimp.

Bring to boil and reduce to
a simmer.

Whisk the Parmesan
cheese into the hot cream and

stir to melt cheese, on lowest
heat setting, until cheese is
melted.

Remove the sauce from
heat.

Add more salt, basil and
more crushed red pepper if
desired, to taste.

Cook pasta according to
package instructions.

Drain (reserving some
pasta water).

Add cooked pasta to the
creamy mixture.

Add more salt, basil and
crushed red pepper if desired,
to taste.

Serves 4.

Baked Flounder and Eggs

3 TBSP. unsalted butter,
melted
2 skinless flounder fillets,
rinsed and patted dry
3/4 tsp. kosher salt
1/2 tsp. paprika
Freshly ground black
pepper
4 large eggs
3 TBSP. chopped scallions

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3 TBSP. chopped parsley
(optional)
1 1/2 TBSP. drained
capers, chopped
(optional)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Pour butter in a 13x9 metal baking pan.

Place fish in pan and turn to coat with butter.

Season with about half the salt and paprika, and plenty of black pepper.

Bake for 2 to 4 minutes, then add eggs (if you like runny eggs, add them after 3 or 4 minutes; for medium-firm but still slightly runny eggs, add them after 2 minutes, and for very firm eggs, you can add them along with the fish at the beginning).

Crack eggs into pan in the corners. Eggs should land next to, not on top of fish.

Season eggs with remaining salt, paprika and more pepper.

Continue baking until fish is just opaque and eggs are lightly set, 7 to 8 minutes more.

Combine scallions, parsley and capers, if using.

Transfer fish and eggs to serving plates; garnish with caper mixture.

Serves 2.

Shrimp Alexander

4 oz. melted butter
Prepared bread crumbs
(see below)
1 lb. jumbo shrimp (8-12)
to the pound
1 cup plain bread crumbs
2-3 tsp. finely minced
shallots
2 tsp. finely chopped
parsley
2 TBSP. finely chopped
fresh garlic
Salt and pepper to taste

Prepare bread crumbs by combing plain bread crumbs, shallots, parsley, and garlic. You may wish to add some salt and pepper to taste.

Preheat oven to 500 degrees.

Shell, devein and butterfly



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Dustin, Alan, Weston, Jeffrey and Mason Koehler caught a pair of flounder and two sea bass while fishing near the African Queen. The flounder, measuring 19 and 22-inches, were fooled with strips of cut sea robin and the knotheads were hooked on squid.

shrimp.

Dip shrimp in butter (butter should be warm, not hot) then in bread crumb mixture.

Place on cookie sheet which has been sprayed with a butter-flavored spray.

Cook 6-8 minutes.

Serve with a white wine butter sauce or a light cream sauce.

Bang Bang Shrimp

Oil, for frying
2 1/2 lbs large or jumbo shrimp
4 eggs
1 1/2 cups flour
1 cup cornstarch
2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. pepper

3/4 cup mayonnaise
1/2 - 1 1/2 TBSP. Asian chili sauce
1 TBSP. honey
Salt
2 garlic cloves, minced

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Whisk mayonnaise, chili sauce, honey, salt and garlic together in a small bowl and set aside in the refrigerator while you prepare the shrimp.

Fill a heavy bottom pan with 3-4 inches of oil or use a deep fryer.

Peel and devein the shrimp.

Whisk the eggs in one bowl and combine the flour, cornstarch, salt and pepper in another bowl.

Dredge the shrimp in the flour/cornstarch mixture.

Dip the shrimp in the eggs.

Dredge one more time in the flour/cornstarch mixture.

Repeat with all the shrimp. Place them on a rack on top of a baking sheet so the breading doesn't get soggy.

Bring the oil to a temperature of 350 degrees.

Fry shrimp for about 2 minutes, just until the breading is slightly golden and the shrimp is pink.

To keep the shrimp warm while you are frying the rest of the batches, place the shrimp on a rimmed baking sheet,

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lined with paper towels and keep in a 200-degree oven.

Toss the shrimp in the sauce.

Serve.

Seafood Spinach and Artichoke Dip

- 2 packages of cream cheese
- 1 TBSP. Butter
- 1/2 cup lobster meat (chopped)
- 1 cup canned artichokes (drained and chopped)
- 1/4 cup plus 1 TBSP. Parmesan cheese, freshly grated
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup tomatoes, diced
- 2 TBSP. goat cheese, crumbled

Soften cream cheese at room temperature or in microwave for 30 seconds.

In a sauté pan, heat butter over medium-high heat.

Add lobster meat and cook 2-3 minutes until meat is slightly firm to touch.

Add artichokes and gently combine..

Remove from heat and add to cream cheese.

Add Parmesan cheese.

Mix cream cheese, lobster/artichoke mix and Parmesan cheese well until it is completely incorporated.

Stir in sour cream.

If serving immediately, place dip in oven proof dish, sprinkle top with Parmesan cheese, and goat cheese.

Place under broiler on medium until top browns.

Garnish with diced tomatoes.

Crab Pie

- 2 deep pie crusts (9")
- 1 lb. backfin crab meat
- 4 eggs
- 2 TBSP.. flour
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup whole milk
- 8 oz. Swiss cheese, shredded
- 8 oz. cheddar cheese, shredded
- 2 tsp. Old Bay seasoning

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The action must have been so fast and furious that George Holochwest of Salisbury, MD couldn't even put his cigarette down. Here he shows off a doubleheader of sea bass, weighing up to 2 lbs. 8 oz., caught on squid at an artificial reef while fishing on the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak.

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Keith Brasure from Dagsboro, DE was fishing between "A" and "B" Buoys when he hooked into this 5 lb. flounder while using Gulp! and minnows for bait. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.

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- 1 TBSP.. finely chopped onion
1 TBSP. finely chopped green pepper

Pre-heat oven to 350°
Par bake pie crusts for 3 minutes and let cool.

Combine eggs, flour, mayonnaise and milk. Mix well.

Add remainder of the ingredients (except crab meat) and mix well.

Delicately fold in crab meat
Pour into 2 separate pie crusts and sprinkle with additional Old Bay Seasoning.

Bake at 350° for 50 minutes or until knife comes out clean.

Crab Rangoon Cups

- 1 package Pillsbury Crescent rolls (regular size)
4 oz cream cheese, softened
1/4 cup mayonnaise
1 1/2 tsp. lemon juice
1/2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce

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- 1 green onion, finely sliced
1/2 lb. crab meat, drained
2 cloves garlic
1/2 cup & 1/3 cup mozzarella cheese (divided)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

In a small bowl combine cream cheese, mayonnaise, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce, green onion, garlic and 1/2 cup mozzarella cheese.

Gently fold in crab meat and set aside.

Open crescent rolls, pinch seams together and cut into 18 even squares.

Place crescent squares in a mini muffin pan and gently press into the cups.

Divide filling between wells.

Top with remaining 1/3 cup of cheese.

Bake 12 minutes. Allow to cool 5 minutes before removing from pan.

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Heather Vaxmonsky, Jen Wawrzeniack, Lynn Wrench, Brittany Gede and Caitlin McGorry teamed up to catch and release 3 white marlin while fishing in the Washington Canyon on the "My Cin" with Capt. Dave Black. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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Shane Campbell from Smyrna, DE was fishing with his dad, Pete, at the Old Grounds when he captured this 18-inch flounder while using Gulp! for bait. Photo courtesy of Hook'em & Cook'em.

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Last Thursday and Friday, anglers from the Ocean City Light Tackle Club and the Ocean City Marlin Club competed against each other in the inaugural OCLTC/OCMC Shootout. The Light Tackle Club had a solid lead after the first day of fishing, but the Marlin Club team came storming back, tying the Light Tackle Club with 24 white marlin releases, but lost the tournament when Light Tackle Club anglers released 2 blue marlin on the final day to give them a 2,700 to 2,400 point win. Jim Giles of the Ocean City Marlin Club won Top Angler honors with 6 releases, followed by OCMC angler Jim Rodgers with 4 white marlin releases and Bill Evans, who flew in from San Francisco to represent the Ocean City Light Tackle Club and finished in 3rd place with 2 white marlin releases and 1 blue marlin release. Most of the action took place near the Washington Canyon on Thursday and just north of the Poor Man's on Friday. Fishing for the Ocean City Light Tackle Club, which was established in 1947, were Matt Barrazotto, Richard Barrazotto, Burton Gray, Randy deLeon, Michael Del Torto, Chuck DiNapli, Kathrine DiNapli, Bill Evans, Wayne Six, Jonathan Weisheig, Jim Motsko and President, John Carbone. Representing the Ocean City Marlin Club, established in 1936, were Pat Svehla, Jim Giles, Jim Rodgers, Dale Withers, Don Schline, Frank Goodhart, Bill Fenwick, Jim Frack, Darren Helwig, Mitch Parker and President Franky Pettolina. The anglers fished on the "Haulin n Ballin", "Sea Slammer", "Pumpin Hard", "Blood Money", "Griffin" and the "Wrecker" which won Top Boat honors with releases of 9 white marlin and 2 blue marlin. Pictured at the Ocean City Marlin Club.

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Fish Stories

by Capt. Franky Pettolina



Most of my best friends are fishermen and fisherwomen. My friends that do not wet a line can probably tell you a little bit of something about fishing just because they have to hear so much about it from me.

I remember one time about 15 years ago when my wife (actually she was my girlfriend at the time) set up one of her coworkers with a buddy of ours. He ran a private boat that traveled the world chasing marlin and sailfish. The coworker was either a bartender or a waitress. I forget where my wife, Jen, was working at the time, but she always worked in either a bar or a restaurant during her summer break from school. For those of you that do not know, my wife is a teacher. Even her students know that she is married to a fishermen and that she fishes herself from all of the *Coastal Fisherman* cut-outs on her classroom bulletin board. But I digress. So Jen set our buddy up to meet her coworker. A group of us all met over at the Reel Inn for drinks and some nonsense. The group was comprised of several boat captains and mates, their significant others and the coworker (maybe I should call her CW for short).

About an hour or so into the evening, Jen's friend from work, wait, I'm sorry, CW

called a halt to the conversation. She looked around at all of the guys at the table and questioned whether or not any of us had ever been intimate with a woman. She actually phrased it a little differently, but I know Larry's content editing preferences and I figure I will save him some time.

CW said, "When Jen and I get home from work we don't talk about how many tables we had. We don't discuss how many tables we think we might have tomorrow or how many customers come in and get drunk right away. Or how many customers come in, look at the bar, and don't order anything. But not you guys. All I have heard is how many fish you caught today. How you can't wait to go back and catch more fish tomorrow. Where will the fish be tomorrow. What bait will the fish want to eat tomorrow. Fish! Fish! Fish!" She then went on to propose what she felt would be a more desirable list of topics for discussion. It was a wide range of subjects varying from politics, to religion, maybe animal cruelty, or perhaps even starving children living in the streets. Anything but fish, fishing, the band Phish or any children's card games with the word fish in the title.

I don't recall much of what

happened after CW had her little fit about our conversation. Knowing my friends, I would imagine we went back to talking about fish, ordered some more drinks and told some more fish stories after consuming said drinks. I do remember, however, that CW never came back out with us, and my buddy definitely did not get a goodnight kiss at the end of the date.

Like I said before, most of my best friends are fishing folks. For the past week, I have been surrounded by people that love to fish and weather that has kept them from going fishing. Today was the first day that anybody fished offshore since Hurricane Hermine passed by our little beach town. So you know I usually write my "Fish Stories" the Wednesday or Thursday before the issue hits the streets. This week it is Wednesday. All day long there was much speculation about how Marli Mark and Jeremy on the "Wrecker" did today. We all could not wait to hear the results. Would the white marlin still be around? Were the tunas still ravenous in the corner of the Washington? Would the water be all junked up, or did the storm push in some pretty blue water and nice weed edges? By lunch time I felt like CW. I was tired of talking about fishing. Actually I wasn't, but I just couldn't take any more of the speculation.

We finally got our answers, and it was a bit of yes, no and maybe. Between the two boats there were Atlantic

dolphinfish, tunas, white marlin and blue marlin caught. The water was a blended blue, but it didn't sound like there was much in the way of weeds or junk. But there were fish. And many of us are heading out tomorrow. It didn't sound like the tunas were jumping into the boats, but there were more than a couple marlin raised between the two boats. Like I said, my friends fish, and tomorrow we are heading back out to fish again. And we are excited to do it.

Speaking of excited about fishing, I get to do something a bit different in a few days. You, my loyal reader, will already know how it turned out, but as I write this I am also getting mentally prepared to fish a new tournament. The Ocean City Light Tackle Club and the Ocean City Marlin Club are holding an angler shootout event. I am dusting off my angling gloves and borrowing two rods and reels from my wife to fish as an angler in the competition. Should I be lucky enough to hook anything, this will mark the first bluewater fish I personally have turned the reel handle on in a couple of years. Hopefully the fishing is good, but more importantly, I am looking forward to fishing with some of the OCLTC guys and making a few more fishing friends. After all, most of my best friends fish....

Capt. Franky Pettolina is Co-Captain of the charter boat, "Last Call" and President of the Ocean City Marlin Club.

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Ryan Omensetter from Holland, PA caught his first offshore fish, a 40 lb. yellowfin, while trolling a green machine at the Hambone. Ryan was fishing on the "Lucky 7".

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The 16th Annual September 11th Memorial Spot Fishing Tournament was held on Sunday with 69, mainly junior anglers competing for the coveted largest spot caught from the dock at the Ocean City Fishing Center. Brennan Wim and McKenna Higgnett tied for 1st place in the tournament with 8-inch spot and also shared 1st place in the 10 & Under Division. Second place in the 10 & Under Division went to Clay McCabe and Scarlett Morton who each caught 7 1/2-inchers. Gunnar Reynolds won 3rd place with a 7 1/4-inch spot. In the 11 to 16 Division, Zach Morton and Spencer Beauchamp won 1st place with 7 1/2-inch spot followed by Alex Morton in 2nd place with a 7 1/4-inch and Savannah McCabe, Dean Roe, Austin Roe and Austin Bowden, all tying for 3rd place with 7-inch spot. The 17 & Up Division was won by Norman Katrobus and Beverly Wood with 7 1/2-inch spot. John Morton, Jr's 7 1/4-inch put him in 2nd place and John Morton, Sr., Seth Hetherington and Chris Fortner all shared 3rd place honors with their 7-inch spot. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

The world famous Ocean City Marlin Club Kid's Classic was held in Ocean City, MD. On opening day of the tournament, Luke Duffie, John Duffie and Tyler Knight teamed up to release 5 white marlin and a sailfish to win 1st place in the Billfish Release Division. The anglers were fishing on the "Billfisher" with Jonathan Duffie, John Knight, Jeremy Duffie, Capt. Chris Hornung and mates Jake Emche and Noe Gonzalez when they released their billfish in 600 fathoms below the Norfolk Canyon. Their 6 releases gave them a 1 fish lead over the anglers aboard the "The Chaser", who released 5 white marlin, and the "Max Bet" who recorded 3 white marlin and 2 sailfish releases on the final day of the tournament. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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Landon Lackemeyer ventured down from Pennsylvania and spent part of his day fishing in the Lewes Canal where he used a chartreuse Gulp! artificial bait to fool this 2 lb. flounder. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Nathan Longo from Newark, DE is all smiles after catching this 1 lb. croaker while fishing in the Indian River Inlet with squid and minnows.

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Gene Stalls from Bishopville, MD spent the day on Sunday fishing in the Bahia Marina Flounder Pounder and ended up with a 3 lb. 5 oz. flattie that was on the leaderboard right up to the time before the scales closed at 5:00 PM. Gene's 4th place fish was hooked on a live spot in the West Channel while fishing on the "Flounderin' Around". Pictured at Bahia Marina.



Bob and Donna Worner from Berlin, MD drifted Gulp! and minnows by the duck blinds behind Assateague Island when they hooked into a pair of flounder measuring 17 and 19-inches. They also had 6 throwback flounder during their trip.

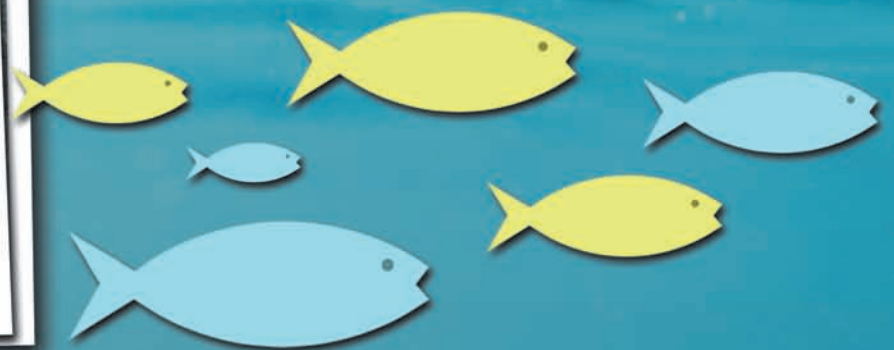


Colton Campbell caught this pair of 18-inch flounder while fishing at the Old Grounds with cut bait. Colton was fishing with his Uncle Shane Wiest on the "Five for Fighting". Photo courtesy of Rick's Bait & Tackle.

MARYLAND & DELAWARE CITATION SIZES Atlantic Coast					
	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u>		<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u>
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	Shark:		
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	Blue Shark *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Bluefish	34"	14 lbs. or 33"	Hammerhead *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Blue Marlin **	Any Size	Any Size	Mako *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Cobia	44"	-	Thresher *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	Tiger *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	Tuna:		
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lbs. or 32"
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 36"	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"
Red Drum *	36"	45"	Bigeye ***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"
Sailfish *	Any Size	-	Bluefin ***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"
Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	Yellowfin ***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"
Speckled Trout	24"	-	White Marlin **	Any Size	Any Size
Striped Bass	40"	30 lbs. or 40"			
* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program			** Only released fish are eligible in MD and DE programs		
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Mason Lamb of Leesburg, VA caught a 19-inch flounder at Russell's Reef while fishing with Gulp! and minnows.



Beau Bright from Elkins, WV was tossing a Clark spoon during the early morning hours in the Indian River Inlet when he hooked into this 10 lb. 8 oz. bluefish. Beau was fishing on the "Gale Force" with Capt. Aaron Hurd. Photo courtesy of Hook'em & Cook'em.

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During the Bahia Marina Flounder Pounder, Jim Morand boated a 3 lb. 5 oz. flattie to tie for 4th place in the tournament. Jim was fishing on the "One More Drift" with Wes Givens, Bobby Breasure and Preston Walls when he hooked the flounder on a squid and minnow combination in the West Channel, off Martha's Landing. Jim also caught a 1 lb. 12 oz. flounder during the trip.

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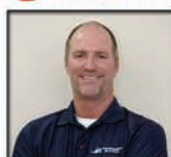
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