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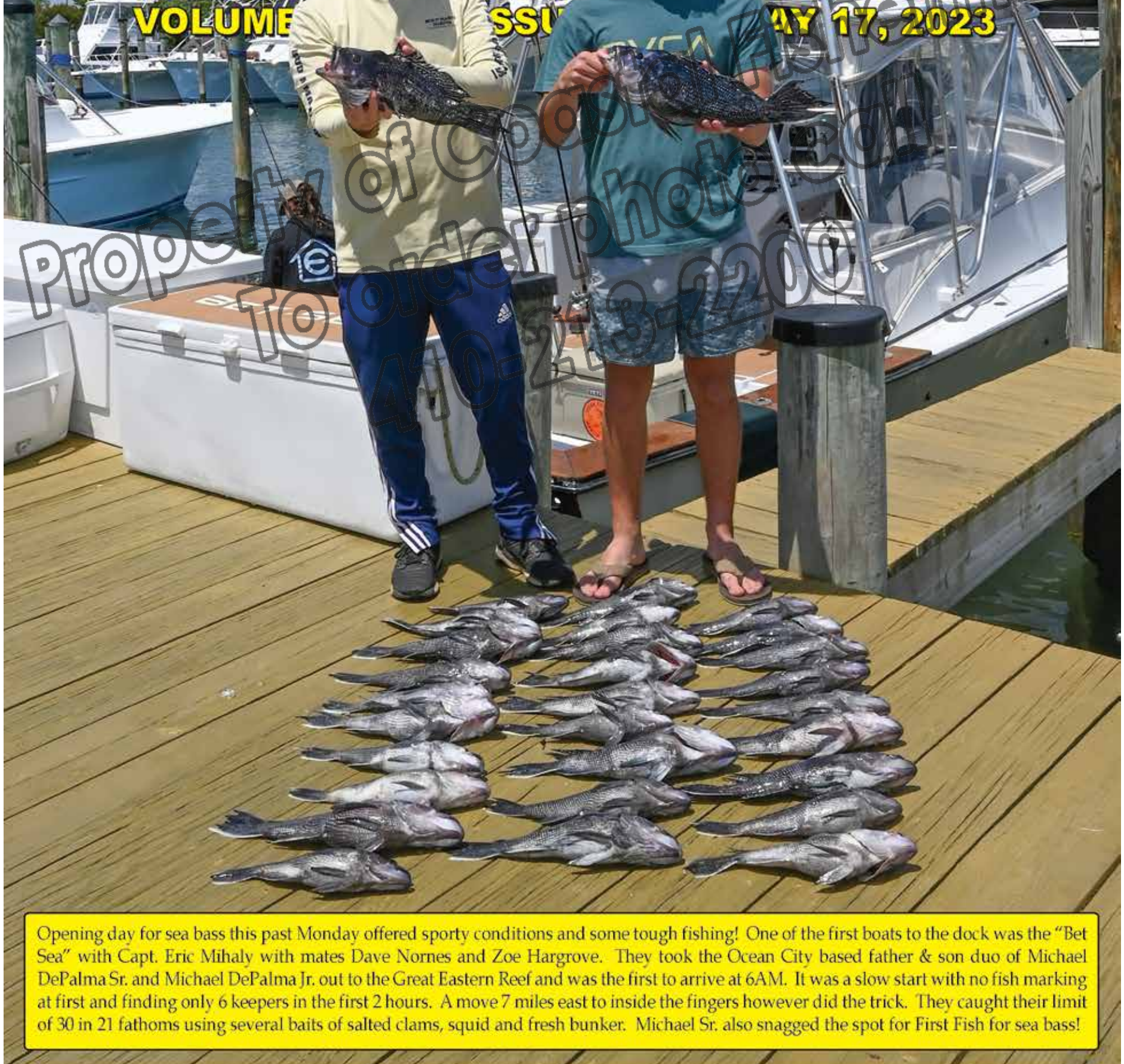
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COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME

ISSUE

MAY 17, 2023



Opening day for sea bass this past Monday offered sporty conditions and some tough fishing! One of the first boats to the dock was the "Bet Sea" with Capt. Eric Mihaly with mates Dave Nornes and Zoe Hargrove. They took the Ocean City based father & son duo of Michael DePalma Sr. and Michael DePalma Jr. out to the Great Eastern Reef and was the first to arrive at 6AM. It was a slow start with no fish marking at first and finding only 6 keepers in the first 2 hours. A move 7 miles east to inside the fingers however did the trick. They caught their limit of 30 in 21 fathoms using several baits of salted clams, squid and fresh bunker. Michael Sr. also snagged the spot for First Fish for sea bass!



We see a lot of catches from the Assateague Island beaches, but not so many from OC. So we were happy when Tommy Barbetta of Morrisville, PA shared this 37" striper he caught and released at 112 St. using sand fleas tipped with Fishbites.

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Why catch only one keeper flounder when you can get two! That is what Brady Weibley thought on this trip to the Thorofare. He landed the two flatfish using white Gulp with the largest at 20½".



Oceanic Fishing Pier manager John McCarter had a busman's holiday with Vince Cannuli when they went toging last weekend. They headed to a near shore wreck on the "Stella Marie" and tricked this 27" and 14.5 lb. tog using a tog jig and sand fleas. The secret was they used 4 fleas per hook!



UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!

14th ANNUAL FRANKY PETTOLINA MEMORIAL DAY TOURNAMENT
To benefit the Catherine & Charles Kratz Memorial Foundation and Scholarship Fund
Registration: May 26, 6:30 - 8:00pm
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 27 & 28
Weigh-Ins: May 27 & 28 4:30-7:00pm at Sunset Marina

TOURNAMENT SERIES

2023 SCHEDULE



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

<p>44th ANNUAL SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT Registration: June 23, 6:30-8:00pm Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 24 & 25 Weigh-Ins: June 24 & 25, 3:00-6:30pm at Sunset Marina</p>	<p>41st ANNUAL CANYON KICK OFF * Registration: June 29, 6:30-8:00pm FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS Fishing Days: (2 of 3) June 30, July 1 & 2 Weigh-Ins: June 30, July 1 & 2, 5:00-7:30pm at Sunset Marina</p>	<p> 19th ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC * To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation Registration: July 21, 6:00-8:00pm Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 22 & 23 Weigh-Ins: July 22, 3:00-6:30pm and July 23, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina</p>	<p>8th ANNUAL OCMC vs OCLTC SHOOT-OUT TBD</p>
<p>15th ANNUAL OCMC LADIES' TOURNAMENT "HEELS & REELS" * To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund Registration: August 3, 6:00-8:00pm Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 4 & 5 Weigh-Ins: August 4 & 5 5:30-7:30pm at Atlantic Tackle</p>	<p>65th ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT * Registration: August 30, 6:30-8:00pm Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 1, 2, & 3 Weigh-Ins: September 1, 2, & 3 6:00-8:00pm at Sunset Marina</p>	<p>45th ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP Registration: Sept. 13, 6:00-8:00pm Fishing Days: (2 or 3) Sept. 14, 15 & 16 No Weigh-Ins</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Check for Updates on our WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA</p>

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This Week Last Year

- The waters offshore remained cold after the big Nor'easter and the warm water eddies seemed to be pushing further east instead of turning toward shore. The Outer Banks had reported no tuna yet despite a good mahi bite. Not a good sign for Delmarva.
- Sea bass season opened on a foggy Sunday that limited the number of boats that headed out. Many that did reported catching their limits of the tasty fish and not having to deal with many undersized fish.
- Surf anglers across the coast found an abundance of bluefish in the suds very quickly after the storm passed.

I was in bright and early last Monday this week to work on this week's report as I spent the weekend at my youngest son's college graduation! Chef Christine and I could not be more proud of our son Derek and his achievements at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. He graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Astrophysics. We are looking forward to having him back home where he can be seen guarding the beach this summer with the South Bethany Patrol!

While we had a great weekend away, the story here and offshore was quite different! After a couple of promising weekends with some early tuna and mahi reports, Mother Nature decided it would be better to keep anglers ashore to celebrate versus fishing! A

combo of rain and high winds kept most boats at their docks. Avid angler Walter Moore tried a run in the Ocean City Bay despite the 15-20 knot winds and had the place to himself!

This week should see some near shore action as sea bass season opened last Monday and the weather forecast for the next 10 days looks fair. As for the canyons, a quick look Monday at RipCharts shows mid 60° waters are still about 110 to 120+ miles out behind the Poor Man's, Washington and Norfolk Canyons. The Rutgers Coastal Ocean Observation Labs Sea Surface maps however shows some mid 60°+ eddies around the 100 fathom line in the Washington and Norfolk Canyons. Most captains I spoke with are

planning their first trip for June, but are keeping their eyes on the temp charts for potential trial runs!

At least for now there is a lot of action on flounder, rockfish and drum. The Winter/Spring Tog season ended last Sunday and while the bite slowed, several boats still caught some nice fish with several in the double digits. You can see more about the inshore and nearshore actions in our Delaware, Maryland and Virginia Fishing Reports.

On a final housekeeping note - the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Atlantic Striped Bass



Board took emergency action at their last meeting to reduce the limit or 'slot' for coastal rockfish. This was done based on concern for the stock and long term interest of the

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Son of the Coastal Fisherman publisher Derek Budd hooked up at the University of Maryland in 2018 and after a 5 year fight, landed a Bachelors Degree in Astrophysics at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. He can be seen here with his first mate Marlin celebrating.

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LARRY BUDD • Editor & Publisher
CHRISTINE BUDD • Vice President
TOM JOCK • Graphic Design

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fishery, especially after heavy recreational catches were reported in 2022. The new regulation for the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass reduces the recreational keeper limit to fish between 28" - 31" from the previous 28" - 35". These limits however need to be set at the state level and the ASMFC has given the states until July 2nd to enact this limit. Maryland enacted this change effective May 16th. As of this writing Delaware and Virginia have yet to enact. For now, Delaware's slot remains 28"-35". Virginia's Coastal Striped Bass season opened May 16th and it is not expected that the Commonwealth will be able to enact the new limits until July 1st. So until then they remain 28"-36".

That's it for this week, until next time I will see you at the docks. §



Upcoming Tournaments

- The **Lewes Harbour Marina** will hold the Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament on May 19th. This event raises awareness for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. For more info check Facebook or call (302) 645-6227.

- **Old Inlet Bait & Tackle and the Delaware Fisherwomen** will again be hosting the Cast for a Cure Surf Fishing Tournament on May 20th. This event benefits the Tunnell Cancer Center Special Needs Fund. More at OldInlet.com.

- The first offshore contest of 2023 is scheduled for Memorial Day Weekend, May 27-28. **The 14th Annual Franky Pettolina Memorial Day Tournament** is sponsored by the Ocean City Marlin Club. Weigh ins will be at Sunset Marina's Tournament Scales from 4:30-7:00pm each day. More at OCMarlinClub.com.



The Fenwick Island boat "Top Dog" had a good week fishing in the Hatteras Village Offshore Open last week. On the second day of the tournament, angler Trent Dickerson boated this 528.7 lb. blue marlin. Hopefully the good action in the Outer Banks is a good sign for our waters this season.



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Capt. Hugh Cropper and his family J.L. and Hugh Thomas were one of only 20 boats to fish the Marine Electric on opening day! The big ones did seem attracted to the "Myra H.T." and both H.T. and J.L. landed some big ones!



This flounder is almost as big as Lil Bo! Randy Cassie and Bo found this fattie in the East Channel using minnows. Thanks to Rick Daiker for sharing!

2023

FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles

 <p>BLUE MARLIN 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>YELLOWFIN TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day</p>	 <p>BIGEYE TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>GOLDEN TILEFISH No minimum • 8 per person/day</p>
 <p>WHITE MARLIN 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p> <p>NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit</p>	 <p>BLUEFIN TUNA 27" to <47" curved fork length 2 per vessel/day or trip 47" to < 73" curved fork length 1 per vessel/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 3 per Charter/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 6 per Headboat/day or trip 47" to < 73" curved fork length 2 per Headboat/day or trip</p>	 <p>SWORDFISH 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter) 1 per person / 15 per Headboat</p>	 <p>BLUELINE TILEFISH 5/1 - 10/31 3 per person (Recreational) 5 per person Uninspected (Charter) 7 per person Inspected (Charter)</p>
 <p>DOLPHIN No minimum Length Boat Limit 54 Charter Limit Daily 10 per angler</p>		 <p>SAILFISH Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>WAHOO No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day</p>
<p>SHARKS AUTHORIZED SPECIES</p> <p>No Minimum Fork Length Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead 54" Minimum Fork Length Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose 78" Minimum Fork Length Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead</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>PROHIBITED SHARKS Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Shortfin Mako, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White</p> <p>Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov</p>	



Fishermen always keep track of their 'personal best' catches, even more so for charter boat captains! Capt. Kevin Flaherty of the "Jaysea II" set his new personal best for tog with this 16.8 lb. fish caught at an ocean structure.

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Delaware angler Clint Bradley tested the waters on the Lewes Canal in preparation for the upcoming Lewes Harbour Marina Joe Morris Memorial Canal Tournament on May 19th. He caught these two flounder in the canal as well as a few throwbacks using Gulp.



Henry Busby of Coatesville, MD is a prolific surf fisherman and a fixture on the Delaware beaches! He did some prep work for the Old Inlet Spring Surf Fishing Tournament the day before and snagged 25" striper using a plastic lure. Pictured at the Delaware Seashore State Park.

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FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Last week in Ocean City I saw some nice fish caught. The regulations for the Chesapeake Bay as well as the ocean were set for rockfish. Starting on May 16th no rockfish over 31" may be taken from any Maryland waters. The bay will be 19"-31" and the ocean waters will be 28" to 31". It is uncertain what will happen with upcoming bay tournaments due to the new changes.

Rockfish & Drum

On the beaches of Assateague Island and Ocean City, anglers have had a bounty of big fish to target. This spring has shown some of the best fishing along our surf that we have seen in years. Big black drum are being

caught along with trophy size rockfish. A few bull red drum are also coming in from the surf. Tryan Stoltzfus was fishing near the bullpen on Assateague Island with sand fleas when he caught a keeper rockfish. Great job getting a delicious dinner before the regulations change next week! Jim Scoggins also pulled a fish from the surf. He caught his fish on peeler crab around 1 pm. Ralph Grant went out for a few hours on Friday morning and was rewarded with a beautiful 42" striper. Ralph said he only got one hit that morning but it proved to be the right one. Gary Harmison was out with a couple friends and they managed 4 big bull reds as well as a black

drum and over slot rockfish. Gary's name seems to come up a lot, both in Delaware as well as Maryland. He will be an angler to watch as the season progresses. Kevin Weber caught 2 nice fish on Wednesday from 6:30-1:30. He didn't have a ruler but took pictures next to his shovel and quickly got the fish back in the water. When home he measured the shovel and found that the fish measured around 42" each. Great job on a great catch and even better release! David Moore and Russell Leaderman fished hard on Thursday and ended up with a 34", 41" and a small 24 inch. All fish were returned to swim on their

www.coastalfisherman.net journey north. Charles Ritter pulled a 42" and a 44" striper from his solo afternoon trip on Thursday and was happy to find a 43" red drum had taken his last bait for the day. Beautiful day to spend on the beach. Ben Hostetter caught a few small fish but reports the big trophy fish are still eluding him. He further said that even without the big fish, it's still a delight to be lucky enough to live where he can come out on the beach and catch fish while enjoying the sunrise. We often forget how blessed we are to live in such a wonderful and exciting area. Mickey Ketcham caught a nice fish on Monday using crab. Joe Pruitt got a big 50.5" fish off the surf using sand fleas and clam. He reported a few other smaller fish were also caught, but was delighted to see the big one over 50". Not many anglers can say they have caught a striper of 50"

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let alone one from the beach. Great job Joe! Patrick Furlow had a slow day Monday, but made up for it Tuesday when he caught 3 nice rockfish. He sent two of them to swim away. Hunter Frey got a fish on an afternoon trip. It hit on Fishbites and sand fleas. John Unkart and 11 year old Brandon went 4 for 5 on good size fish. He said they encountered only rock and no blues or drum. John did report he got his first kingfish of the year though and would enjoy a tasty fish sandwich for lunch. Brady Sensenig was on his first trip driving on the beach and pulled in 2 rock along with a drum and kingfish. Not a bad day for your first time. I expect many more reports from this man as the season continues. Tommy Barbetta was in north Ocean City and pulled a 37" striper from the surf. Tom Willoughby was fishing the island for stripers and

instead caught a beautiful 21" black drum. The black were a little slow showing up this year but have definitely arrived in the area. Blake Gunther and Derek Yobst had a good day on the water pulling in several tog as well as a fat black drum.

Tog & Near Shore Wrecks

Tog season is coming to a close but not before anglers cash in on the big fish off our coast. Archer Morgan said they slayed them in the afternoon on nearshore structure. Several large fish were taken home for dinner. The "Angler" also made a dent in the tog population with anglers bringing in several double digit fish. The crew said they can't wait for sea bass season to open on the 15th. The "Ocean City Girl" took clients out for a last trip of tog fishing and were rewarded with lots of action and some fish to join

them for dinner. Captain Shawn Croney along with anglers Larry Dee, Dean Wells, Jason Whaley and Camrin Croney fished ocean structure with green crabs and brought home 4 citation fish measuring 15.8, 14.89, 6.0 and 8.4 pounds each. That is quite a way to end the season. Great job to all the anglers.

Flounder & Back Bays

Flounder remains strong in the back bays of Ocean City, with the main bulk of the fish coming from the inlet area and adjoining channels leading up to the bridge. The back area by the airport continues to improve but is still slow compared to the other areas. Squid and shiners remain the best bait, with Gulp as a good second choice. Tommy Barbetta from Pennsylvania, along with Matt Toth, were out on the "Lucky Break" with Captain Jason Mumford and

brought home some flatfish up to 17". Further in the back bay near the Verrazano Bridge, Michael Lupiwok Jr. out of Berlin, MD, pulled a keeper fish using a Gulp and minnow combo. Jonathan Tourgee was drifting in the inlet for fluke when he hooked a 23" rockfish. That's a good by-catch to get. Randy Cassie and lil' Bo got a beautiful 24" flounder from the East Channel on minnows. Vincent Cannuli brought in the first report I have had of sheepshead in Ocean City while fishing for tog. Good to see them arriving early. Last year was one of the best seasons for sheepshead we've seen in years with several double digit citations being caught in both Maryland and Delaware.

Till next week...

Tight lines and fins up \$

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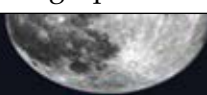
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We have several reports of nice sized weakfish in the Ocean City Bays. Angler Brian Brannan on the “Break a Leg” caught this 27 ½” tiderunner in the Thorofare. He was using a pink & white Gulp Swimming Mullet.



Keira Budd has a big smile showing off her first ever black drum catch! The fish hit on a combo of sand fleas tipped with Fishbite Sand Fleas and measured 32”. She was fishing with her parents Eric and Lauren on Assateague Island.



OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. MAY 17	High 06:54 am High 07:31 pm	Low 12:43 am Low 12:47 pm
THUR. MAY 18	High 07:39 am High 08:17 pm	Low 01:36 am Low 01:30 pm
FRI. MAY 19 New Moon	High 08:21 am High 08:59 pm	Low 02:24 am Low 02:10 pm
SAT. MAY 20	High 09:03 am High 09:40 pm	Low 03:10 am Low 02:50 pm
SUN. MAY 21	High 09:44 am High 10:20 pm	Low 03:56 am Low 03:29 pm
MON. MAY 22	High 10:25 am High 11:01 pm	Low 04:43 am Low 04:10 pm
TUE. MAY 23	High 11:08 am High 11:42 pm	Low 05:31 am Low 04:53 pm
WED. MAY 24	High 11:53 am High -----	Low 06:21 am Low 05:40 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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Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
Bluefish 	New May 7 Shaun Flaherty Verrazano Bridge 10.24 lbs.		Thresher Shark 		
Black Drum 	April 4 Tom Berry Assateague 19 lbs.	April 6 Laura Foster 3R's 28 lbs.	Bigeye Tuna 	May 5 Jeff Rosenkilde Baltimore Canyon 95 lbs.	
Cobia 			Bluefin Tuna 		
Summer Flounder 	May 6 David Borrell Thorofare 5.75 lbs.		Longfin Tuna 		
Sea Bass 			Yellowfin Tuna 	May 6 Charlie Watson Poorman's Canyon 113.2 lbs.	
Sheepshead 	May 5 Anthony Carrieri Ocean City Jetty 1.8 lbs.		Dolphin 		
Striped Bass 			Swordfish 		
Tautog 		New May 6 James Milano Ocean Structure 22.9 lbs.	Blue Marlin 		
Wahoo 			White Marlin 		

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It was another good trip for Capt. Shawn Croney and anglers Camrin Croney, Larry Lee, Dean Wells and Jason Whaley! They fished at an ocean structure using green crabs and caught 6 tog, 4 that were citation size fish - 15.8, 14.8, 9.6 & 8.4 lbs.!

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FISHING CHARTERS



Angler Sandy Bass landed this huge 67.2 lb. bull dolphin during the Custom Production Shootout in Abaco, Bahamas while fishing on the Ocean City based charter boat "C-Boys". It was a personal best for Capt. Luke Bloom and a great tournament for Paul Crampton and mate Nate Lang. The "C-Boys" should be back at Sunset Marina soon!



The headboat "Angler" hit some ocean structures last weekend to target tog at the end of their spring season. This was also a prep trip for sea bass season that opened on Monday! Saturday was a bit bumpy, but several keepers were thrown in the cooler. This double digit 12 3/4 lb. tog caught by Howard Kelly was released.

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FISHING CHARTERS



The crew of the charter boat "Hocus Pocus" had one of the largest tuna catches of the season! Capt. Yanni Harris with anglers Dianna Harris, Mendel Harris, Robbie Cary, Kevin Donalds and Bethany K. trolled spreader bars in 100 fathoms of the Poor Man's Canyon in 64° waters. They caught 5 keeper yellowfin tunas and the 2nd mahi of the season! Capt. Yanni reported a large weed line with tons of dolphins teaming.

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FISHING CHARTERS




It was 4 keeper flounder for the Fitzpatrick family during the season opener trip on the charter boat "Ivy Sea". Anglers Dan, Dan W., Devin and Dave Fitzpatrick had a beautiful day in the Ocean City Bay with Capt. Nick Clemente and fooled these flatfish with white Gulp. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center,

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FISHING CHARTERS



Tommy Shank and Talan Davis show off a pair of fat flounder they caught with Capt. John Prather on the "Ocean City Guide Service". Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



The charter boat "Fish Bound" finished an amazing winter/spring tog season last Sunday. Over the season they saw 3 fish over 20 lbs. and way too many double digit catches like this 14 lb. tog released on the last day.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Anglers Mark Strugh, Truman Young, Jeff Young, Tim McDevitt and Scott Griffen had a great sea bass opening day with Capt. Jeff Stewart on the charter boat "Ocean City Girl". The group caught their limit of 90 fish! Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Capt. Jason Mumford on the charter boat "Lucky Break" continues to find the flounder in the bay behind Assateague Island! This Denton, MD trio of Rusty, Dylan and Rick Thawley found 3 keepers using minnows.

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Jim Osborne and his crew must have had tired arms after this trip on the charter boat "Katydid"! The crew boated 21 keeper tog and reported catching around 150 in total at an ocean structure. Pictures at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Chum Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson

A couple weeks ago I admitted that, over the years, I've become well acquainted with things that can be done to help "not" to catch fish. Not that I've ever gone out and purposely tried not to catch fish, but there have certainly been days when I bumbled around enough so that it might at least appear to some folks that's what I was up to and I'm guessing also that more than just one or two of the three or four anglers who actually read this column may have achieved at least a moderate level of proficiency doing things that will help them not catch fish as well.

The discussion that week centered around the importance of starting out by inspecting and selecting good bait at the bait shop. I didn't get into the fact that those who

want to ensure they get the best-of-the-best bait should, if possible, take the time to catch their own, after all, there's no doubt about the freshness of bait that's flopping on a deck or swimming circles in your bucket! Fresher is better! No matter if you're fishing for sharks, chunking for tuna, bottom fishing for sea bass, drifting around the bay for flounder or vying for anything else that lurks in our waters, there will be times when (for some unknown reason) the fish won't touch anything but fresh bait. And when I say "fresh" I mean bait that was never frozen and at least when possible - caught that day.

But no matter how good a batch of bait is when it's first bought, caught, or pilfered, when you're actually out there

trying to catch a fish it's never going to be "as good" as when you first procured it. Just like food in your refrigerator - the freshness and quality of bait is in a constant state of decline from the time you get it until it's finally on a hook and in the face of a fish. So if anglers actually want to catch a fish they'll do what's necessary to minimize or at least slow this process down. Because, unless a fish is half blind, can't smell, or just really-really hungry, pink squid, mushy mullet, dried out shiners or any other bait that hasn't been properly taken care of throughout the day is not what most will recognize as something they want to eat, particularly when it comes with hooks and strings attached.

Bait needs to remain cool and moist (but not soaking wet) and be kept in a cooler with a lot of ice, not just enough ice to keep it a "little cool", but enough ice to keep it "really cold"! And except maybe for brined and salted rigged trolling baits, baits should be immersed in the ice not just laying on top of it. Of course bait laying in melted ice at the bottom of a cooler will get washed out and mushy so when possible it's best to leave the cooler's drain plug cracked open a little to allow the ice water to drain out. In the same respect, when plastic bags or cardboard containers of bait are stored in a cooler, it's important to periodically drain off the liquids that will accumulate in the packaging in order to keep the bait from soaking in their own brine. By properly taking care of it, bait in a cooler can sometimes stay in great shape for a few days, neglect it and by lunchtime you might be assured of not catching any fish for the rest

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of the day.

While bottom fishing, anglers will often keep a supply of bait close at hand for quick and easy access while they're actively fishing. This ready to go bait usually sits on a cutting board, the gunwale of the boat, or somewhere else that allows anglers to grab it without having to open the lid and dig through the bait cooler every few minutes. This is actually a pretty good plan unless that bait is allowed to bake under a hot summer sun. Nothing helps someone not catch fish like putting squid jerky or dried out fish strips on their hooks! Anglers who want to keep some bait outside of the cooler and handy can help it to remain in much better condition by simply keeping it under a cool damp rag. Just remember that the rag itself needs to be kept cool by periodically re-soaking it in cool water, and if you really want to keep your cut bait in prime shape you can use two wet rags with a handful of ice between them.

So you can neglect your bait in the cooler, you can neglect the bait sitting beside you on the cutting board, but if you really want to make sure you don't catch fish there's one more place where you can goof things up - your hook! Yep, even if you start out with having the freshest-of-the-fresh and best bait in the world on your hook, if something doesn't decide to eat it within a reasonable amount of time and you don't replace it you'll be fishing at a grave disadvantage. Don't get lazy! When the bite is a little slow it's all the more important to ensure that you're fishing with good bait by changing it frequently. Too long in the water and any bait is going to get washed out and lose much of its appeal, and it's when the fish aren't biting that it's most important to do what you can to make sure that your bait is the best it can be. But then again, if you actually don't want to catch fish... §

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Tommy Ahlers from Delmar, DE headed over to the Assateague Island OSV and caught this beautiful 33" keeper rockfish using sand fleas. Note that the slot in MD and changed to 28" to 31" on 5/16.



The Budd family took a day trip to Assateague Island to work the surf. Lauren caught this 27" drum and Keira caught and released her first drum ever that measured 37". Both were caught using sand fleas topped with Fishbites Sand Fleas. Eric Budd provided moral support!

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The first time was in fact a charm for young Destiny Hastings! She caught this 19" flounder on her first ever fishing trip using live minnows from Lewes Harbour Marina. We think fishing may have hooked her too!

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OC POWDER COATINGS



Capt. Keith Kaler on the “Reel Chaos” gave us a call to share their yellowfin tuna catch. The Pasadena, MD based crew of Keith with 2nd mate Ryan Kaler, Andrew Hoak, Adam Bssisso and Julianna Tucker ran out 60 miles looking for warmer water. They found 65°-68° in both the Baltimore and Poor Man’s Canyon where they caught these 2 yellow, one in each canyon. Both hit on a plastic Nomad on a Wide Tracker.

2023

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CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES

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

* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program

** DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release

*** Use curved-fork-length measurements

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Shaun Flaherty fished the waters by the Verrazzano Bridge a few times last week with great success. On this trip with Big Bird Cropper he caught this 24" speckled trout using a Roy Rig. The pair also boated their limit of bluefish.

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DELAWARE

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Last week in Delaware we saw warmer weather, a few storms, and some excellent fish caught. The beach areas are alive with over slot rockfish as well as big black drum. The last week of tog has produced good sized fish and many anglers are seeing tons of sea bass on their hooks off the wrecks. Sea bass season begins on the 15th with a size limit of 13 inches and a creek of 15 fish per angler.

Surf Fishing, Rockfish & Drum

Charles Ritter, along with Mildred Reyes-Ritter, fished for 2.5 hours and picked up a pair of fish at 42" and another at 37". Gary Harmison had a great morning landing an impressive 6 rock and breaking off another two. Quite a good morning by any standard. Mike Keller caught and released a 39" fish while fishing sand fleas just north of the Indian River Inlet. Steven Dalphon was at Herring Point fishing with bunker when he scored a striper from the surf. "Bad Wind Charters" was at it again on the beaches of Delaware and went 10 for 12 on stripers. Josh Barfiel fished an early morning bite and was rewarded with a 42" rockfish on a kingfish rig with size 1 hooks,

two more schoolies and a pair of gray trout. Catches like that make it worth setting the alarm on your day off. Another lucky angler, Joe Eberhard caught 4 stripers measuring 38", 40", 46" and 47.5". Several reports have come in that when you find one fish there are usually a few more ready to bite soon after. Joe Pruitt pulled a hog of a striper measuring 50.5 inches. Jesse Weic got his biggest surf caught striper this past week. Although not measured, the fish looked close to 50 inches. Lewes Harbour Marina said that the clams Dustin Lloyd bought from them worked out as he caught a 5" fish off of Broadkill beach. Lewes Harbour also reported that the crew of the "Grizzly" was shocked when out tog fishing. Hugh Wissinger hooked and landed a 48 lb. striper on a tog rig tipped with a crab. While fishing the surf a few overslot red drum have also been caught. Gary Harmison pulled in 3 big bull reds while fishing for black drum. Besan Khamis also pulled in an over slot red that opted to dine on his sand fleas. I'm really happy to see the big reds making their way north to us again this year. Looking to black drum, fish are being caught both in the surf

as well as the Delaware Bay. Captain Rich Harpel was fishing the beds off of Broadkill Beach using a high low rig with a 4 oz. weight and fresh clam when he pulled in a huge black drum. Tower Shores was where Bob Morris caught a few tog using Fishbites clam. Steven Maddox said it took awhile, but finally ended up with a black to bring home for dinner while fishing the beach Tuesday morning. Alex Hudson got a drum on Broadkill Beds. Lewes Icehouse Bait & Tackle was the check in station for this fish. Surf clam was this fish's bait of choice to eat. David Michulka bought clams from Lewes Harbour Marina and the results were 3 bites at the same time with all three fish landed. I think I need to get to Lewes Harbour because it seems that everyone buying clams from them is catching some big fish!

Back Bay Flounder & Bluefish

The Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament is next Friday, May 19th. This is a great tournament for any class of angler and benefits pancreatic cancer, so stop by and fish, or just watch the weigh-ins for a fun day and great cause.

Jeff Purdy, Lea Layfield and Ticen Willey caught a load of flounder while tuning up for the Memorial Canal tourney next Friday. They caught all their fish on the Nick Rigs, available at Lewes Harbour Marina. Alex Neiss couldn't keep bait on the water at Cape Pier and landed a limit of flat fish. Clint Bradley also pulled a few nice fish out of the canal warming up for the upcoming tourney. Destiny Hastings was out for the first time and managed to pull in a nice 19" flounder on minnows. The Lewes Canal really seems to be heating up. Roosevelt Ronald got his first saltwater keeper, a 20" fluke.

Tog & Near Shore Wrecks

It appears we have a new Delaware state record tog. "No Limits Sportfishing" had angler James Milano out this past week and pulled in a huge 22.9 lb. tog. The fish measured 34" with a girth of 24". The bait used to catch this record was white legged crab. The fish was weighed in at Indian River Marina, at Hook'em and Cook'em Tackle. That is one huge fish! Great job to both the anglers and crew for a fantastic catch. Kelly Kellz had a 12.5 lb. fish as well Lewes Tog Club had a stellar day with 21 keepers after catching close to 100 fish. Billy Mister went to the wall with his father and snagged a few nice keepers last week. Matt Maggs brought in a nice 8.44 lb. fish he caught on green

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crab. Daryl Mergenthaler got a nice 7.44 lb. tog. Chris Huk had a great day on the water releasing 3 blackfish over 10 lbs. The crew used jigs to entice the fish to bite. Tony Walls got an 18 inch tog on sand fleas while fishing the rocks at Indian River. Keven Flaherty got his personal best tog on Tuesday while fishing with "Get The Gaff Charters". The "Katydid" crew pulled in tog up to 14 lbs. while fishing ocean structure. Four anglers received citations for fish over 7 lbs. Great job anglers! Jim Osborn had a good ending with 6 keepers. He reportedly caught all fish on sand fleas as everywhere he went was out of crabs.

Crabbing and clamming are steadily improving, but crabs are still mostly small along with tons of pregnant females. Clams are still deep in the mud and not easy to find. Hopefully as the water warms with higher temps, the clams and crabs will cooperate better.

Until next week...

Tight lines and fins up \$



The beach north of the Indian River Bridge in the Delaware Seashore State Park has had some nice striper action from the surf. Mike Keller caught and released this 39" rock there using sand fleas.



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2023

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(AS REPORTED TO THE COASTAL FISHERMAN - MUST BE OF LEGAL LIMIT AND REPORTED WITH PHOTO)

Species	2023	2022	Species	2023	2022
Bluefish 	April 19 Dave Moore Assateague Island	April 26 Morgan Mericle South OC Jetty	Thresher Shark 		May 20 Mike Eid "HotLine" Fingers
Black Drum 	April 3 Jeremy Zinn 145th Street, OC	March 29 Jay Phillips Assateague Island	Bigeye Tuna 	May 5 Jeff Rosenkilde "Full Service" Baltimore Canyon	June 12 Richie Widmayer "HotLine" Baltimore Canyon
Cobia 		June 11 Numen Bilal Fenwick Island Beach	Bluefin Tuna 		May 17 Andrew Dietz "Take Em" SE Poor Man's
Summer Flounder 	March 27 Dakota Bittner Thorofare	April 3 Scott Lenox Thorofare	Longfin Tuna 		June 5 Chad Tingle "Sea Bear" Wilmington Canyon
Sea Bass 	NEW May 15 Mike DePalma Sr. Great Eastern Reef	May 15 Jeremy Michalski Jack Spot	Yellowfin Tuna 	May 6 Chris Kroh "Kilroy" Poorman's Canyon	May 17 James Haren "Take Em" SE Poor Man's
Sheepshead 	May 5 Anthony Carrieri Ocean City Jetty	June 4 Blake Gunther OC Inlet	Dolphin 	May 6 Brad Hubbard "Talkin' Trash" Poorman's Canyon	May 29 Adam Davidson "HotLine" East of Poor Man's
Striped Bass 	April 15 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	April 20 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	Swordfish 		June 4 The Crew "Espadon" Poor Man's Canyon
Tautog 	January 31 Josh Schwemlein Ocean Structure	March 27 Michael Guigley Stinky Beach	Blue Marlin 		June 13 The Crew "Rhonda's Osprey" Poor Man's Canyon
Wahoo 		June 30 Tim McCartney "Chasin Tides" Hot Dog	White Marlin 		June 6 Kevin Gibb "WRECKER" Baltimore Canyon

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



The Thorofare continues to produce this spring! Dave Borrell of Ocean City caught these two using white Gulp. The largest was 25" and at 5.75 lbs. It is the Heaviest caught in Maryland this season!



10 year old Jordan Thompson had a big day while fishing on Assateague Island with his Grandfather Ron Wilkens and brother Cooper Thompson. Jordan landed this 31" striper using peeler crab. We did not get measurements, but it looks like it might have been a keeper.

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COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME 47 • • • SPECIAL EDITION • • • MAY 25, 2022

Jan Wilson knocked a few anglers down a peg on the leaderboard during the Joe Morris Memorial Piercast Tournament last Friday. She topped the 3.00 lb. table on the dock at the end of the pier on the 4th Place overall.

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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



Steamed Mussels in Garlic White Wine Broth

Ingredients:

Extra virgin olive oil

4 large garlic cloves, minced

1 large shallot or small red onion, halved and thinly sliced

kosher salt

1 teaspoon Italian seasoning

½ to 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes, or Aleppo pepper

3 pounds mussels

1 cup chicken or vegetable broth

½ cup dry white wine

3 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley for garnish, optional

To Serve

1 lemon, cut into wedges

1 French baguette or rustic Italian bread, sliced, optional

Directions:

Rinse the mussels under cold running water, scrubbing with a brush, until the water runs clear. Discard any mussels that are not fully closed or do not close when you give them a



gentle tap with your fingernail.

In a large Dutch oven or 6-quart cooking pot, heat about 2 to 3 tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil over medium-high heat until shimmering.

Add the garlic and shallots, and season with a good pinch of kosher salt. Add the Italian seasoning and red pepper flakes, if using. Cook, stirring frequently with a wooden spoon, until fragrant (manage the heat to make sure the garlic does not brown).

Add the mussels and stir them around a bit, then pour in the broth and wine. Cover the pot and let the mussels steam over medium-high heat for about 5 to 6 minutes or until the mussels open up (you can give them a quick stir midway through).

As soon as the mussel shells are open, immediately remove the pot from the heat and stir in the fresh parsley.

Transfer the mussels and broth to serving bowls and serve immediately with lemon wedges and French or Italian bread to the side.

Pan-Seared Black Sea Bass

Ingredients:

½ cup of canned creamed corn

½ cup of coconut milk

½ cup of clam juice

2 tsp. fresh minced ginger, 1 piece about 1 inch by ½ inch, peeled

¼ tsp. curry powder

6 large shrimp, cleaned & deveined

¾ lb. fillet of black sea bass

1 Tbsp. chopped fresh tarragon

1 Tbsp. chopped fresh chives

1 ½ Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil

Kosher salt

Directions:

Pre-heat oven to 400° F.

Remove fish and shrimp from refrigerator and bring to room temperature.

While the oven is heating, mince the ginger, chop the tarragon and chives and clean & de-vein the shrimp. Also measure out all of the other ingredients and set aside.

When the oven is heated, place the corn on a baking sheet and roast for 15 minutes.

In the meantime, add the coconut milk and clam juice to a small 1 or 2 quart pot and slowly bring to a boil on medium-low heat. Add the minced ginger and the curry powder.

When the corn is done, puree it and whisk it into the broth.

Add the shrimp and let cook slowly until pink, keep warm on very low heat.

Add most of the chopped tarragon and chives to the broth, reserving a little for garnish.

Season both sides of the fish with kosher salt.



Heat a heavy stainless steel sauté pan on high, add olive oil to the pan and heat on high until it shimmers.

Slowly add the fish fillets, skin side down. The fish will buckle up, so push it down for a few seconds to keep it flat. Cook for 2 minutes and turn.

Continue cooking for 4 more minutes, shutting the heat for the last minute.

While the fish is cooking in step 12, spoon the shrimps and broth into bowls.

Add the fish fillets when done, skin side down and sprinkle the remaining tarragon and chives

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Serve immediately with hot, crispy French bread to soak up the broth.

Note: This cooking time is predicated on using Black Sea Bass, which is about 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch thick. If using striped bass or any thicker fish, increase the cooking time accordingly.

Extra Creamy Lobster Mac and Cheese

Ingredients:

8 ounces lobster meat cooked, chopped, about 2 cups

16 ounces dry pasta cavatappi, penne or shells

1/3 cup butter

1/3 cup flour

1 teaspoon onion powder

1/2 teaspoon dry mustard powder

1/2 teaspoon salt or to taste

1/4 teaspoon Old Bay seasoning

1/4 teaspoon black pepper to taste

2 3/4 cups milk

1/2 cup light cream

2 cups sharp cheddar shredded

1 1/4 cups gruyere cheese shredded, or swiss cheese, mozzarella, or havarti

1/2 cup fresh parmesan cheese shredded

Topping:

1/2 cup bread crumbs

2 tablespoons butter melted

2 tablespoons parmesan cheese grated



1 teaspoon parsley chopped

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400°F. Grease a 9x13 pan.

Combine topping ingredients in a small bowl. Set aside.

Cook pasta al dente according to package directions. Drain and run under cold water and set aside.

While pasta is cooking, melt butter over medium heat in a saucepan. Stir in flour and seasonings and cook 2 minutes.

Combine milk and cream. Add to the flour mixture a little bit at a time whisking in after each addition. The mixture will be very thick at first but will smooth out as you continue adding liquid.

Once all of the liquid is added, bring the mixture to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 1-2 minutes or until thickened while whisking.

Remove from heat and stir in the cheeses whisking until the sauce is smooth and melted.

Combine the sauce and the pasta. Gently stir in half of the lobster meat and spread into the prepared pan.

Add remaining lobster meat on top and sprinkle with the topping mixture.

Bake 20-25 minutes or until bubbly and topping is browned. Do not overcook.

Mahi Mango Tostadas

Ingredients:

4 mahi fillets

8 - 6 inch flour tortillas

Baja Rub:

1 teaspoon chili powder

1 teaspoon cumin

1 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon red cayenne pepper

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

Honey-Lime Coleslaw:

1/2 cup sour cream

1 tablespoon fresh lime juice

1 tablespoon honey

1/4 teaspoon salt



1/4 teaspoon pepper

1- 12 oz. pkg. shredded cabbage

Mango Salsa:

1 ripe mango peeled and diced

1/2 cup finely chopped red onion

1 jalapeño pepper seeded and diced

1 tablespoon fresh lime juice

1/4 teaspoon salt

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place tortillas directly on oven

rack and bake for 8-10 minutes, or until lightly browned and crisp. Remove from oven and set aside.

Combine all ingredients for the coleslaw except for the cabbage and stir until smooth. Pour over cabbage and toss to coat. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Peel and dice mango and combine with all other salsa ingredients. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Heat grill to medium-high heat. Brush the mahi lightly

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with olive oil and sprinkle with the Baja rub on both sides, adjusting for your preference (less for mild, more for spicy). Grill fish 3-4 minutes per side, depending on the thickness of the filet. Fish is done when it flakes easily with a fork.

Serving

Flake fish into large chunks.

Place a tostada (baked tortilla) on a plate and layer with 1/2 cup cole slaw, grilled fish, and mango salsa. Add a squeeze of fresh lime juice, if desired.

Sesame Ginger Grilled Tuna Steaks

Ingredients:

2 tuna steaks
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon sesame oil
1 teaspoon ginger, ground
1 tablespoon soy sauce
1 tablespoon garlic powder
1 tablespoon rice vinegar
2 tablespoons sesame seeds, divided
Green onion, sliced, to garnish



Directions:

Preheat grill to medium-high (350 degrees F)

In a small bowl, mix olive oil, sesame oil, ginger, soy sauce, garlic powder, rice vinegar, and half sesame seeds.

Pour half sauce over tuna steaks, and reserve half for finishing tuna.

Let fish marinate, refrigerated, for at least 20 minutes (as grill comes to temperature) up to overnight.

When grill is scorching hot, remove tuna steaks from the marinade and discard excess

the mariande fish was sitting in.

Cover fish with 1 tablespoon of sesame seeds to make a "crust" before grilling. Add more than 1 tablespoon if needed.

Place steaks on grill.

Grill 2-3 minutes per side, drizzling a bit of reserved sauce on top of fish as it cooks, until fish is charred on each side.

For medium-rare tuna steaks, cook to 135 degrees F. The FDA recommends 145 degrees F.

Remove tuna from grill, and top with reserved sauce, green onions, and additional sesame seeds and enjoy!

BlueLine Tilefish with Tarragon Beurre Blanc

Ingredients:

1 tbsp butter
1/2 tsp extra virgin olive oil
1 tbsp butter
1 1/2 lbs. tilefish fillet
Sea salt
Fresh ground black pepper
1 lemon
1 tbsp capers
2 cups sliced cherry or grape tomatoes
1 pinch sugar
2 tbsp fresh tarragon, minced

Directions:

Slice the tomatoes in half and set aside. Slice the lemon in half. Juice one half of the lemon into a small dish, reserving the remaining half for garnish slices. Mince the tarragon.

Light your galley stove and heat up a large skillet, adding the butter and olive oil. Lightly salt and pepper the fish fillet. Sprinkle flour on both sides and rub to coat evenly. Sauté in the hot oil skillet for 3-4 minutes, until golden.

With a thin spatula, gently turn the fish over and sauté the other side. It's a delicate fish so it will fall apart if you try to pick it up with tongs or a fork. Add the squeezed lemon juice to the pan. Sauté for another 3-4 minutes and remove to a serving platter. Reserve the oil



and lemon mixture in the pan. Keeping the pan on medium with the served oil and lemon, lightly sauté the tomatoes. Sprinkle on the capers. Add more sea salt and pepper. Sauté just until the tomatoes

are warmed through. You want them to retain their firmness and shape.

Pour the tomato mixture onto the plated fish and sprinkle with tarragon. Serve with a side salad and pasta or rice. \$

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Rich Daiker was at it again on his boat "Delicious"! This time he caught seven keeper flounder with Reece Schindler in the Thorofare using a deadly double with strip bait.



The early bird gets the worm, or in this case the fish! Mallory McGlannan and her dad hit the beach early on Assateague Island where she caught and released this 37" striper on an incoming tide just after sunrise. A fish finder rig with sand fleas did the trick to catch this one.



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Ashley Case and the crew of the private boat "Bad Influence" were one of the first boats back to the Ocean City Fishing Center on sea bass opening day. They fished the Great Eastern and found a tough bite, working through 3 fish for every keeper. They did end the day with 18 and were back by midday.



Gregory Certeza of Towson, MD got in on the action during the 2 week Spring Striper Trophy Season in the Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay. This 33" rock was caught and released using soft crab near Crisfield, MD on "Tangier Sound Charters".

2023 MARYLAND REGULATIONS

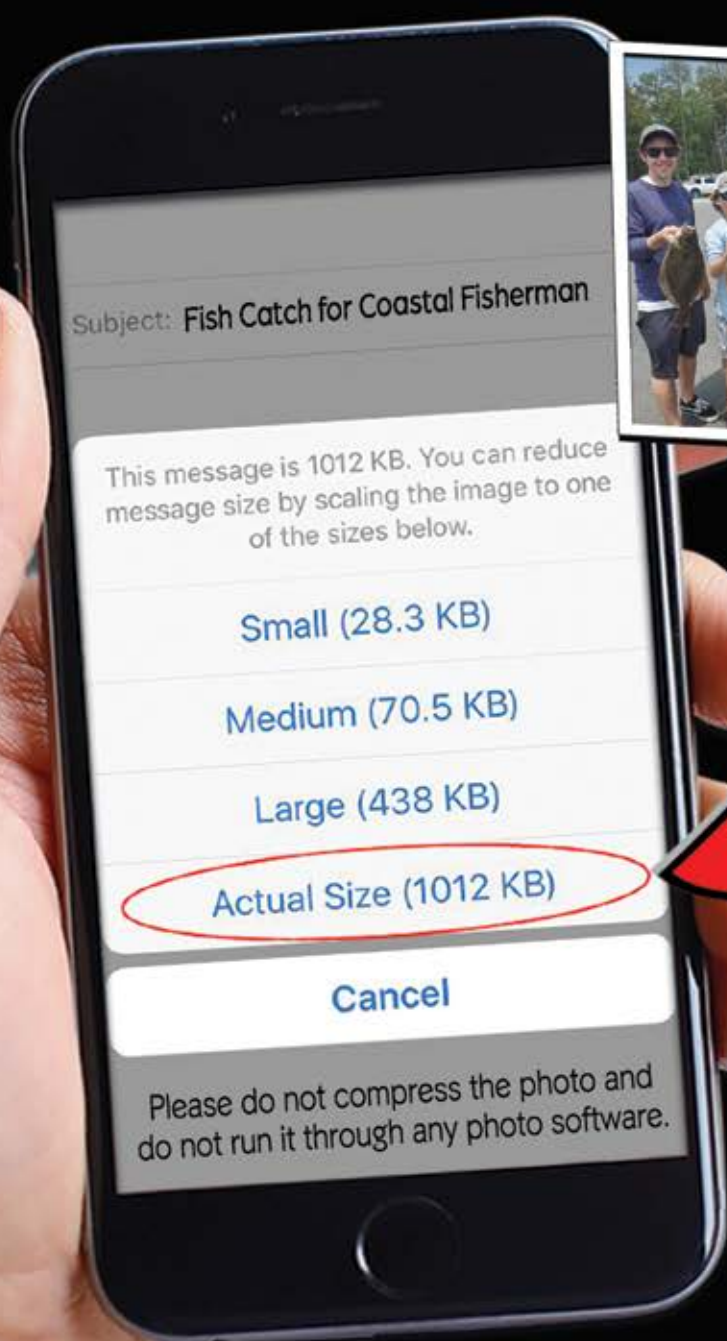
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Ship to Shore

STEVE'S MARINE SERVICE
by Steve Katz



Thinking about Starlink?

What is Starlink?

Starlink is the name of a division of SpaceX, the company founded by Elon Musk. They have pioneered comparatively low-cost broadband internet data service delivered using low earth orbiting satellites to small residential style antennas.

Internet connectivity through the use of satellites is not new. In 2003 a consumer satellite service was launched by Eutelsat with the e-BIRD, the first satellite in the world specifically designed for two-way broadband communications. What is new is the broadband speed available from Starlink, as high as 500 Mbps depending on the selected service plan and the relatively low monthly cost.

SpaceX's Starlink is a fast-moving business with ever-changing hardware, services, prices and terms. While it is expected that the newest business model may be around for a while, we never know what they will do next. Starlink data service plans are month-to-month so there is no guarantee that the pricing and service

won't change in the future. Some of the information below is new as of May 2023 and extremely different from that of April 2023!

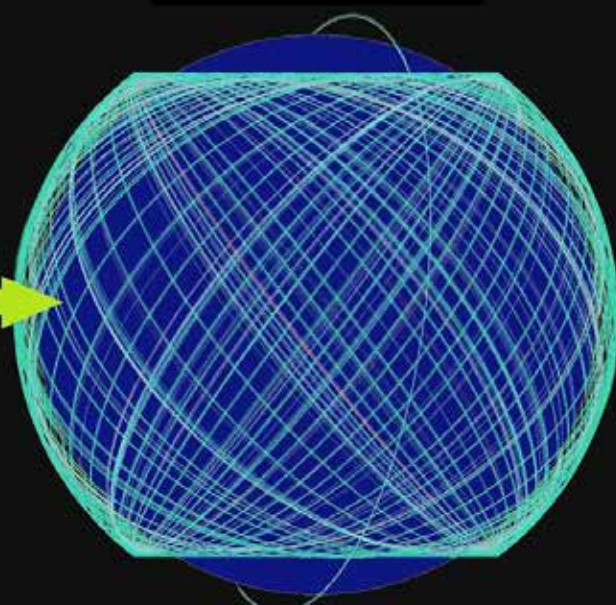
from a moving boat. So, we know it's feasible and a sought after service for boats of all types.

Starlink started to offer the

www.coastalfisherman.net track satellites across the sky without moving mechanically – a big advantage to boaters due to the compact size and price as compared to a large, expensive stabilized dome.

The first Starlink consumer antennas were a flat, round 24" antenna and some boaters took this antenna that was designed for residential use and mounted it on their boat.

How SpaceX Builds A Constellation



Can Starlink Work on a Boat?

KVH, the popular satellite antenna manufacturer and service provider has offered marine satellite antennas for television, voice and data services since the late 1990's with their stabilized marine antenna that tracks a satellite

public satellite internet service in 2020 and boaters took notice. The Starlink antennas are not stabilized, they are a flat phased array antenna. A phased array antenna is made up of hundreds of miniature antennas that are synchronized by precision timing. By adjusting the delay between the antennas, the overall device can

Ever since, boaters have been trying out the Starlink system to provide high speed internet to their boat at the dock and offshore. While this mobile (in motion) use wasn't specifically authorized by Starlink or the FCC, it turned out that it worked pretty good and really caught on with boaters. It wasn't until June 2022 that

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Starlink was authorized by the FCC to offer its service for moving vehicles such as cars, trucks, RVs and boats. This brought on more speculation that the Starlink service and price plans could change once they “figured out” where their service was being utilized. The Starlink antennas use their own satellites like a GPS system, to know the location of the subscriber’s antenna.

Boaters around the world bought and “tested” the Starlink service with varying results. This was going on while Starlink was regularly launching more satellites to increase coverage of their constellation with ever improving coverage and speeds. Some users had great coverage while at sea and others lost connectivity 50 miles offshore. As of May 2023, Starlink consists of over 4,000 satellites, nearly 12,000 satellites are planned to be deployed, with a possible later extension to 42,000. The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket can launch over 50 satellites in a single mission.

High seas satellite coverage for both traditional satellite service and Starlink both rely on ground stations to transmit data to and from the satellites. Traditional satellite data service relies on geosynchronous satellites (22,236 miles overhead) that match the rotation of the earth, this allows them to appear in



that same overhead location and provide a known coverage beam. A land-based station in the coverage area sends and receives data to the satellite that then rebroadcasts that data to subscribers in the coverage area.

Starlink took a different approach and uses a low earth orbit constellation (LEO) about 342 miles overhead with compact satellites traveling at 18,000 mph. While some ground stations are still needed, Starlink’s newest generation 2 satellites can communicate between satellites using laser data transmission. This allows for coverage in areas where there are no ground stations,

such as in the open ocean.

Consumer Choices

Once the FCC approved the in-motion service, Starlink began offering a few different antennas, with the current in-motion antenna approved for boats and recreational vehicles. It is a 18lb fixed flat panel antenna about 22”x20” and costing \$2500. Just recently, Starlink has notified customers that this antenna is the only antenna approved for maritime use and requires its customers with other antennas to upgrade to this newest model for use on the water.

Starlink’s service plans have changed quite frequently in

the last year. Currently the Residential, Roam (formerly RV) and business plans will no longer function when used on a moving vessel on the high seas. Thankfully, Starlink now offers less expensive maritime plans from their original \$5,000 per month and 5TB to an entry level plan of \$250 per month with 50 GB of monthly data. Starlink offers other maritime plans that include more data, but they don’t offer unlimited maritime plans.

If you have a need for internet connectivity offshore, the Starlink system is a great solution for many boaters and is currently the most affordable system available. §

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Jeff and Kelly Weeks of Ocean City, MD were all smiles after their day fishing the south Ocean City Jetty! They landed this pair of a 17½" male and a 16¾" female using sand fleas.



Berlin, MD native Michael Lupiwik Jr. headed a little south to find some flounder action. He fished near the Verrazano Bridge to Assateague Island and caught this 16" flounder using a Gulp and minnow combo.



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The Chesapeake Bay Trophy Rockfish season closed Monday and Chesapeake Medical's Mike Halsey got out with his wife Bree one more time! It didn't take long after a mid-day start for the pair to connect with their 10 rod spread on the outgoing tide. Shortly after 2pm, Bree captured this 41" rock after the fish hit on a 2 oz. white bucktail with a 5" shad.

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FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



What a beautiful Eastern Shore week we have all had the chance to enjoy. Fair winds and clear skies and water, have turned what last week seemed to be an eternal tide of mud into the fisherman's paradise that we all love!

The middle Chesapeake has taken center stage with world class shallow water angling that will make your rod bend and any negative thoughts disappear like your line during a long run by a big red. The bait fishermen are still having the most luck as they soak chunks of soft crab and peeler in hopes of battling a trophy red, spec or rock amidst the grass flats of the Pocomoke and Tangier sounds. Anglers with a fondness of artificial baits have also seen some action on paddle tails and mirrolures as they finesse them in to the waiting mouths of both

striped and spotted treasures. Albino and salt & pepper baits rigged on 1/4 oz. rumblefish heads are all that is required to tickle the tastebuds of the springtime shallow water drag screamers that produce both smiles and memories.

In deeper waters of the Chesapeake, the oyster rocks of the sounds along with the areas adjacent to the CBBT have produced some black drum action. All you need to "beat" these barbeled brawlers is a nice smelly sea clam or a big chunk of crab delivered by way of a good ol' fish finder rig on a hard bottom in or near structure (both natural or man made). If you find yourself down at the CBBT with some crab, you definitely will want to spend some time on the pilings looking for the illusive sheephead.

These fish are challenging to hook and even harder to land, a "reel" accomplishment for all who try.

The seaside inlets have been alive with activity from reds, blacks and even some linesiders migrating back up the coast. The rock and reds have mainly been found in and around the surf line as surf anglers, as well as folks from boats, cast chunks of crab or sand fleas on modified fish finders. The black drum have played their tune in the inlets of the ESVA. Clams and crabs have been the go-to as anglers wait for a battle that will bend even the stiffest boat rod.

For those of us that prefer relaxing drift fishing, the Eastern Shore flounder fishery is alive and well. Good numbers of flatfish have taken up residence on the many flats (2-6

foot depths) behind the barrier islands. We continue to have the best results with a pink or chartreuse Sea Hawk Flounder rig tipped with Gulp, silversides and minnows. However, the most important factor that can't be acquired at even the most substantial fishing store is clear water. Recently, these optimal conditions have been during the time of just before high water and continuing through the duration of the ebb. Don't hesitate to try lots of different color combinations like pink/chartreuse (electric chicken) or orange/chartreuse (fire tiger). You never know what the one detail is that could make the difference between a beautiful day on the water and a beautiful day on the water with a cooler full of dinner to go home with!

Whether you are a bait angler or an artificial angler... a flounder drifter or someone that would rather beat on the Eastern Shore drum. Get out there, revel in the fellowship of family and friends while enjoying this wonderful place we call home! §

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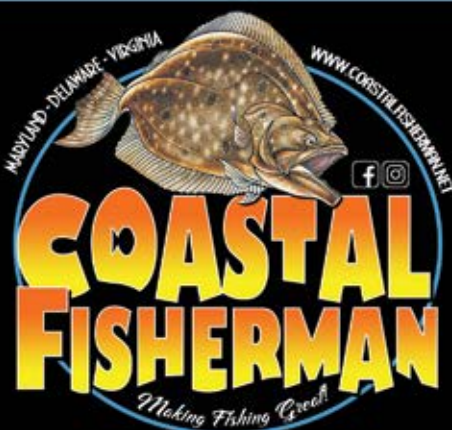


Rehoboth, DE's Chrissy Jamgochian had a hankering for some flounder last week so she headed down south to Wachapreague, VA to get in on the ESVA hot action. She went fishing with Tom Phillips on a private boat where the pair caught 4 keepers including these two that Chrissy snagged using silversides with pink Gulp!



Avid angler Shaun Flaherty slips into the top spot for heaviest bluefish so far this year at 10.24 lbs. This trip he took his kayak down by the Verrazano Bridge.

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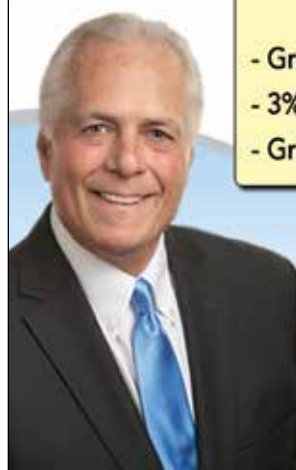
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FACTS ABOUT... SEA BASS

WHAT DO BLACK SEA BASS LOOK LIKE?

As their name suggests, sea bass are black in color, but can also have a gray body. During spawning season, the dominant male-sea-bass develop a hump on their head and have vibrant-blue color shades. Sea bass have stout-bodies, flat-heads, pointed-snouts, and large-mouths. Juvenile sea bass are brown in color and have a horizontal-stripe running along their body.

WHERE DO BLACK SEA BASS LIVE?

Adult black sea bass can be found in the Atlantic Ocean, from the Gulf of Maine to the Florida Keys. Many sea bass swim in small schools and migrate north to spend the summer months in New England waters. Locally on Cape Cod, there are large populations at Vineyard and Nantucket Sounds, Buzzards Bay, and the Elizabeth Islands. In recent years, black sea bass have pushed north into the Gulf of Maine as the ocean temperatures have increased. Younger-sea-bass tend to live in backwaters or estuaries to feed and avoid being eaten by predators. Since sea bass occupy much of the same habitat as striped bass, they are often caught accidentally. Sea bass spend their days around wrecks, piers, jetties, shoals, reefs, and rockpiles.

WHAT DO BLACK SEA BASS EAT?

Even though sea bass do not have big, sharp, and pointy-teeth to crush their food like other predatory fish, they do have small and harmless teeth. Adult sea bass are aggressive bottom feeders and are not picky; their menu consists of a wide variety of crustaceans, fishes, mollusks, and worms.

HOW BIG DO BLACK SEA BASS GROW TO?

Some adult black sea bass grow up to 2-feet in length and 9-pounds in weight. However, most do not grow over 4-pounds.

WHAT DO BLACK SEA BASS TASTE LIKE?

Even though their filets are on the smaller side, many people consider sea bass to be the best eating northeast inshore fish. Their meat is tender, translucent, breaks into small flakes, and is mild in flavor. Sea bass are not an oily fish and they can be cooked in a variety of ways. However, they can be tedious to fillet because of their rib cage bones.

WHAT IS THE SCIENTIFIC NAME FOR BLACK SEA BASS?

The scientific name for black sea bass is *centropomus striata*. They're members of the Serranidae family, which also includes grouper, the often-solitary, structure-loving reef fishes of temperate and tropical waters.

WHY DO BLACK SEA BASS CHANGE SEXES?

All sea bass are born females, but when they become 2-to-5 years old, and 9-to-13 inches in length, some change sexes, and become males. It is unclear why the sex change occurs, but there is some scientific research suggesting the lack of males in a local spawning group may be the cause. The change happens during the fall and winter after sea bass finish spawning.

WHY DO SEA BASS MAKE A GRUNTING NOISE?

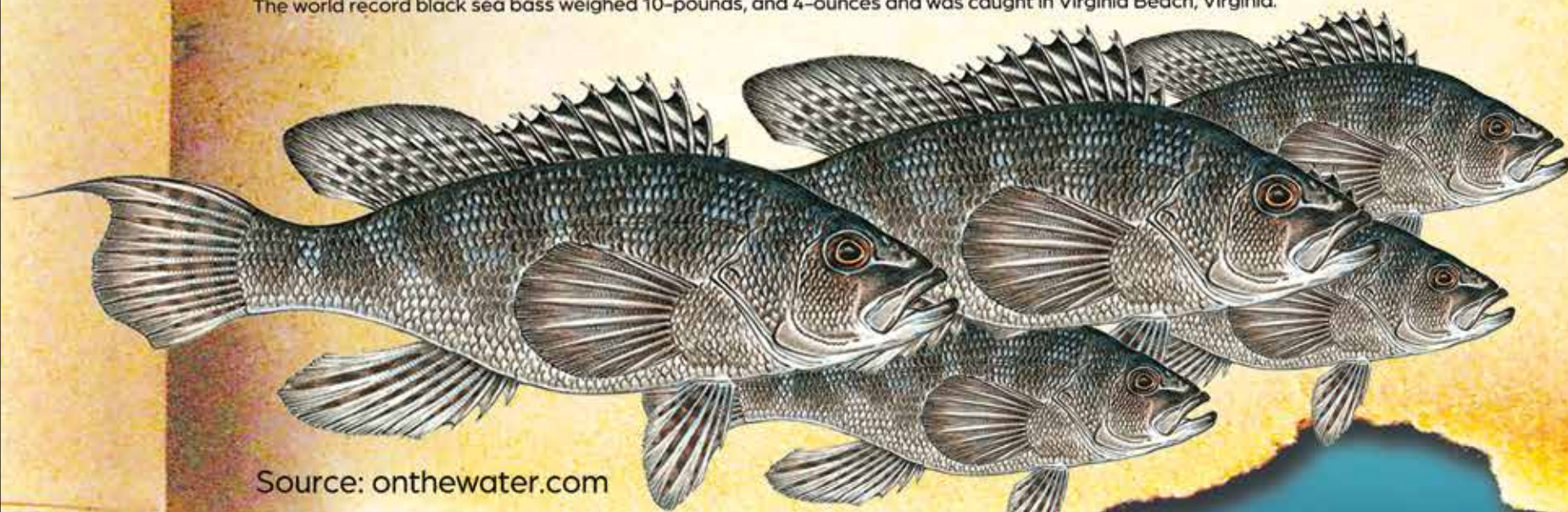
Sea bass have a large swim bladder, which can produce small thumps and grunting noises. The vibrations are produced to escape predators, but they are also associated with competitive feeding.

WHEN DO BLACK SEA BASS SPAWN?

In New England, black sea bass females produce up to 500,000 eggs during the spring spawning season. The eggs float in the water for several days before turning into larvae.

WHAT IS THE BLACK SEA BASS WORLD RECORD?

The world record black sea bass weighed 10-pounds, and 4-ounces and was caught in Virginia Beach, Virginia.



Source: onthewater.com



Can you imagine a nicer day in January, look at that water! Josh Schwemlein of Princess Anne, MD was on his 1st trip targeting tog and caught this 30½" and 16 lb. blackfish only 20 mile offshore. Our first reported for the season. He was with Jeremy Thomas and Joel Baus using white crab on a double hook rig with an 8 oz. weight.

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UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

MAY

Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament
 May 19 • Lewes Harbour Marina • 302-645-6227

Cast for a Cure Team Surf Fishing Tournament
 May 20 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974

14th Annual Franky Pettonlina Memorial Day Tournament
 May 27-28 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

JUNE

2nd Annual Blues for D.U.

June 2-4 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

3rd Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament
 June 16-17 • Ocean City, MD • 410-212-7159

School's Out Tuna Tournament

June 21 - 25 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

8th Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament
 June 24-25 • Indian River Marina • 302-227-3071

44th Annual OCMC Small Boat Tournament
 June 24-25 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

5th Annual Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam
 Kayak Fishing Tournament

June 24-25 • Ocean City, MD • 410-868-5488

JULY

41st Annual Canyon Kick Off

June 30 - July 2 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

MidAtlantic Cup

July 4 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown
 July 5-8 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

36th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament
 July 14-16 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1613

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






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Matt Toth from Ewing, NH with Brian Curvin of Mooresville, NC and Tommy Barbetta found some nice keeper flounder in the bay behind Assateague Island using minnows. They were fishing with Capt. Jason Mumford on the charter boat "Lucky Break".

2023

DELAWARE REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - December 11</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH No minimum size 3 per day / 5 per day Charter</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 3 per person/day</p>	 <p>COBIA 37" Minimum • 1 per person or vessel</p>
 <p>CROAKER 8" Minimum • No Limit</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 20-27" minimum 5 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD No limit</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 12" minimum No creel limit</p>
 <p>28-31" Coming Soon! 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</p>	 <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 16" minimum 4 per person/day</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

eregulations.com



The Phillips family had a solid day of fishing on Assateague Island! Sydney caught this 48" rockfish using sand fleas on the incoming tide. She was fishing with her husband Kyle and 8 month old son Myles. They also beached a 29' black drum just before the striper!

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Capt. Rich Harpel of Lewes, DE found another monster drum this season. This one was found in the coral beds off of Broadkill Beach and was hooked on a high/low drum rig with fresh sea clams and 4 ozs. of weight.

PICK UP YOUR COASTAL FISHERMAN AT THESE LOCATIONS

OCEAN CITY Talbot Street Pier Oceanic Fishing Pier Wockenfuss Candy - Boardwalk 1st St. Reel Inn - 17th St. Bahia Marina - 22nd St. Minit Market - 31st St. Anthony's Beer, Wine & Deli - 33rd St. Dough Roller - 41st St. Advanced Marina - 66th St. Holiday Inn - 67 St. Rommel's Ace Hardware - 68th St. Dough Roller - 69th St. Exxon Wine Rack - 86th St. Acme - 92nd St. Liquid Assets - 94th St. Carousel Hotel - 117th St. Wawa - 120th St. Montego Bay Market - 130th St. Primos Hoagies - 134 St. 7-Eleven - 139th St.	WEST OCEAN CITY Bank of Ocean City West-O Bottle Shop & Bar - Rt. 50 All Tackle Ocean City - Rt. 50 Bluewater Yacht Sales Ocean City Fishing Center Ocean City Marlin Club Atlantic Tackle Sunset Grille Shark Restaurant Sunset Marina Sunset Provisions Pure Lure Fishing Gear Harborside Bar & Grill Harbor Marine Optical Galleria - Rt. 611 Southside Deli - Rt. 611	FENWICK/SELBYVILLE Fenwick Tackle Fenwick Hardware Lighthouse Liquors Bayville Package Store Food Lion Rt.54 Royal Farms Rt. 54 Harris Teeter Rt.113 Boat Sales	BETHANY, OCEAN VIEW & MILLVILLE Hook 'em & Cook 'em Outfitters - Rt.1 G&E Supermarket G&E Hardware - Cedar Neck Rd. Hocker's Deli - Rt. 26 Gull's Way Campground Hocker's Supermarket - Rt. 26 Wawa - Rt. 26 Bethany Auto & Marine - Rt. 26 Banks Wine & Spirits Downtown Bethany by Bandstand Bob's Marine Giant - Ocean View Rite Aid - Ocean View
WEST OCEAN CITY Wawa - Rt. 50 Mione's Pizza - Outlets Wockenfuss Candy - Outlets	BERLIN Cheers - Berlin Food Lion - Berlin Crabs To Go - Rt. 50 Walmart - Rt. 50 Food Lion - Ocean Pines Rite Aid Royal Farms - Rt. 50	INDIAN RIVER Indian River Marina Hook 'em & Cook 'em Tackle Shop Old Inlet Bait & Tackle	DEWEY, REHOBOTH & LEWES Lewes Harbour Marina - Lewes Henlopen Bait & Tackle Wheelhouse Restaurant Lewes Ice House Bait & Tackle - Rt. 1 Rehoboth Atlantic Liquors - Rt. 1 Rehoboth ACME - Rt. 1 Rehoboth Fisherman's Wharf - Lewes Wawa - Rehoboth (near Fresh Market) Wawa - Rehoboth (Northside near Walmart)
			LONG NECK Short's Marine Rick's Bait & Tackle

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Featured Boat of the Week


SEA HUNTER - 2019 45' Mark Willis Call Chris Workmon

OUTNUMBERED - 1997 64' Mark Willis
Call Jimmy Fields

1997 50' Alex Willis Custom
Convertible Call Joel McLeod

1985 47' Hines-Farley
Call Ronnie Fields

CALLIE MAY - 2011 40' Cabo
Call Chris Workmon

POUND FOR POUND - 2000 42' Custom
Carolina - Call Jeff James

CONSTELLATION - 1984 37' Sunny Briggs
Call Ronnie Fields

DRIFTWOOD - 2017 28' Harrison
Boatworks Call Jeff James

HIGHSHARE - 1996 38' Duffy
Call Mark Pagano

1998 45' Ocean Yacht
Call Chris Workmon

2017 27' Cobia
Call Colton Cunningham

2003 38' Fountain
Call Terry Layton

1986 28' Ocean Master
Call Glenn Cameron

1982 31' Bertram
Call Ronnie Fields

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

CARIBENA - 1982 34' Bertram
Call Jimmy Fields

2020 18' Key West
Call Jimmy Fields

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