

Priceless

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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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The second and last day of the 3rd Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament opened with beautiful weather and excitement at the scales. By the time the scales opened at 4PM, the early word was that the "Roncito" had a large bigeye in the box. Capt. Al Rittmeyer had run to the northern canyons, starting in the Hayes and moving to the Wilmington as the day progressed. At 2:15 PM a rod went down hard. Courtney Grady grabbed on and the fight was on! Just a little after 3 PM she got the big eyeball to the boat and once on the scales at the Ocean City Fishing Center the fish weighed in at 183 lbs.! It easily slid into 1st Place for Heaviest Tuna besting the next closest by almost 100 lbs. and earning \$38,153! A great catch is supported by a great team and Courtney was joined by fellow anglers Sharon Rittmeyer, Lisa Chervitch, Connie Grady, Traci Boylston and Amelia Grey with mates Mario Cascaneda & John Rogers and of course the faithful dog Shadow. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Genevieve Pelletier did some pretty work while fishing in the Indian River Inlet. She landed this 24" and 4.8 lb. flounder, a personal best, using Gulp.



Brian Brader of Powellville, MD ventured out to the south Poor Man's Canyon on the "Lucky Dog II" captained by Brian Brader of Berlin, MD where he hooked this yellowfin after about 45 minutes of trolling a green Squidnation. It was the only fish caught that day.

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JC Dennis of Berlin, MD dropped by our office in West OC with a big sheepshead he caught using peeler crab at the rock island just outside the Ocean City Jetty. We threw it on our trusty hand scale and registered 9.5 lbs. and was 23½". While this one is a far cry from the 13.75 lb. convict he caught last year that earned him the 2022 title for Heaviest Sheepshead, it is heavy enough to put him on top for heaviest so far this year!



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It was a good weather week for fishing inshore and off. While we did have to deal with some afternoon winds and one wicked storm that blew through Delaware on Friday, overall, lots of boats got on the water. We also had our first offshore tournament of the season, the 3rd Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament. While the tuna fishing has been sparse, there were some nice tuna hitting the scales, including some bigeyes. More on that event below. There were several sharks reported as well as one for the first swordfish of the season! Undersized cobias were found nearshore and triggerfish were on the reefs. So let's get into some details.

We'll start with the main event this past weekend, the 3rd Annual Tuna & Tiaras Tournament mentioned above. 58 boats entered this year, almost double

from last year and 291 lady anglers went out to try their luck. Day 1 was last Friday, and we saw 23 boats head to the canyons despite the gray conditions. Captains on this day reported the action was very slow, with most returning with 1 or 2 yellowfins in the 35 lb. range. Still, several boats found 5 or more qualifying fish to put together some decent stringers. The "Chain Reaction" put 5 yellowfins on the scale they caught trolling between the Spencer and the Wilmington Canyons weighing a combined 183 lbs. That put them in 1st Place in the Stringer Category at the end of Day 1. They also topped the Heaviest Tuna Division for the day with a 43 lb. yellowfin. Not a bad day for team Daddy Brad's Hookers! They would however finish the event with a tie for 2nd Place Stringer with the "Playmate".

Saturday saw beautiful weather and the remaining 34 boats heading out. The fishing improved and we saw more action at the scales. The early boats to the scales brought similar catches to the day before, but that changed around 5:45 PM when the "Roncito" arrived. The word on the dock was that they had a large bigeye tuna in the box, and indeed they did! Angler Courtney Grady hooked up around 2:15 PM and fought the eyeball in the Wilmington Canyon for almost an hour to get it to the boat. Once on the scales it weighed 183 lbs. and easily took to the top spot for Heaviest Tuna, besting the next one by almost 100 lbs! They remained unchallenged and won \$38,153 in prize money. The next boat in also upset the leaderboard. The "Pumpin' Hard" rolled in and put 5 chunky yellowfins on the dock. They actually had 9 in the box, and at one point had 5 on at the same time. They were fishing in the Baltimore in 66° water. Their 5 fish weighed 191 lbs. and slid them into 1st Place for Heaviest Stringer where they remained, taking home \$30,142! You can see our full coverage of the tournament starting on page 58.

It was good to see bigeyes in the tournament and outside of it. The "Wrecker" found a 144 lb. eyeball in the Wilmington and had 3 bites for the day. Earlier last week the "Canyon Crew" slayed a 93" bigeye in the Poor Man's. They had 6 bites and got 4 tight, but only landing one. Earlier last week the Poor Man's

was the place to be, but as the week progressed the tuna moved north with the Wilmington being the hotspot for bigeye and multiple yellowfin catches with the Baltimore second.

We did not get a lot of billfish reports, but of the ones we did were all blue marlin and one swordfish. The "Wrecker" set another first for the season landing a 100 lb. swordfish from the Poor Man's Canyon. They tricked this one with a snakehead fillet. Charlie Horning on the famous "Fish Whistle" reported they released a big blue marlin in the Wilmington last Friday. Tony Nerosa released his first blue in the Poor Man's. He hit on a ballyhoo skirted with a Sea Witch on the flat line. Interestingly, they saw the blue had a prior hook in a pectoral fin. The "Blood Money" also went marlin fishing, this time in the Baltimore. They released a blue, went 0 for 1 on a white and bagged a dolphin.

Capt. Mark Sampson on the "Fish Finder" let me know that it is not uncommon for anglers to fly fish for sharks. This was news to me! It does involve a different technique however. He reports that they "chum them up behind the boat and then try to get them to take the fly (no bait, no scent, just a hook, fur, and feathers). Not all the sharks we cast to are willing to take a fly, but obviously, some will", interesting. Charles Bowman from PA fished with Capt. Mark about 30 miles offshore and landed a 60" blacktip shark on a fly that was tagged and released. We also had a report from Richard Hoenes of a sand tiger shark they caught south of the Ocean City Jetty on Father's Day using a circle hook with bluefish bait in 13 feet of water.

Finally, we get to report another big win for Capt. Charley Pereira on his charter boat "Sushi"! He took the top spot in the 65th Big Rock Tournament in North Carolina. His crew brought a 484.5 lb. blue marlin to the scales on day 5 of the 6-day event sliding into the top spot by just 4.7 lbs. While the final day of the event saw a larger blue brought to the scales, it had to be disqualified due to a shark bite. The "Sushi" took home over \$2.7 million in prize money!

As a note, the disqualification of the other fish has raised a lot of commentary on its fairness. It was a fair call, as the IGFA rules clearly state that "mutilation to the fish, prior to landing or boating the catch, caused by sharks or other fish, mammals or propellers that removes or penetrates the fish" will be disqualified. This is because you cannot determine if the angler caught the fish, or the fish was injured by the event and otherwise might have gotten away. Heartbreaking for the crew, but fair.

Next weekend has 3 tournaments with something for everyone,

so check out the detail in the Upcoming Tournament section!

So until next time, I will see you at the scales! §

Upcoming Tournaments

• The Indian River Marina hosts the **8th Annual Kids Catch All Tournament** on June 24 & 25. The event is for all ages and includes inshore and offshore categories. More at KidsCatchAll.com.

• The Ocean City Marlin Club's is holding it's **44th Annual Small Boat Tournament** on June 24 & 25. You do not need to be a member to participate. Scales are at Sunset Marina from 3:00 to 6:30 PM.

• The **Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam** returns to Atlantic Tackle for it's 5th year! This kayak only tournament on June 24 & 25 continues to grow, attracting anglers from all over the East Coast. Last year's winner was a 46.25 lb. cobia! Weigh ins are from 12-4 PM.



Another first fish for 2023! PA anglers Greg Rohrer, Colton Hoffman, Duke Fiel, Johnny Dweck, Bob Sawyer and Sam Smith all took a turn on the electric reel to raise this 58" and 100 lb. swordfish from 1100 feet in the Poor Man's Canyon using a snakehead fillet. They were deep dropping with Capt. Bobby Layton and mate Cody Smith, and also boated a mess of blueline tilefish.

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Travis Gosnell has been having good success fishing the 2nd St. bulkhead in Ocean City. On this trip with his dad Steve, he reeled in a 13" triggerfish.

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The offshore flounder are getting big. Shawn & Carmin Cronney got 5 nice fatties fishing with Gulp at an ocean structure.



Tommy McDonald, Tom McDonald, Steve McDonald and Ted Proseus ran out of OC on the private boat "McFish" to the Poor Man's Canyon. They boated 2 yellowfin trolling Tormentor wide trackers, then deep dropped for tiles and ended up with 2 golden tiles and a limit of blue lines.



TOURNAMENT SERIES 2023 SCHEDULE

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

UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!

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

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

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

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

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

8th ANNUAL OCMC vs OCLTC SHOOT-OUT
 TBD

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

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OCEAN CITY FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Ocean City has greeted us with warmer weather and much better fishing. On the nearshore reefs, the flounder have shown up along with good sized bluefish.

The Great Eastern Reef is the hot spot of the week, with the Jackspot a close second.

At the Bass Grounds the sea bass is plentiful, however, most are undersized. In the back bays the flounder are into their summer mode and being caught everywhere.

Nearshore Reefs

On the nearshore reefs the sea bass are still around and eager to be caught. The problem is, many are undersized. The average day on the Bass Grounds or African Queen site is yielding around 6-8 keepers per angler, per day. Fresh clam is doing better than squid, but larger jigs are producing the best chance for keeper bass. Flounder are on the down current side of most wrecks and can be caught with squid strips and live minnows.

Joe Sansone was fishing for sea bass and managed to bring

home a few nice knotheads for dinner.

“Double Trouble Charters” was out on a few trips last week, including an overnight, and got a nice mix of sea bass and tilefish, as well as a bag of tuna. Capt. DJ Churchill stated the inshore bass trips have been good with limits or close to limits.

The “Judith M” stated they have gotten lots of bass bites along with a few keeper flounder thrown into the mix. The headboat is doing their last couple of 8 and 10 hour trips before changing over to the summer schedule. Captain Rick Shoaff stated that the rail has been pretty light lately making the trips almost like a private charter. So get over to Bahia Marina and book a trip before our big summer crowds arrive in the upcoming weeks.

Matt Moran of the “Ocean Princess” told me that last week started out a little slow for the bass bite but improved as the week went on. Several big bluefish along with a few nice flounder were also caught. As for sea bass, the

clients are averaging 4-5 keepers on the 5.5 hour trips which is about average for this time of the year.

Judy Schaible was on one of these trips and performed her fluke magic by catching a limit of big flounder.

James Grier, Patrick Connelly, Dave Connelly, Ethan Grier, and Richard Grier were out on the boat “Blue Eyed Lady” fishing the Great Eastern Reef and returned to the docks with a cooler full of bass up to 16 inches. The father and sons fished hard and caught some quality fish.

Dr. Ozzie Nicastro and Mike Matha from West Ocean City, MD were at the Jack’s Spot using fresh clams as well as jigs and caught a limit of bass. The crew fished the deeper wrecks of the area hard and found the bass willing to take the jigs tipped with clam. Great job on the limits when so many others have struggled to find quality keepers.

Kevin McNelis had his first wreck trip of the year, and despite the water visibility being awful, he managed to capture a 19 and 20 inch fish

www.coastalfisherman.net using his Bomb Sauce and custom made rods. Kevin reported a few triggerfish caught in the trip. “Action Jackson Sportfishing” had Wade Oddy and his family out for a quick 4 hour trip last week and found 4 nice flatties ready to bite. They also got a bluefish which will become crab bait as well as a few sea robins that were returned unharmed.

Inlet & Back Bay Fishing

The OC inlet has been producing some nice bluefish and smaller rockfish mostly on the evening flood tides. Shawn Varner was out with his fly rod and managed to get an undersized but respectable rock to take his fly. For the record, any rockfish taken on a fly is a trophy in my book.

Luke Wrye was out looking for rock and blues at the Rt. 50 Bridge and took his personal best blue measuring 33 inches. Luke was worried about losing the fish when the lure got tangled in the net. Good job keeping your composure and landing a trophy fish.

“The Miss Ocean City” fished the bays and took home several nice flatties for their clients.

The “Happy Hooker” was also out on the bay and Mr Sanders couldn't stop raving about how helpful the crew

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was and how great they were working with the kids on the trip. It should be mentioned that all of the back bay head boats are a great way to see Ocean City from a water bound view as well as a great activity for the kids. Many boats run a 2 or 4 hour trip which is short enough not to let the kids get bored and still leave enough time in the day for other beach activities.

“Ocean City Guide Service” fished the back bays behind Assateague Island and put their anglers on some quality fish. Large fluke as well as bluefish went home for dinner last week. Mila and Brandon finally got out with them and everyone caught, laughed, and had a great time.

Dan and Jay Betz from York, PA fished their boat the “Rev-Er-Up” in the west channel and came back to the docks with 4 fluke between 19 and 22 inches.

Pat DeGroot had a great day in OCMD which started out with a bald eagle on a flag, had some big blues tear up their gear and then got a few nice black drum. They kept the smallest one at 20 inches and sent the other larger ones back to be caught another day.

Tommy Perry got a limit of flounder with the biggest one at 23 ¼ inches. Tommy said Marie Perry will now be happy that she has fresh fish for dinner. So it is true, happy wife, happy life.

John Foreman got a few nice spanish mackerel last week. Aubrey Jersey from Pittsburgh, PA got a 16.5” flattie on a 2 hook float rig while fishing the Thorofare which was big enough to win the pool on the bay boat the “Tortuga”.

With fishing getting hot, now is the time to get out and wet a line.

Until next week...

Tight lines and fins up §

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Tracey Heltzinger was tile & sea bass fishing with Dean Miller and Capt. Todd Kurtz on the charter boat "Restless Lady" when she reeled in a surprise, an unusual bright orange swallowtail bass from 320 feet using squid. Pictured on the boat at the Talbot Street Pier.



Dan and Jay Betz from York, PA had a good day in the West Channel on their boat "Rev-Er-Up". They were fishing with minnows and managed 4 keeper flounder with the largest at 21½".

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>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>SAILFISH Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit</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>WAHOO No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day</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>SHARKS AUTHORIZED SPECIES</p>			

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Jenn Bowden was at it again, fishing the suds off the Fenwick Island drive on beach. She caught this 30" bluefish on the incoming tide using a DS Custom Tackle modified Mullet Rig.

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2023




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

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
 Bluefish	May 19 Rich Daiker OC Jetty 14.5 lbs.	June 8 Dexter Long Indian River Inlet 12 lbs.	 Thresher Shark		
 Black Drum	April 4 Tom Berry Assateague 19 lbs.	May 19 Eric Feinauer Delaware Bay 53 lbs.	 Bigeye Tuna ★	June 17 Courtney Grady Wilmington Canyon 183 lbs.	June 2 Derek Burkert Poorman's Canyon 42 lbs.
 Cobia			 Bluefin Tuna	May 29 "Marli" Crew Baltimore Canyon 216 lbs.	
 Summer Flounder	May 6 David Borrell Thorofare 5.75 lbs.	June 6 John Wilkins Lewes Canal 8 lb. 10 oz.	 Longfin Tuna		
 Sea Bass	May 20 Wayne Small Ocean Structure 5 lbs.	May 22 Richard Krauss Ocean Structure 4.3 lbs.	 Yellowfin Tuna ★	June 17 Joyce Rhodes Wilmington Canyon 47 lbs.	
 Sheepshead ★	June 11 JC Dennis Ocean City Inlet 9 lbs. 8 oz.	June 13 Larry Karawczyk Indian River Inlet 9.4 lbs.	 Dolphin	June 1 Randy Ridgely Baltimore Canyon 13.5 lbs.	
 Striped Bass	June 1 Buddy Martin Rt. 50 Bridge 12 lbs.	May 22 Chic Stearrett Bethany Beach 18.7 lbs.	 Swordfish		
 Tautog		May 6 James Milano Ocean Structure 22.9 lbs.	 Blue Marlin		
 Wahoo			 White Marlin		

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







The night action at the Rt. 50 Bridge remains strong. Fenwick Bait & Tackle's Joshua Travers lives what he does! He took a couple trips to the bridge landing this 33.5" bluefish on a live eel. He also caught another 33" blue the same week!




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 <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">FISH BOUND Capt. Kane Bounds</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">SKEETS Capt. Stu Windsor</p>
 <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">FIN CHASER Capt. Dan Stauffer</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">HOME OF THE BIG FISH Classic July 28-30, 2023</p>




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FISHING CHARTERS



This catch from the crew on the charter boat "Boss Hogg" was a bright spot in a slow tuna week. Boat owner Howard Berger with anglers Ted Riche, Andre Penzes, Dan Thomas and Dave & Dylan Jagels managed getting 5 yellowfin tunas in the box. Capt. Alex Beane was at the wheel with Jack Hannum in the pit.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Charles Bowman came down from PA to fly fish for sharks with Capt. Mark Sampson on the charter boat "Fish Finder". He caught this 5 foot blacktip shark about 30 miles offshore. Note the tag Capt. Mark for research and the hose keeping water running through the gills. They also reported sighting another great white about 12' long.



Capt. Brin Parsons with mate Austin reports having to deal with some sloppy weather and fast drifts on her recent charters for Fisherman's Wharf in Lewes, DE. However, she is finding decent catches of flounder and sea bass when the wind dies down.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Walt Hammond on the headboat "Judy V" is now seeing a mix of keeper sea bass, flounder and some triggerfish using squid, shiners and clams. Crews are still having to work through a lot of smaller fish.



Rick and Mack Dowell from Ocean View, DE had a great time with captains Eric Shoaff and Walt Hammond on the headboat "Judith M" based at Bahia Marina. They were fishing 15-20 miles offshore using squid, clams & shiners catching sea bass, flounder and triggerfish.

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FISHING CHARTERS



K. Hovnanian Homes of Delaware chartered the head boat "Angler" for a company outing. They got a great weather day with Capt. Chris Mizurak who puts up a drone, weather permitting. He grabbed this shot of the trip and also recorded a great white swimming nearby. Back on the boat, primarily sea bass was the catch of the day!

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FISHING CHARTERS



A group from the Western Sussex Animal Hospital chartered the "Bill Slayer" for some offshore fun. They spent the morning trolling for tuna going 1 for 2 on yellowfin, then switched to bottom fishing and got a mix of blueline tilefish and sea bass. Pictured at the Indian River Marina.



Capt. Chris Watkowski with mate Chase Porter took this group from the Maryland DNR out on Father's Day and put 5 yellowfin in the box. Pictured at their slip at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Gavin Shaffer from York, PA set a new personal best with this 22¼" flounder! He was drifting minnows on the incoming tide in front of Stinky Beach just south west of the Rt. 50 Bridge.



Angler Adam Brunner from Buffalo, NY landed this 144 lb. bigeye tuna while fishing on the charter boat "Wrecker". They were in the Wilmington Canyon and had 3 bites overall. Rounding out the crew were Jake Schmitt, Stephen Humphrey, Megan Humphrey and Joe Rodgers with Capt. Bobby Layton and mate Cody Smith.

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>NEW!</p>  <p>STRIPED BASS 28-31" 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>

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It looks like sea bass are fun to play with even after you catch them! It was a father & son trip for James Grier from Queen Anne, MD; Patrick Connelly, Dave Connelly and Ben Connelly of Centreville, MD with Ethan Grier from Queen Anne, MD and Richard Grier of Stevensville, MD. They caught a mess of sea bass up to 16" using squid at the Great Eastern Reef on the "Blue Eyed Lady". Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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STEVE'S MARINE SERVICE
by Steve Katz



Even Keel

While even keel is often referred to as a sailing idiom which means everything is stable or under control, in the powerboat world we now have a Seakeeper or gyroscopic stabilizer to keep the powerboats on an even keel! Ship stabilizing gyroscopes are a technology developed in the 19th century, the World War I transport USS Henderson, completed in 1917, was the first large ship with gyro stabilizers.

A marine Gyrostabilizer like the Seakeeper, Quick, Mitsubishi, Tohmei or VEEM brand gyro comprises of a spinning flywheel mounted in a gimbal frame allowing two of the three possible rotational degrees of freedom. The frame is rigidly mounted to a sturdy location on the vessel. Most often the Gyro stabilizer devices are located in the engine room of the vessel but can be mounted at any location.

You can think of a gyro stabilizer refit project in terms to a generator installation; for example a Seakeeper

is similar in size, weight, complexity and includes the need for clearance for service access, plumbing, electrical connections and a convenient location to mount the unit. The main difference is that a Gyrostabilizer exerts both upward and downward forces into the boats structure with much more force than just weight of the unit itself.

A Gyrostabilizer works to keep a boat stabilized by counteracting the rolling forces created by wind and waves acting on the boat. The amount of gyro force needed to keep a boat stabilized is based on the physical characteristics of the boat, including factors such as weight, length, width, draft, dead rise, vessel usage, operating hours/year and more complex measurements such as roll period, waterline measurements and transverse meta centric height.

A Gyrostabilizer is often rated by its stabilizing capacity in newton meters per second or N-M-S and many manufacturers have adopted this number in their

model names making it easy to compare.

Gyro stabilization can be accomplished with one or multiple units that add up to the necessary capacity for a given boat. Using a Seakeeper as an example; if your boat does not have room for a large Seakeeper 9 (9,000 N-M-S) you could install two smaller Seakeeper 5's (5,000 N-M-S/each) and still have

the same stabilizing power.

Where to install a Gyrostabilizer?

Often a Gyrostabilizer is installed by a boat manufacturer while the boat is under construction. A lot of engineering and design work by the boat builder go into the selection for the installation location. When retrofitting an existing boat, there are a lot more variables and options. Installing a Gyrostabilizer in the engine room make a lot of sense and is most often the best location for many reasons. Though a Gyrostabilizer can



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be installed almost anywhere on a boat. It does not have to be on the centerline like some may believe and it can be forward or aft of the engine room. Viking has traditionally designed their new boats for Gyrostabilizer installation under the aft cockpit deck. Mounting a Gyrostabilizer in the bow is not recommended due to excessive movement and forces that may affect the functionality of the Gyro stabilizer.

How does a Gyro Stabilizer work and what is inside the sphere?

The heart of the unit is a spinning heavy flywheel secured inside a sphere. In the case of a Seakeeper, this sphere has all the air vacuumed out to reduce the

friction, allowing the flywheel to spin at speeds up to 10,000RPM with a minimum amount of electrical power needed.

This Gyro's sphere is mounted by gimbals to a rigid frame. This frame is bolted to the boat's main structure. The motion of the sphere (precession) is a naturally occurring physics principal; the sphere wants to naturally move (rotate fore and aft) as rolling forces are acted upon it by the vessel. This is what produces the counteracting torque. Excessive precession is controlled by a brake system comprised by hydraulic cylinders and a computer controlled valve system.

Operating a Gyro requires minimal training and

operator intervention. Once the control system is powered on, the Gyro itself is started; this can take up to an hour for the flywheel to reach the rated speed necessary for full capacity stabilization. Once the flywheel is spinning at its predetermined RPM, the braking system is then unlocked, allowing the gyro to precess and provide stabilization. If you determine you needed to stop the stabilization, the sphere can quickly be locked to prevent precession and allow the boat to operate unaided by the stabilization, when the gyro is locked, the flywheel can still remain spinning at full speed, allowing the unit to be put back into service at a moment's notice. At the end of the day when the gyro is no longer needed, the unit can be powered off and the flywheel will begin to slow down over a period of time that can be more than an hour.

Most Gyros have a minimal

maintenance schedule, with periodic service required every 1000 hours or so. Many brands have a seawater cooling system with a heat exchanger that requires zinc replacements and other traditional marine cooling system maintenance. The mechanical parts of the gyro often include hydraulic systems and mounting hardware maintenance or replacement on a regular basis.

Thinking about getting a Gyro?

Manufacturers now offer units for boats as small as 20' and there are now a few different competing brands of Gyro's giving boaters many more choice in the selection of a Gyro. Adding a gyro stabilizer to an existing boat or purchasing one as an option on a new boat may change your outlook on boating and fishing forever. \$



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The private boat "Old Hatt" had a good haul from the Poor Man's Canyon in early June. Anglers Will Morris, Dean Groff, Brian Fink, Steve Hunter, Clyde Hunter, Dave Phillips and Jim Franzetti with Capt. Al Hunter put 9 yellowfin in the box. At one point they had 4 on the hook and got them all.



Connor Soh reeled in a big 25½" and 7 lb. flounder! He was fishing at the Old Grounds using Gulp. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.

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This crew went out for an early Father's Day trip with Capt. Jamar Campbell on the "Jay Sea II" out of Lewes, DE. It was to be a sea bass trip, but quickly evolved to mainly a flounder run! They fished Site 11 using Ocean Arsenal *The Squid Thing* and a jig head teaser with Gulp and squid.



The convicts just keep getting bigger! Angler Larry Karawczyk set a new Heaviest Sheepshead for Delaware with this 22" and 9.4 lb. fish he caught using sand fleas at the Indian River Inlet. Measured and weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.



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FISHING REPORT *by Capt. BJ Pietryak*



The summer warmth is finally arriving here in Delaware. With many days in the high 70's and low 80's, the water has warmed up and near shore temps are now in the upper 60's. As a result of the warmer sea temps, flounder has really turned on. Sea bass remains very hit or miss with lots of small fish to wade through before getting a keeper. The back bays remain good with small blues blitzing the rocks at the inlet to larger flounder in the back bay areas.

Nearshore Wrecks & Coral

The nearshore wrecks and coral grounds have really started to produce some decent fish in the past week. Every day seems to bring larger fish along with more limits being brought in by anglers. The key areas to target remain the outside(east)

coral north of A Buoy and Site 11. Gulp bait has turned on as well as squid and live minnow combos. Finding deeper structure and remaining close to the bottom is producing the best fish. Bottom fishing for sea bass has been a little slow compared to previous years with a ratio of about ten undersize fish to every keeper. El Jibaro was out this past week and brought home several nice knothead bass. Fresh clam is working the best and a squid style jig really helps with acquiring larger fish. My favorite daughter Samantha and I fished the NJ/DE Reef and caught over 100 fish between us, however only brought back 15 large keepers. We did throw back several fish that would have made the size limit, however, a 13 inch fish does not provide very much

meat. Ocean Arsenal fished their Squid Rigs lures on the "Jay Sea 2" sportfishing boat and caught near limits of the tasty black fish on various wrecks and coral grounds. Ted Proseus said they also caught several nice flounder, many in the high 4 pound range. Brad Stauch fished with them last Friday and got his personal best at just over 6 pounds. Both he and his son Matt were limited out by 8:30 am including two at 4.5 pounds and one at 5.5 pounds. Florin and his crew went with Captain Kith on The "Surface Tension" catching several large sea bass as well as some nice flatties. The crew used Nomad Jigs and teasers. Olga was the high hook of the trip and caught the biggest fish which was just under the citation size. Way to go Olga... Girl Power!!

Connor Soh stopped into Hook'Em and Cook'Em Bait & Tackle with a monster 7 pound flounder measuring 25.5 inches. Bert Adams, owner of Hook'Em & Cook'Em Bait & Tackle, told me the trips on the head boats out of Indian River Marina are returning with great catches of flounder and even some big sea bass. The tackle shop offers a great fillet service at a really competitive price. Most of the time despite working on a head boat most of my life, I still bring my fish in to let the boys do it. You can't beat the price or skill they have. The "Angler" out of Lewes Harbour Marina had several great trips last week. They reported that even though sea bass started out slow it got better as the day progressed with many anglers bringing home a nice cooler of fish for dinner. Sea bass are still there for their clients; you just have to fish hard and wade through a lot of throwbacks. "Bad Wind Charters" reported the bass were very picky for them last week and

www.coastalfisherman.net despite marking huge pods of fish they were quite often not ready to bite. Regardless, these conditions managed to still bring home several coolers of tasty fish for their clients. The "Katydid" had a great trip out of Lewes Harbour Marina last week loading the cleaning table with a limit of very nice sized flounder. Mike, Tony, Rich, Tom, Chris, and Paul all ended up with limits.

Bay & Inlet Fishing

Larry Karawczyk caught a 9.4 pound, 22 inch sheepshead off the rocks at Indian River Inlet. The monster was caught using sand fleas. Larry also landed another one weighing 3 pounds. Buddy Bragg got a humongous 7.3 pound 26" fluke in the Rehoboth Bay using live minnows. Archer Morgan reported the inlet was on fire last Friday morning and they caught big bluefish as they blitzed the inlet. As fast as you unhooked one, another one was ready to bite the hook. Tom Passwaters fished the Lewes Canal and returned to the marina with a limit of flat fish. Charlie Reed checked into Rick's Bait and Tackle with a 26 inch 7.2 pound citation flounder. Fenwick Bait & Tackle's Joshua Travers reported several large bluefish were taken in the Indian River Inlet on multiple days. Joshua stated, "it seems like everyday someone is bringing in another big blue to show off." Taylor Parisi caught his biggest flounder of the year, a 24 inch along with 4 more over 20". Archer Morgan caught several small rockfish at the inlet with many coming very close to the new small slot limit. Bill Santana got in on the bluefish run at the inlet last week. He said pound for pound they are one of the hardest fighting fish around. Lamar Meekins and Tim Morris got their limit of fluke in the backwaters of Indian River stating all they needed were some fried potatoes and cornbread to make their meal complete. Penn Rick was on the south side of the inlet and got a nice bluefish with a spoon.

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Nick Garcia stated despite several shorts he did manage to bring home one keeper fluke at 19". This is a rare day for Nick because usually he is featured in my reports with large limits. We will have to see what next week.

Up at Bowers Beach the nice sea trout are being caught. On the beach, surf fishing brings in small bluefish as well as kingfish which have begun to show up. Logan Taylor got a nice kingfish last week using a small top and bottom rig with squid. Sea trout were caught on the beach last week with Richard Henry getting a nice sized one early Friday morning. Using small kingfish rigs with either sand fleas or squid is a great way to enjoy a day on the drive on beaches of DE and maybe even bring home dinner. All the local tackle shops carry these rigs as well as many of their own custom surf style rigs.

Until next week...

Tight lines and fins up §



The Old Grounds was a hot spot for big flounder last week. Cale Mutter, Colling Troutman and Jeff Troutman fished there using Gulp and bagged their limit of 12 flatfish, the largest at 23". Pictured at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.

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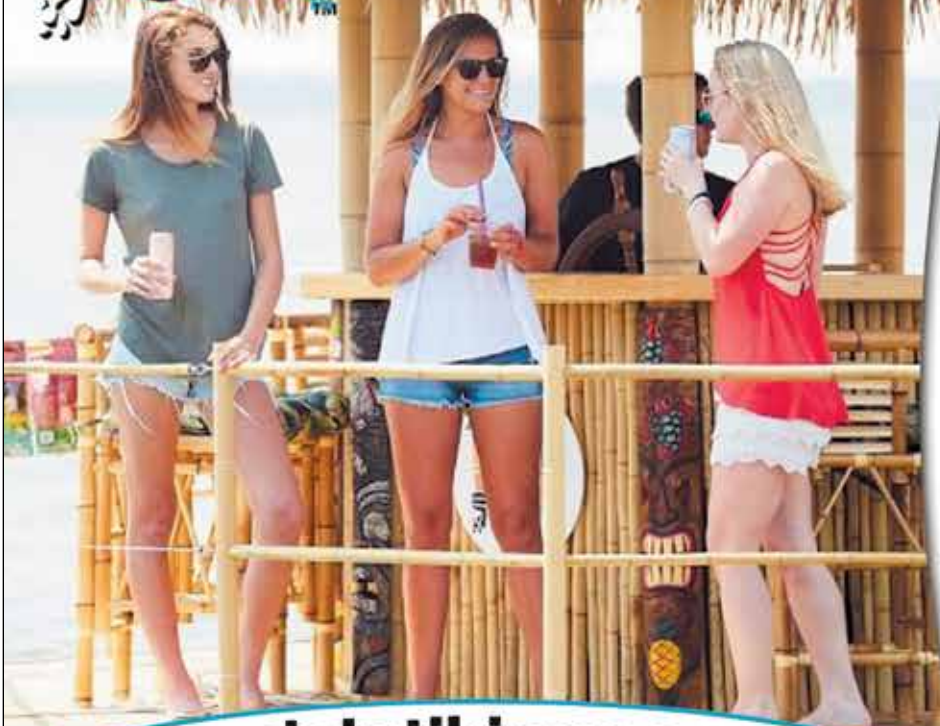
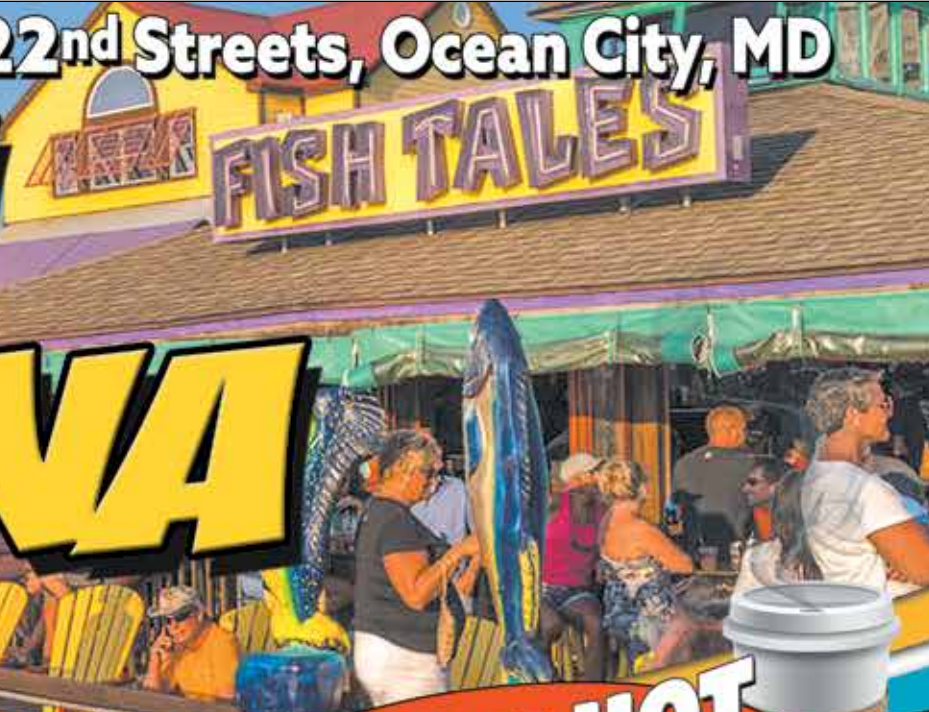
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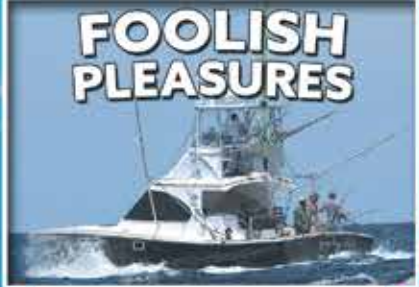
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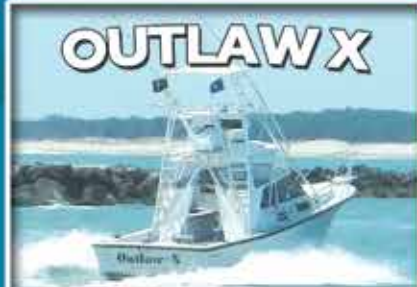
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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



Sheepshead Chowder

Ingredients:

1½ pounds fresh sheepshead fillets or any firm-fleshed white fish

½ cup chicken broth

2 8- oz bottles clam juice

½ teaspoon Italian hot pepper flakes

Sea salt and pepper to taste

2 small red potatoes diced in ½ inch pieces, about 1 ½ cups (no need to peel)

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

2 large ribs celery thinly sliced, about ¾ cup

3 tablespoons unsalted butter

½ cup all purpose flour

2 cups whole milk

1 bay leaf

½ cup heavy cream



2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

Sea salt and freshly ground

black pepper

½ cup corn

Directions:

Cut fish into chunks and set aside.

In a large Dutch oven, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the leeks and celery, and cook stirring until veggies are tender, about 5 to 6 minutes. Add the flour and cook, stirring for about 2 minutes. You don't want the "raw" taste of flour.

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

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

Grandma's Baked Bluefish

Ingredients:

4 bluefish fillets, about 8 ozs. each

1 - 1 1/2 tablespoon olive oil

Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Juice of one large lemon

2 tomatoes, chopped

2 stalks celery, sliced thin

2 tablespoon chopped fresh dill

1/4 cup plain dry bread crumbs



Directions:

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees.

Place the fillets on a large

baking dish or jelly roll pan.

Brush the fish with olive oil and sprinkle with salt, pepper and lemon juice.

Place the tomatoes and celery on top of the fish.

Sprinkle with dill.

Scatter the bread crumbs evenly over the fish.

Bake for about 16-20 minutes or until cooked through. If the surface needs browning, place the pan under the broiler for a minute or two.

Buttery Garlic Steamed Clams

Ingredients:

5 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided

1 tablespoon fresh minced garlic

1 cup white wine



1 tablespoon lemon juice

3 dozen little neck clams, rinsed and scrubbed

1/3 cup chopped fresh Italian parsley

Wedges from 1 lemon for garnish, if desired

Directions:

In a large skillet (that has a lid), melt 2-½ tablespoons of the butter over medium heat. Add garlic and cook, stirring constantly, until fragrant (about 30 seconds).

Add wine and lemon juice. Bring to a boil.

Add clams and remaining butter. Cover and steam until clams have opened (about 7-8

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minutes). Occasionally shake skillet while steaming.

Discard any clams that do not open.

Sprinkle evenly with parsley and garnish with lemon wedges, if desired.

Serve with a french baguette or over a bed of cooked pasta.

Baked Crab Cake Bites with Lemon Remoulade

Ingredients:

For the Baked Crab Cake Bites:

- 10 ounces lump crab meat
- 1/3 cup onion chopped
- 1/3 cup bell pepper chopped
- 1 tablespoon whole grain mustard
- 1 tablespoon mayo
- 1 egg beaten
- 1 1/2 cups Ritz cracker crumbs
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley chopped
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon Old Bay seasoning
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Cooking spray

For the Lemon Remoulade:

- 1 cup canola mayo
- 1 tablespoon whole grain mustard
- 1 teaspoon agave nectar or honey
- Juice of half a lemon
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 1/4 cup dill pickles chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley chopped
- 1 tablespoon hot sauce
- Salt and pepper to taste



Directions:

Make the remoulade by combining all the ingredients, and allow it to sit the fridge while you make the crab cakes.

In a small pan, saute the chopped onions and peppers, just until they are tender. Set them aside to cool.

Combine all of the crab cake ingredients, then chill the mixture for 1 hour in the fridge.

After the mixture has chilled, form them into 1 tablespoon sized balls, and lay them onto a baking sheet lined with parchment. Spray the crab cake bites with cooking spray.

Bake the crab cake bites at 375°F for 15-20 minutes until they're golden brown and cooked through. You can broil them for a few minutes near the end to brown the tops if they need it.

Serve the baked crab cake bites with the lemon remoulade and some lemon wedges.

Crispy Flounder Sandwich

Ingredients:

- 1 small red onion, thinly sliced into rounds
- 4 oz. bread-and-butter pickles, plus 1/2 cup brine
- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/3 cup chopped dill
- 2 tsp. hot sauce
- 1 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tsp. fresh lemon juice, plus wedges for serving
- 1 tbsp. kosher salt, divided
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 1/2 cups panko breadcrumbs
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 flounder fillets cut in half crosswise on a diagonal
- 2/3 cup vegetable oil
- 3 cups shredded iceberg lettuce
- 8 slices sandwich bread
- 1 cup potato chips, plus more for serving

Directions:

Combine onion, pickles, and pickle brine in a small bowl.

Mix mayonnaise, dill, hot sauce, pepper, 2 tsp. lemon juice, and 1/2 tsp. salt in another small bowl.

Place eggs, panko and flour in 3 separate shallow medium



bowls.

Season each fish fillet with 1/2 tsp. salt. Working one at a time, dredge fish in flour, shaking off excess. Coat evenly with egg, allowing excess to drip back into bowl. Coat with panko, pressing to adhere. Transfer fish to a plate.

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium. Cook fish until breading is golden brown and cooked through, 2-3 minutes per side. Transfer fish to a paper

towel-lined plate. Season fillets with 1/2 teaspoon salt.

Spread one heaping tablespoon mayonnaise mixture on one side of each slice of bread. Pile each bottom slice with 3/4 cup lettuce, 1 fish fillet, a small handful of potato chips, and 1/4 cup onion mixture.

Close sandwich with second slice of bread, mayo side down, and push down lightly to crush potato chips. Transfer to a platter.

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Repeat with remaining sandwiches.

Serve with lemon wedges and more potato chips along side.

Do Ahead: Pickled onions and dill sauce can be made 1 day ahead. Cover and chill.

Pan Seared Tilefish with Garlic, Herbs & Lemon

Ingredients:

2 skinless tilefish or other sturdy, thick white fish fillets (about 7 to 8 ounces each), skins removed

Kosher salt, to taste

Black pepper, to taste

2½ tablespoons unsalted butter

3 green garlic shoots or scallions, thinly sliced

1½ tablespoons finely chopped chives, mint and sorrel

1 tablespoon minced lemon thyme or regular leaves

2 teaspoons finely chopped tarragon, basil or marjoram

Juice of ½ lemon



Directions:

Remove any remaining pin bones in the fish, pat dry, and season both sides with salt and pepper.

In a large sauté pan over medium heat, melt butter. Once butter has begun to foam, lay fish in pan. Add green garlic or scallions and a pinch of salt. Without disturbing the fish, tilt the pan toward you; using a spoon, ladle green garlic butter over fish. Continue basting fish for 2 to 3 minutes.

Using a spatula, gently flip fish. Reduce heat to low, cover pan and cook for 2 minutes.

Uncover pan, add herbs and continue basting fish with butter until it is just cooked through, another minute or two longer.

Transfer fish to a serving platter or individual plates, pour pan sauce over the top, and pour lemon juice over everything. Season with more salt and black pepper if needed. Serve immediately. §

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The Jack Spot was good to Dr. Ozzie Nicastro and Mike Matha. The boys were fishing on the "MamaSea-ta" and got their limit of 30 sea bass using clams & jigs.



It was good to hear from Capt. Charlie Horning on the renowned "Fish Whistle" based at the Indian River Marina. They released this large blue marlin in the Wilmington Canyon last Friday.

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The tuna bite has been light over the past week, however we did get one report of a bigeye tuna. Menhem, PA anglers Alex Shenk, Riley Clugston and Adam Kurtz fished with Capt. Devon Martin and mates Brad & Lanson Moyer on the "Canyon Crew". They got covered up in the Poor Man's Canyon with 6 bites, coming tight on 4 of them. After 30 minutes 3 of them pulled the hook, but the one on the Nomad Diving Plug made it to the boat. Once back to the Ocean City Fishing Center, the eyeball weighed 93 lbs. They also managed 3 yellowfin tuna making for a solid day.

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Chum Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson

The bag of flounder was still in his refrigerator. He and his friend caught four keepers five days ago and planned to eat them the following night but plans changed when his buddy had to leave town early. So he was left with all the fillets but just never got around to messing with them until almost a week later when he noticed the smell. And it wasn't good, so out he went to feed the seagulls and crabs from his dock. Yeah, what a waste of four really good fish!

All sportsmen carry a huge ethical responsibility to ensure that the fish and game they kill is properly recovered, processed and ultimately consumed. But bringing home fish or game requires that the sportsman plans ahead for success.

I once hunted with a fellow who came from the western-shore that morning driving some jazzy little sports car. Wouldn't you know that he was only one in our group to get a deer that day, but he had no way to get it back home. It's kind of silly when you think about it - if he didn't think he was going to get a deer then he should have

stayed home. If he thought there was a chance he might get one, then he should have brought a different vehicle.

Wise sportsmen will always assume they're going to be successful and be prepared with whatever they need to care for and transport their quarry. It would seem silly to go offshore for big fish like tuna or swordfish and not have a big enough cooler or fish bag to hold your catch if you're successful. But people do that kind of thing all the time, just ask one of the local fish cleaners how many times people bring them fish that have turned to mush because they weren't properly iced.

A catch or kill must also be processed in a timely manner such that it will eventually find its way onto a plate or into a freezer in as prime a shape as humanly possible.

The average consumer rarely has the option of enjoying fish that was caught the same day, or even to purchase fish that was frozen within a day or two of being caught. That opportunity comes often to sportsmen, but we must take advantage of it by making the

care of our harvest a #1 priority from the time it's acquired.

At the end of a fishing trip, the fish should be cleaned right away, not the next day or whenever we can get around to it. Deer should be field dressed (gutted) as soon as conditions permit. Waterfowl should be picked (plucked) and cleaned before the day is out to maintain their quality. After a long day on the water, the marsh, or in the woods, this extra work might not always be appealing, but it's a necessary part of the process that cannot be put off. If we take the life of an animal we must assume the responsibility to ensure that its meat will be put to good use.

Even when the meat has found its way into the freezer, sportsmen still have the responsibility to make certain that what they put in there will eventually be consumed and not thrown out someday because it's freezer-burnt or just so old that no one wants to mess with it.

Everything that goes into a freezer should be clearly dated and marked as to what it is. It's also good to know what keeps a long time in a freezer

and what needs to be eaten relatively soon. Fish such as tuna, dolphin, sea trout, wahoo, bluefish, mackerel and croaker don't keep long, while fish such as shark, rockfish, sea bass, flounder, triggerfish and tautog keep quite well, as does most wild game. After eating up the most perishable meat first, sportsmen should then go with the "first-in-first-out" method to ensure that nothing sits in the freezer too long.

A big chest freezer is one of the best tools a sportsman can have, but because they can hold so much fish and game it's easy to lose track of what's being stored inside, particularly if items work their way down to the bottom and are forgotten. Big freezers require that periodic inventories be taken or a simple inventory check off list be maintained to ensure that nothing is lost.

As sportsmen, we have access to some of the freshest, best tasting and healthiest food imaginable. But such quality meals are not guaranteed just because someone is successful at making a shot or setting a hook. The tastiest rewards come to those who make the effort to properly take care of their harvest from the time it hits the ground or thumps down into a fish box until it's eventually slipped onto their dinner plate. §

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Capt. Jamar Campbell on the charter boat "Jay Sea II" is having a great start to the flounder season. His angler Daryl Mergenthal shows off two of the four big keepers he got fishing ocean structures. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Max Coveleski of Lewes, DE is in the tuna club. He caught his first yellowfin on the charter boat "Gringo Loco" with Capt. JT DiGuglielmo at the Rock Pile on a pink spreader bar.

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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
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36th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament
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July 16-23 • Atlantic City • www.QuestfortheRingAC.com

19th Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic
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Cape May Marlin Tournament
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10th Annual HUK Big Fish Classic
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Deborah Szarko of Arbutus, MD is a regular on the head boat "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak. On this trip she was joined by Kathleen Collins Lohr from College Park, MD and the pair caught 26 keeper sea bass fishing from spots at the stern. Looks like a calm & sunny day!

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Amanda Wright from Stephens City, VA is beaming with the 17½" flounder she caught in the West Channel using a white Deadly Double tipped with a minnow.



Steve Matarese Jr. and his father Steve Sr. pulled their 2 man limit of keeper flounder from the Old Grounds using Gulp on bucktails. The largest was 26" and weighed 6.9 lbs. at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES


WED. JUNE 21	High 10:45 am High 11:17 pm	Low 05:04 am Low 04:27 pm
THUR. JUNE 22	High 11:29 am High 11:55 pm	Low 05:47 am Low 05:11 pm
FRI. JUNE 23	High ----- High 12:15 pm	Low 06:29 am Low 06:00 pm
SAT. JUNE 24	High 12:35 am High 01:03 pm	Low 07:07 am Low 06:52 pm
SUN. JUNE 25	High 01:18 am High 01:54 pm	Low 07:43 am Low 07:46 pm
MON. JUNE 26 1st Quarter Moon	High 02:04 am High 02:48 pm	Low 08:19 am Low 08:43 pm
TUE. JUNE 27	High 02:54 am High 03:42 pm	Low 08:58 am Low 09:42 pm
WED. JUNE 28	High 03:45 am High 04:34 pm	Low 09:42 am Low 10:43 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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The tuna bites slowed, but did not stop! Chesapeake Medical's Mike Halsey took a trip with Matt Pinder, Larson Newcomb, Capt. Jim Bugg and mate Gunner Reynolds on the "Magic Moment" to the Rock Pile. They managed 2 bites including this 30 lb. yellowfin.

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Capt. Kevin fished aboard the "JAY SEA II" out of Lewes Harbour Marina with Capt. Jamar, and Elijah on a crew trip where he caught his very first golden tilefish. Blisters aside, he hand cranked this beauty from 850'.



Local Shaun Flaherty had a trifecta last week landing a 34" striper, 33" bluefish and a keeper flounder. All were caught around the Rt. 50 Bridge and the southern Ocean City Bay.

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	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE **</u>	<u>VA</u>		<u>MD</u>	<u>DE **</u>	<u>MD</u>
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

FIRST 2023

Fish of the Year

(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 29 The Crew "Marli" Baltimore Canyon	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	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 16 Crew "Wrecker" Poorman's Canyon	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 1 Steve Sylvester "Talkin' Trash" Norfolk Canyon	June 13 The Crew "Rhonda's Osprey" Poor Man's Canyon
 Wahoo	June 9 Josh Short Poorman's Canyon	June 30 Tim McCartney "Chasin Tides" Hot Dog	 White Marlin	June 2 Joe Huk "RESTLESS LADY II" Baltimore Canyon	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

VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



Well, the school bell has rang the last time for the year and anglers everywhere are hoping the fish mistake it for a dinner bell. The weather is warm and we all have the opportunity to take a minute and enjoy family, friends and some fantastic fishing.

This past weekend Sea Hawk Sports Center had the pleasure of hosting the first annual Mike Taylor Flounder Frenzy. The tournament raised over \$1,100 for the National Down Syndrome Society and paid out over \$2,000 in cash and prizes to participants. Fishing was tough, but pretty good when conditions allowed. Water turbidity was the most crucial component to a successful trip. The fish have moved to the areas around the seaside inlets and have been most active

during the last of the flood tide. Double teaser rigs like the Sea Hawk flounder rig tipped with Gulp, minnows and silversides have done the trick. In the tournament, all three places cleared the 4 pound mark, with first place going to Mr. Alan Pennewell, taking home a cool "G" with a 4.65 lb. minnow monster that filled his cooler as well as his wallet. But all jokes aside, this was a great event with a noble cause.

In the blue swells of the Atlantic, the offshore bite has gone cold just like the water. It's amazing what one week of shifting oceanic currents can do to awesome action or dreadful doldrums alike. The deep drop bite for tiles has been good and helped keep rods bent, plates full and smiles a plenty. Closer to shore, flounder and trigger's

have announced their arrival with good catches around the black fish banks reef site.

The biggest story of the week has come from the lower Chesapeake. The man in the brown suit has made his presence known with screaming drags and aerial exhibitions. Most cobia have been coerced into the net with chunks of fresh bunker deployed on fish finder rigs with 7/0-9/0 hooks. Chum had helped increase the odds by ringing a dinner bell that stimulates the olfactory sense of the pickiest brown brawler. Most positive reports have been from the CBBT north to the mouth of the Pocomoke Sound in 12-25 ft. of water. Numerous cobia have been boated, but the quality of the trophies have upstaged the

quantity.

In the middle Chesapeake, blues, rock, specs, along with the occasional red have kept lines tight and boredom at bay. We found a very nice class of blues around structure while tossing X Rap-10s. On a Sea Hawk charter we even had an angler boat a blue that surpassed the 30" mark. That's a lot of fun on light weight spinning tackle. Crab chunks fished near the bottom around spotted grass flats have contained most of the activity in regards to the shallow trophies adorn with spots and stripes.

On Saturday afternoon I witnessed a group of folks coming together to respect and remember the life of a great sportsman, father and friend. We are reminded, tomorrow isn't promised and today should not be taken for granted. Enjoy the time with family and friends in this wonderful place we call home!



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The hot red drum action is just a short ride away. Joe Records Jr. of Ocean City took a trip south to fish with "Tangier Sounds" charters. He caught this big red in the Tangier Sound using soft crabs.

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The title for heaviest stringer during the 3rd Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament bounced around on the 2nd and last day of the event. While several bigeyes made their way in, it was the crew of the charter boat "Pumpin' Hard" that brought 5 chunky yellowfin tuna to the scales weighing 191 lbs. to take 1st Place for Heaviest Stringer and earning \$30,142.45. Anglers Bridget Johnson, Dianna Herbert, Sarah Boyd, Anita Deal, Sharron Stewart and Rebecca Wood with Capt. Chris Huk moved about the east edge of the Baltimore Canyon boating 9 fish overall.



Team Sassy & Salty on the charter boat "Turnin' Fins" brought energy and color to the scales at the 3rd Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament! Capt. Jake Shaffer had anglers Michelle Dascoli, Karen Bucher, Pamela Home, Vicky Bower, Nancy Jackson and Christa Lawrence trolling in 1000' at the Wilmington Canyon. At one point they had 6 bigeye tuna on at once and ended the day with 2 in the box. One of those was heavy enough at 87 lbs. to lock in 2nd Place for Heaviest Tuna earning \$10,382 in prize money. Working the pits was mate John Matthai.

JUNE 16-17, 2023

TUNA & TIARAS
Ladies Tuna Tournament
Ocean City, MD

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY
\$110,698

—TOURNAMENT RESULTS—

HEAVIEST TUNA		
1ST - "RONCITO"	183 LBS.	\$38,153
2ND - "TURNIN FINS"	87 LBS.	\$10,382
3RD - "CHASER"	45 LBS.	\$4,107

HEAVIEST STRINGER		
1ST - "PUMPIN HARD"	191 LBS.	\$30,142
2ND T- "CHAIN REACTION"	183 LBS.	\$10,161
2ND T - "PLAYMATE"	183 LBS.	\$6,676

SMALL BOAT SINGLE	SMALL BOAT STRINGER
"OFF THE HOOK" 38 LBS. \$2,457	"AJ" 71 LBS. \$2,457

TOTAL BOATS ENTERED - 58 TOTAL ANGLERS - 291



The charter boat "Playmate" slid into the scales late on day 2 of the 3rd Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament. Anglers Joyce Rhodes, Kimberly Stroup, Charlotte Beck, Erin Goodwin and Dawn Fitzsimmons had spent the day trolling in 300 fathoms of the Wilmington. They had 7 bites and got 6 yellowfins in the box. The heaviest 5 tipped the scales at the Ocean City Fishing Center at 183 lbs. putting them in a tie for 2nd Place for Heaviest Stringer and earned the crew \$6,676 in prize money. They were fishing with Capt. Jeremy Shandrowski and mates Jacob Krae & Justin Hart.



183 seemed to be a lucky number during the 3rd Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament. At one point the heaviest single tuna and the top 2 stringers were all at 183 lbs! Anglers Jill Clubb, Roxanne Clubb, Victoria Sperry, Nikki Yoder, Meagan Bisasky and Loren Manzione on the "Chain Reaction" with Capt. Brad Clubb and mates Ross & Grant Clubb started the trend on day 1. They brought in 5 yellowfins from between the Spencer and Wilmington Canyons in 90 fathoms hitting 183 lbs. on the scales at the Ocean City Fishing Center. This stringer would finish the event tied for 2nd Place for Heaviest Stringer earning \$10,161.

The crew of "Off the Hook" had a fun story to share during the 3rd Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament. At one point an angler lost a rod overboard. A few moments later the long line started to scream. Once it was reeled in the crew of Dana Funicelli, Tina James, Renee Okan, Nicole Manangala, Stacey Thayer and Dorene Pernell found they had snagged the spreader of the lost gear with the rod attached! Capt. Robert Bowie with mate Chris Hoerl had the boat between the Wilmington and Baltimore Canyon where the crew landed 2 yellowfins. Their heaviest at 38 lbs. earned them 1st Place for Heaviest Tuna, Small Boat and earned \$2,457.

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Featured Boat of the Week



2023 39' HCB - CALL COLTON CUNNINGHAM



DONA LUCY - 2022 58' F&S Call Jimmy Fields



BARRATUNA - 2008 53' Sculley Call Steve Hedrick



HADLOCK - 2002 61' Viking Convertible Call Ronnie Fields



1997 50' Alex Willis Custom Convertible Call Joel McLeod



SEA HUNTER - 2019 45' Mark Willis Call Chris Workmon



1985 47' Hines-Farley Call Ronnie Fields



CONSTELLATION - 1984 37' Sunny Briggs Call Ronnie Fields



DRIFTWOOD - 2017 28' Harrison Boatworks Call Jeff James



2003 35' Carolina Classic Call Chris Workmon



MOONSHINE - 1996 38' Duffy Highshare - Call Mark Pagano



1998 45' Ocean Yacht Call Chris Workmon



CAROLINA STYLE - 2002 35' Carolina Classic Call Jeff James



1986 28' Ocean Master Call Glenn Cameron



2017 27' Cobia Call Colton Cunningham



2003 38' Fountain Call Terry Layton



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



SAILFISH - 2018 24' Sailfish Call Jimmy Fields



TWIN BILLS - 1970 36' Hatteras Call Jeff James

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