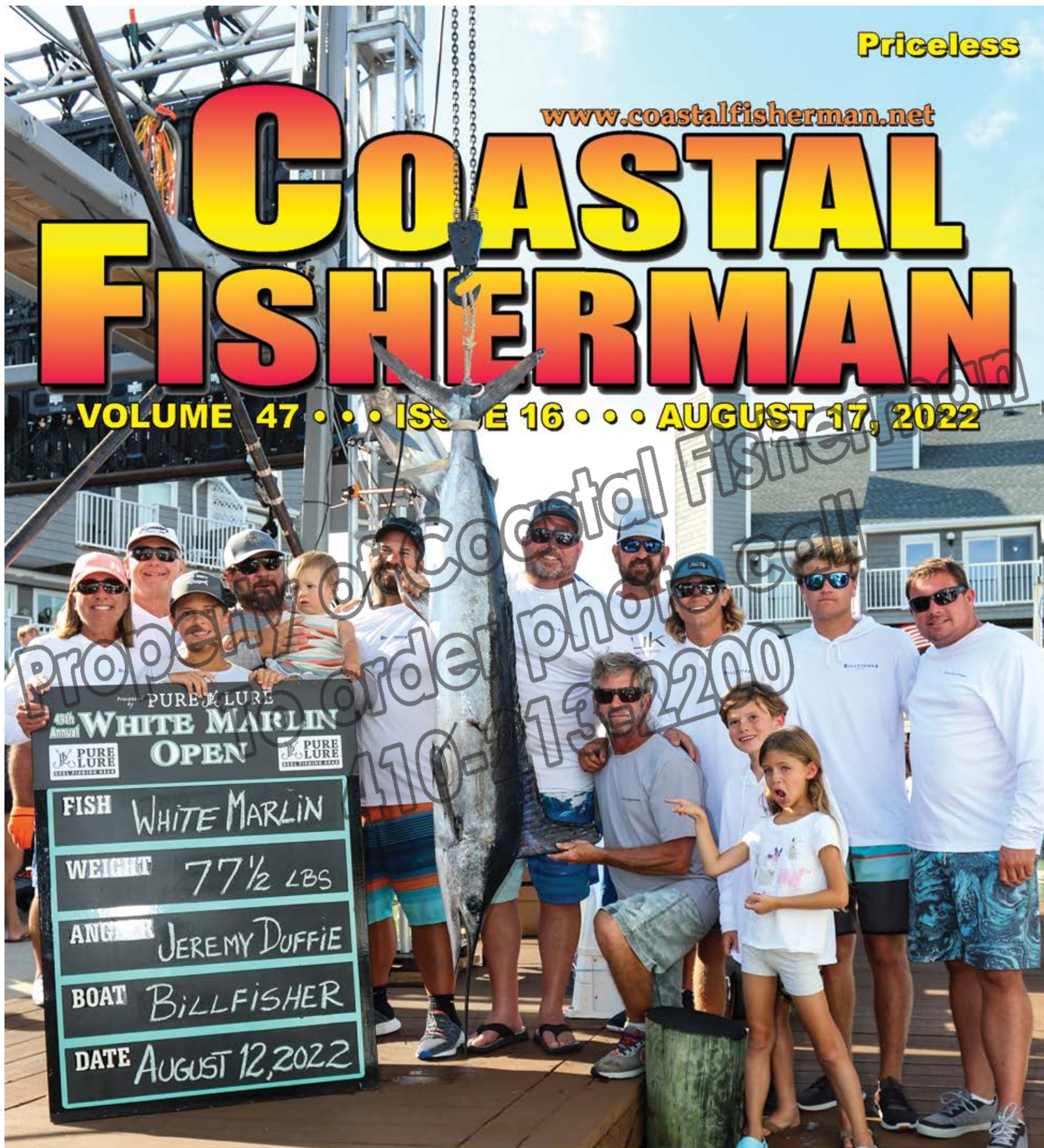


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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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The 49th Annual White Marlin Open will be one to remember for some time for both the amazing payouts and the hard work it took to get them. The billfish bites were hard to find, even with 408 boats fishing and some of the best captains and crews in the world. Only 2 qualifying white marlin made it to the scales over the 5 day event and with those two on the last days. Capt. Jon Duffie with the crew of Jeremy, Luke, Jonathan & Judy Duffie, Billy Gerlach, Danny Gough, Chip Fleming and Chris Weyandt along with mates Noah McVicker & Will Lamberson spent most of the tournament in deep water outside the canyons. On the final day they were 90 miles out in 1,500 fathoms east of the Baltimore Canyon, releasing a white marlin in the morning and then connecting with this marlin caught by Jeremy Duffie. Once to the scales it measured 71" with a girth of 26" and tipped the scales at 77.5 lbs. moving into the top slot! Overall, this crew released 4 white marlin, 2 blue marlin and boated the winning fish. This earned the title of Top Boat, Heaviest White Marlin and White Marlin Winner Take All earning a combined payout of \$4,536,926 in prize money, the single biggest payout in tournament history.

Photo courtesy of the White Marlin Open



The shark fishing off the beaches up and down the shoreline has been good the past couple of weeks. Most find black tips and sandbar sharks, catching them mostly at night. Angler Chris Whiteman shared something more unique from his trip to Assateague Island with Kenneth Sullivan. They were fishing during the day using stingray for bait when Chris connected with this 10 foot, 4 inch tiger shark! These are not unusual for the region and this one is more than likely a juvenile based on it's length and dark stripes that give the fish it's name. The stripes tend to fade as they age. While this shark would have been legal to keep, after a few pics this one was revived and released!

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We haven't seen a lot of tog lately, however Nicole Heba from Lancaster, PA was nice enough to share this 16" blackfish she caught with sandfleas at the South Ocean City Jetty.



It was a good week for finding keeper 'in the slot' stripers. Preston Walls of Ridgely, MD wasn't even fishing for rocks when this 31 incher took one of his live spot flounder baits near the Rt. 50 Bridge.

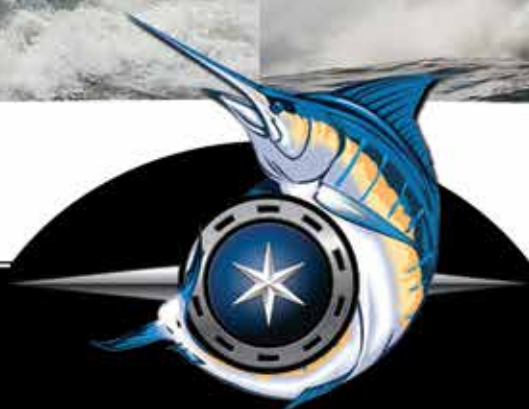
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www.coastalfisherman.net crew had all week and earned them \$1,208,419 in awards. That must have helped take the sting out of the white marlin weighed on Friday!

While the main focus during the event are the fish being brought to the scales, the majority of the billfish caught are released. Overall, this year's event saw only 4 white marlin and 1 roundscale spearfish brought to the scales of the 152 caught, meaning 97% were released. 98% of the 57 blue marlin caught were released and the overall billfish release ratio was 98%. This year's Top Release Boats were the "Billfisher" catching 2 blue marlin and 4 white marlin and the winning roundscale spearfish for a total of 708 points, and right on their tail at 700 points was the "Mama C" for their 2 sailfish, 3 white marlin and 2 blue marlin! Top release angler was Bill Haugland on the "Lights Out" with 2 each of white and blue marlin.

The Tuna Division was also challenged with only 72 making their way to the scales. While not the main focus of the tournament, the payout for the top three fish this year was just under \$1.9M! Given the limited whites, this division became a real highlight as it was dominated by bigeye tunas, with 6 over 200 lbs. For a reference point, last year's top tuna was 137 lbs. The top 2 fish were both caught on Wednesday and were only separated by 1 lb. First in was the "Big Stick". The crew only had 1 bite that day. Angler Anderson Bowen caught the 246.5 lb. eyeball in the Washington Canyon on a 50 wide and took 1.5 hours to make sure it got to the boat. That fish looked pretty solid

This Week Last Year

- The 28th Annual Capt. Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open was held with 155 boats and 771 anglers. The purse was over \$250K and the event raised \$125,000 for the American Cancer Society.
- The majority of reports had the billfish moving north and in deep water to the east and southeast of the Poor Man's Canyon with the secondary reports east of the Baltimore. Depth was fairly consistent at 1000-1400 fathoms.
- Tuna were in the Baltimore Canyon through to the Poor Man's and down to the Rock Pile. They were found inside canyons and deep water as well. The bigeye from the Poor Girl's for example was in the Baltimore in 400 fathoms. They were primarily yellowfin tunas in the 35 to 50 lb. range.

Well, the 49th Annual White Marlin Open is in the books and despite some of the worse billfishing conditions anyone can remember, it was another record setting event! In many years we would see billfish release numbers in the 1,500+ range, this year the count was 220 including swordfish, spearfish and sailfish. The 408 boats entered to compete for over \$8.6 million in prize money knew they had their work cut out for them.

The main event White Marlin Division did not see a qualifying white until the 4th day of the event. Three did make their way to the scales on Wednesday, but failed to qualify to the tournament minimums of 70" and 70 lbs. Notably an 81" white caught by the "Fender Bender". With a half girth of 14" we were sure they would be in the

game, but this was a skinny fish and it did not make the minimum weight. It was the "C- Student" on Thursday that put the first fish on the board. Their 72" marlin also had a half girth of 14", but this one carried weight through the tail and tipped the scales at 71.5 lbs. It was of course, on the last day that the winning fish arrived. Jeremy Duffie on the "Billfisher" caught a 71" roundscale spearfish well east of the Baltimore Canyon, about 90 miles out in 1,500 fathoms. At the scales, this fish was an inch shorter than the current leader and with a slightly smaller girth, however roundscales carry more weight throughout their bodies. At 77.5 lbs. the "Billfisher" jumped into 1st place. The "Cabana" thought they had a challenger later in the day with an 71" white they caught in the Norfolk Canyon, but despite similar length and girth, their fish did not make the tournament minimum weight.

With only 2 whites on the board and the "Billfisher" having gone 'all-in', another tournament record was shattered with a \$4,536,926 payout. This is also a world record payout for a single fish.

The Blue Marlin Division was a little cleaner, only 1 of the 59 caught was brought to the scales. Angler Bill Britt on the "Cabana" caught the winning 511 lb. blue just north of the Norfolk Canyon in 40 fathoms. It was one of only 3 bites the



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and held 1st Place for a few hours until the "Southern C's" rolled in. They spent the day in the Norfolk Canyon and only had one hookup, however for them it was a triple! With three bigeyes on at the same time, some decision had to be made. One of them was on a dink rod, so it was cut off. Fortunately for angler Jason Hersh, the bigger of the pair at 247.5 lbs. cooperated and was in the boat in 30 minutes, the other at 203.5 lbs. took another 20 minutes.

Lastly, there were a couple notable catches in the daily and small boat divisions. The "Jenny Poo" caught the largwest wahoo of the tournament at 81 lbs. from the Hot Dog and the "Irene" surprised everyone with a 59.5 lb. bull mahi that hit their marlin spread east of the Washington Canyon in 1000 fathoms that is also the heaviest caught this season. The "Oppor-Tuna-Ty II" took home \$28,480 for the Top Small Boat Release award and a Small Boat Daily payout. And we are sure the crew from "10-4 Joker" are celebrating after taking home \$104,447 for the Small Boat Winner Take All Dolphin for a 29 lb. mahi caught at the 20 fathom line off of Fenwick Island. Last year's big winner, the "Sushi", was not to be left out, earning the daily tuna payout on day for of \$92,448 for the 241 lb. bigeye they brought in as the last boat on the last day!

Finally, we want to recognize the anglers who donated over 1,000 lbs. of fish to the Maryland Food Bank that has already been distributed to those in need in our local community. Thanks also to Catch & Carry for donating their services to clean and package the fish over the 5 day event. Check out our full coverage in our tournament section starting on page 62.

Tuna

We did not hear a lot of reports outside of the WMO, which is understandable with over 400 boats registered! While the bigeye bite was the story for the top 3 in the tournament, over 60 yellowfin tunas were weighed. All were caught on the troll with most of the fish in the mid 50 to mid 60 lb. range. Catch locations were reported broadly across the southern canyons as well as the Massey's Canyon and inshore lumps. Most reported low single digit catches.

Mahi & Wahoo

This fishery continues to improve with several good sized speedsters making the scales at the WMO. Plenty of gaffers at the Bass Pots, and of course the 59.5 lb. bull that the "Irene" caught in deep water outside of the Washington Canyon where they found some floating debris. Ballyhoo remains the top bait.

Until next week I will see you at the scales! §



It was the first mahi each for young Reagan Marsh and Tanner Odachowski from Sykesville, MD. They went out on the "Canyon Hunter" with their dads and boat owner Mike Vaughan and trolled up this pair outside of the Hot Dog using ballyhoo.

Upcoming Tournaments

• The 29th Captain Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open returns to Bahia Marina on August 18th - 20th. This fun filled ladies only billfish release tournament benefits breast cancer research and has donated over \$1.7 million to the American Cancer Society. Go check out the Pink Party, vendor village, Chinese Auction, Bras Competition and of course the anglers Best Dressed Competition. Scales are open every day from 4:00 - 7:30PM. More at PoorGirlsOpen.com and social media.

• The 31st Annual MidAtlantic Tournament starts on Monday, August 22nd and runs through the 26th. This elite and capacity limited tournament attracts some of the best boats and anglers in the world to compete for millions in prizes. Last year's payout was just under \$6M. This event has two locations for scales, the Canyon Club in Cape May, NJ and Sunset Marina in Ocean City. Hours are 4-9 PM. More at TheMidAtlantic.com and social media.

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Gabriel Dalfonso from West Ocean City had a great 13th birthday trip with his dad, David and Joel Davis of Salisbury aboard the aptly named "Drop Money"! They were trolling south of the Massey's Canyon with a purple side tracker. Gabriel caught a 70+ lb. yellowfin and Joel got this gaffer mahi.



Charlie Donohue on the "Lucky 1" had a slow day last Thursday. He was fishing over a natural reef and picked away to get 5 sea bass as well as 2 keeper flounder on his last drift. The flounders hit on a white Gulp and minnow combo including this 22½" flatfish.

2022 FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

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WHITE MARLIN
66" Lower Jaw Fork Length
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NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit



DOLPHIN
No minimum Length
Boat Limit 60
Charter Limit 10 per person/ 60 per Boat



YELLOWFIN TUNA
27" Curved Fork Length
3 per person/day



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



BIGEYE TUNA
27" Curved Fork Length
No Retention Limit



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



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GOLDEN TILEFISH
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BLUELINE TILEFISH
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5 per person Uninspected (Charter)
7 per person Inspected (Charter)



WAHOO
No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day

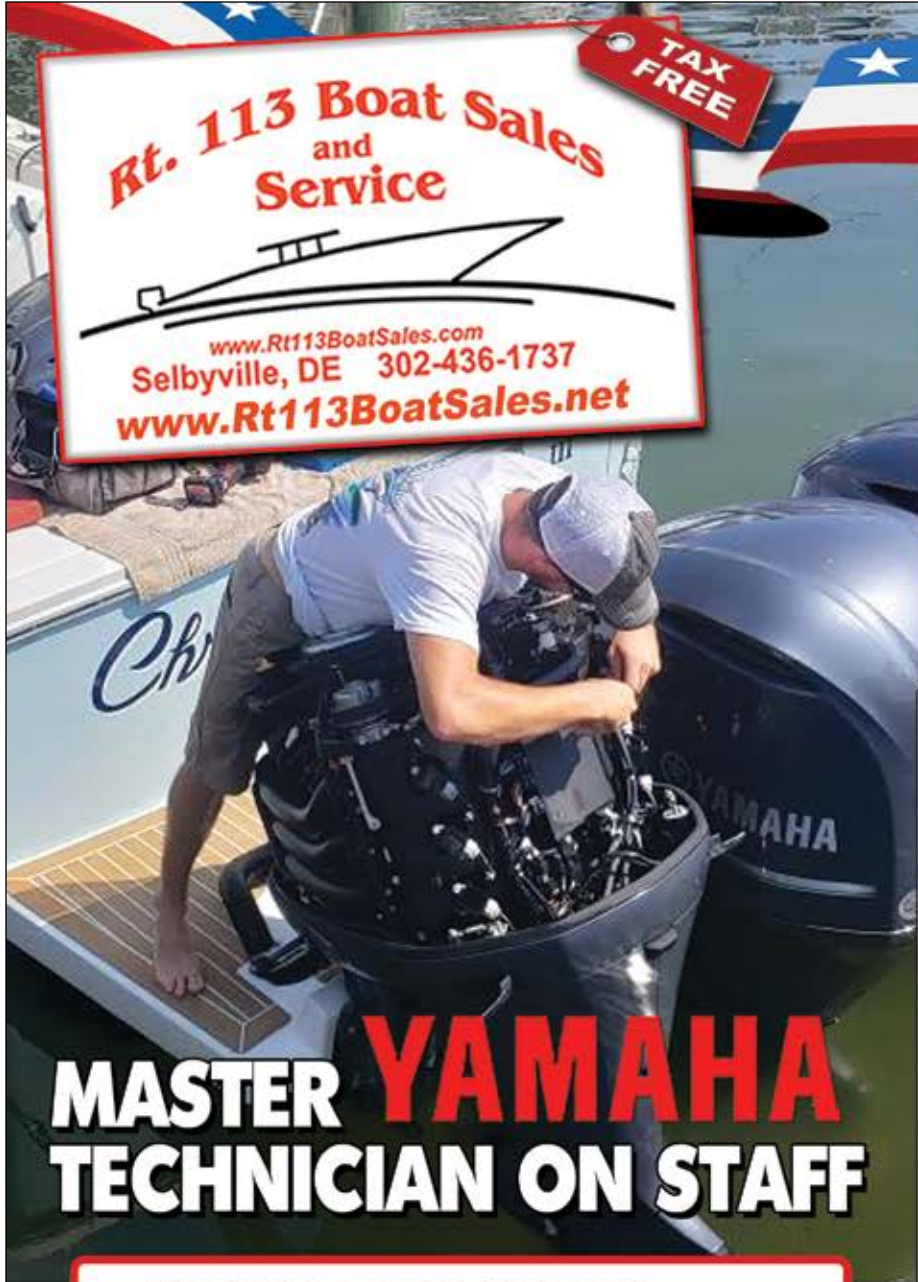
SHARKS AUTHORIZED SPECIES

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

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.

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13 year old Josh Dover from Elkton, MD got a real treat while fishing off of a pier near 6th St. in Ocean City. This red drum took his rig of a jig head with a pink Gulp Swimming Mullet. At 31.5" it was the biggest fish he has ever caught and put up a great fight.



Georgetown, DE anglers Jerry Hammond, Ronnie Mumford and Mickey Payne crushed it jigging with Gulp at Site 10. They boated a total of 8 keeper flounder weighing up to 3.3 lbs. and had an original way to make a 'doormat'!

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OCEAN CITY

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



White Marlin week in Ocean City always brings a bevy of tourists and that means lots of anglers wanting to be on the water with the big boys. The increased boat traffic in the inlet and through the bridge has put fish down deep or has moved them to less traveled areas. Flounder still remains pretty good despite the traffic, however you'll need to search out less pressured spots. Sea bass are still around despite last week's hot and humid weather. Deeper wrecks are producing some nice keepers as well as a few mahi thrown in.

Flounder, Sea Bass & Tautog

Near Shore Wrecks

The near shore areas were very busy this past week with tons of boats fighting for the prime spots on the artificial reefs outside of Ocean City. The African Queen was the hot spot inshore last week with the wrecks and cable piles being the best chance at taking home some fish for dinner. Flounder on the wrecks is pretty solid despite the large numbers of baits on these reefs. Big Gulp baits and long strips of squid on a bucktail are the best choice. "Bad Wind Charters" was out again last week bringing home lots of flatties, with many of them of up to 6 lbs. Last Friday they went out for some mahi on the pots which they said were

slim pickings, however they did find some nice fluke, the largest at 7 lbs. That's a great consolation prize when the mahi don't cooperate!

The mahi were around for other anglers this past week with Pete Renzi fishing with Skip Courtney out at the bass pots near the lightship. The crew managed to bring home a few nice inshore mahi for dinner. The bite was very scattered and not constant in any one area. The pots near the lightship are still reported as the best location, but I heard that many anglers trolling and casting to the pots retired to the dock with nothing in the fish box.

Jeremiah Kogan and Capt. Monty Hawkins were out last week diving the Ocean City Reefs and spearfished some nice flatties while exploring the reefs growth. Douglas Robinson got a citation sea bass last week. This is a true trophy catch as not many citations are caught in the middle of the summer.

Sea Bass Further Offshore

The deeper reef areas such as the Jack Spot and Great Eastern Reef are still producing keeper sea bass. These deeper wrecks in 100 ft. of water or more have remained cool enough to keep the bass inshore during the dog days of summer. Using fresh clam was the ticket to bringing home dinner last week on these deep wrecks. Jigs are still working to some degree, however the fish are not really snapping at the baits and prefer a slower presented bait right in front of their faces. Many of the

charters that fish these wrecks in the summer were entered in the White Marlin Open so the areas were less crowded, making it a prime area to target these black beauties.

Back Bays of OC

The back bays are productive, although the main inlet areas as well as channels up to Harbour Island were loaded with boat traffic wanting to catch a glimpse of the returning vessels from the tournament. Areas such as the Rt. 90 Bridge and the area behind Assateague Island reported much better fishing.

Jay Phillips had the back bays dialed in and reported he snuck out for an hour or two and returned to the dock with a cooler full of flat fish.

Stacey Schindler took a trip on the "Delicious" and ended up with 3 flounder up to 20", as well as a 32" striper at the break. All the fish were caught on peanut bunker.

Charlie Donohue was fishing a natural reef and brought home 5 bass and 2 fluke with his big fish at 22 1/2 inches.

Nicole Heba of Landcaster, PA, was fishing sand fleas on the south jetty and hooked a nice 16" tog. There are still a few red drum around as witnessed by 12 year old Josh Dover from Elkton, MD, when he hooked and landed an impressive 31.5 inch red from the 6th Street Pier. He rigged up a pink swimming mullet on a jig head. This year has been quite the year for our youth catching some real trophy fish. Great job guys and gals showing the adults how it is done!

Preston Walls was fishing live spot for flounder at the Rt. 50 Bridge when he hooked a 31" striper.



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Eric Gibbons and Chris Day were also dialed in on the striper fishing, catching a pair of 33" and 34" fish at the OC Inlet while fishing on the charter "Lucky Break".

Bluefish are also still around the inlet as seen by Alex Bew with a quality 10 lb. 34" fish caught while fishing on the "Jean Machine".

Doug Marshall of Frederick, MD, caught a 22" 4 lb. fluke at the inlet using squid strip and live minnow.

Behind Goose Island, Rick Chestnut caught 3 keepers up to 20" fishing on the "PA Posse" with Brad Richwine.

Lastly, Charlie Richter from Baltimore, another youngster, caught a nice croaker behind 28th Street.

Until next week...

Tight lines and fins up §



Zachary Kilpatrick from York, PA with Capt. John Shorts of Dover, PA found a nice 40" and 50 lb. juvenile shark last week. They were trolling at Little Gull Reef on the "HammerTime" using spanish mackerel for bait.

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Doug Marshall from Frederick, MD caught this 22" and 4 lb. flounder at the Ocean City Inlet. He used a live minnow with a squid strip to fool the flattie.



Fred Showacre got his daughter Lilli and her friends Bryce Bryan, Bree, Bryan and Lisa Lynn out on the "Game On" for some light tackle tuna fishing. Capt. Scott Stapleford set up near the Massey's Canyon and mate Gary Sargent started chunking the butterfish. They finished the day with 6 yellowfins in the box weighing a total of 336 lbs.

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. AUG 17	High 12:24 am High 01:02 pm	Low 06:32 am Low 07:16 pm
THUR. AUG 18	High 01:09 am High 02:00 pm	Low 07:19 am Low 08:16 pm
FRI. AUG 19 3rd Qtr. Moon	High 01:57 am High 03:05 pm	Low 08:07 am Low 09:17 pm
SAT. AUG 20	High 02:51 am High 04:11 pm	Low 08:56 am Low 10:17 pm
SUN. AUG 21	High 03:47 am High 05:09 pm	Low 09:47 am Low 11:16 pm
MON. AUG 22	High 04:42 am High 05:58 pm	Low 10:41 am Low -----
TUE. AUG 23	High 05:33 am High 06:41 pm	Low 12:09 am Low 11:34 am
WED. AUG 24	High 06:21 am High 07:20 pm	Low 12:55 am Low 12:22 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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Fish of the Year

2022



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

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
 Bluefish	June 5 Mike Botsaris S. OC Jetty 12.5 lbs.	July 18 Tommy Schlauch Jr. Fenwick Ditch 12 lbs. 3 Oz.	 Thresher Shark	May 30 Dan Cavey Fingers 373 lbs.	
 Black Drum	April 16 CW Wells Assateague Island 70 lbs.	May 22 Mike Strain Coral Beds 78 lbs.	 Bigeye Tuna	July 23 Crew - Wrecker Washington Canyon 276 lbs.	July 4 Crew "Reel Fast" Washington Canyon 220 lbs.
 Cobia	June 25 John Stackhouse Kelly's Reef 46.25 lbs.	July 15 Scott Brooks Off Bethany Beach 89.2 lbs.	 Bluefin Tuna	June 10 Corey Healy Baltimore Canyon 243 lbs.	
 Flounder	July 29 Mike Brockmeyer East Channel 7.85 lbs.	July 20 Jesse Norman Ocean Structure 10.4 lbs.	 Longfin Tuna ★	July 31 Zach Bower Wilmington Canyon 38.5 lbs.	June 5 Chad Tingle Wilmington Canyon 49.5 lbs.
 Sea Bass	May 31 Justin Eddy Poor Man's 4.7 lbs.	May 26 Kase Andrews Ocean Structure 3.125 lbs.	 Yellowfin Tuna	June 30 Brian Mayer Washington Canyon 85.5 lbs.	June 10 John Savoca Baltimore Canyon 75 lbs.
 Sheepshead	June 27 JC Dennis OC Inlet 13.75 lbs.	July 4 Jason Whaley Ocean Structure 12 lbs.	 Dolphin ★	August 11 Frank Sinita Jr. Poor Man's Canyon 59.5 lbs.	
 Striped Bass	May 20 Bud Martin Rt. 50 Bridge 17.19 lbs.		 Swordfish	June 30 Steve Stallings Poor Man's Canyon 288 lbs.	
 Tautog	April 22 Kelly Langion-Milano Artificial Reef 18 lbs.	April 22 Billy Thornatore Ocean Wreck 7.5 lbs.	 Blue Marlin	July 31 Mike Tenuto Wilmington Canyon 436 lbs.	
 Wahoo	August 7 Jake Melcher Baltimore Canyon 85 lbs.		 White Marlin	July 31 Mike Dahl Wilmington Canyon 76 lbs.	

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



The size of the mahi being caught over the past couple weeks has really jumped up. We have reports of fish in the 20-30 lb. range, and of course there was the 59 pounder that took 1st Place in the White Marlin Open. Brenda Yung of Selbyville, DE caught this gaffer and 4 more fish while she was jigging for sea bass with squid heads at some Bass Pots.

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Brian Scott of Lewes, DE knew what boat to charter for his fishing trip. He booked with Capt. Brent Wiest on the "Katydid" based at the Lewes Harbour Marina. They fished some ocean structures and found several flounder including this one at 23" that took the boat pool that day.



Before all the offshore charters got tied up with the White Marlin Open, Capt. Dave Midgett on the "All-In" got this group onto 3 nice yellowfin tunas. Pictured at the White Marlin Marina.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Young Leland Stahlman from Spring Grove, PA poses with the pair of flounder he caught while fishing with Capt. Jason Mumford and mate Ethan Nock on the charter boat "Lucky Break". This pair came from the south Ocean City Bay using minnows, the largest at 3.5 lbs.



Capt. Chris Mizurak on the head boat "Angler" based at the Talbot Street Pier found some nice sea bass fishing for his crews over the past week. They had lots of action with throwbacks, double hook ups and some good size knotheads like this one.

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The party boat "Judith M" is taking 3/4 day trips deep sea fishing and finding a nice mix of sea bass and flounder. Gear can be provided as is bait of clams & squid.



It was tough fishing just before the White Marlin Open, and just as tough during! Early last week Capt. Dale Lisi and mate Ricky Adkins took the Frankie, Paul and crew trolling in the Poor Man's Canyon and managed these 2 yellowfins on Green Machines. Pictured at Bahia Marina.

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After a few weeks of mechanical issues and some tough days, Capt. Parker Powell on the headboat "Thelma Dale IV" had a decent full day trip with a good mix of sea bass and flounder.

Flounder fishing has been fair to good on the headboat "Judy V" based at the Indian River Marina. This trip to offshore structures saw several limit catches as well as one flounder at 7.4 lbs! We bet that one took the pool money!

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FISHING CHARTERS



Sam Minich from PA had a good day with Capt. Dave Caffrey on the charter boat "On the Run" based at Bahia Marina. He caught this 21" flounder in the Thorofare using white Gulp.



What a great catch for Eric Gibbons and Chris Day from Baltimore, MD landing two 'in the slot' keeper rockfish! They were fishing the incoming tide with Capt. Jason Mumford on the "Lucky Break" at the OC Inlet using live bait. The fish were 34" & 33" and weighed 16 lbs & 14 lbs respectively.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Owner Paul Lebling with anglers Micheal Lovalvo and Ryan Jones with Capt. Chris Watkowski on the charter boat "Spring Mix II" closed out the White Marlin Open strong, boating 8 heavy yellowfin tunas and releasing a sailfish.



Capt. Chris Ragni and mate Skippy Campbell on the "Bill Slayer" put anglers from Barkley Heating & Air and Masten Electric onto some big tuna's including this 178 lb. eyeball from the Poor Man's Canyon.

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FISHING CHARTERS



The tuna fishing was a little harder in the week before the White Marlin Open, still Capt. Joe Drosey with mates Eric Strauss & Mario Rosales on the "Rhonda's Osprey" got the Wilgro crew onto a couple of nice yellowfin tuna.



The sea bass bite is still here, but big ones are not as common. So it was a nice catch for James Dawson from Catonsville, MD when he reeled in this 20 1/4" and 3.59 lb. knothead that qualified for a Maryland State Citation. He was fishing with Capt. Chris Mizurak on the headboat "Angler".

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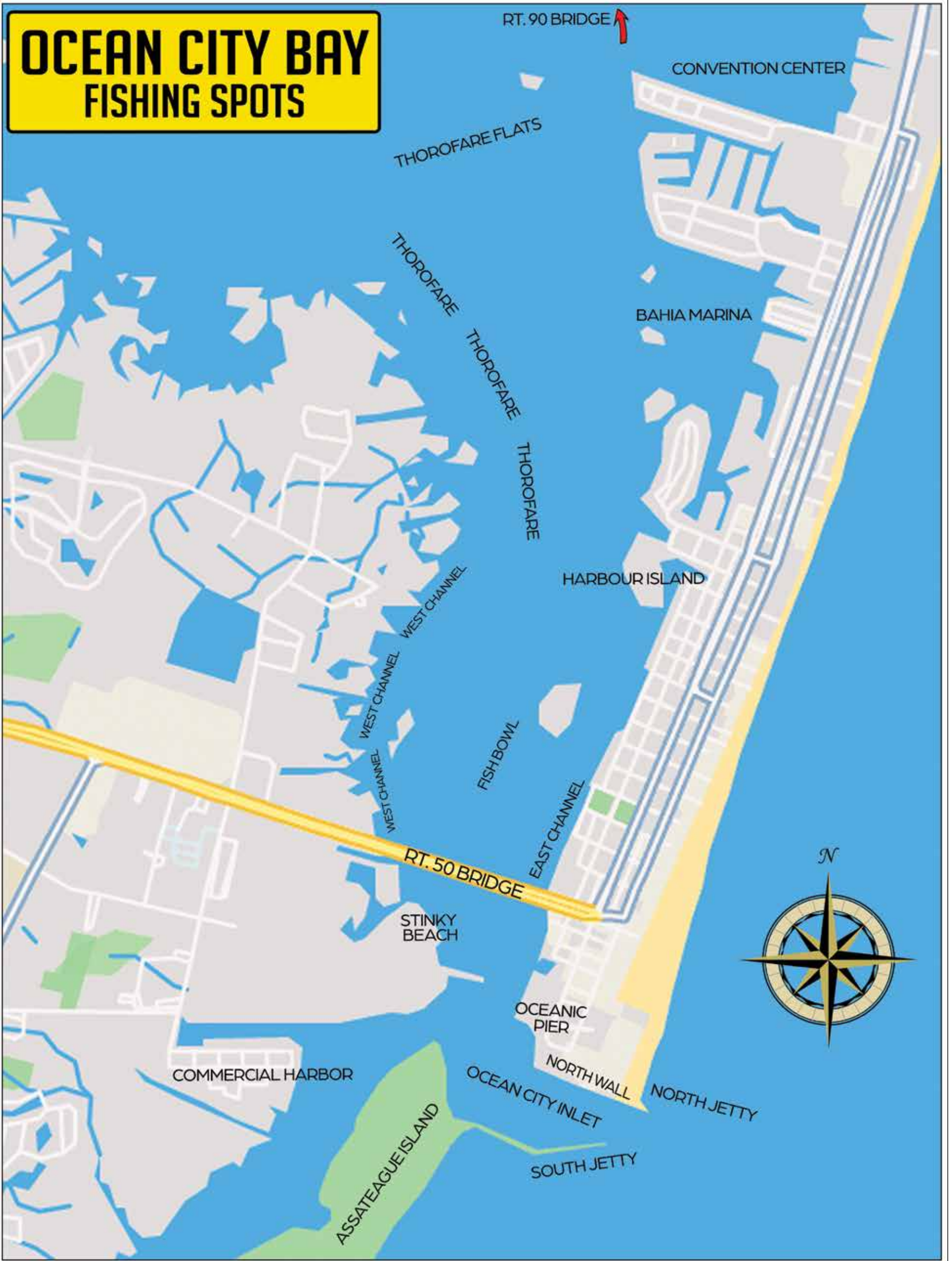
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Bob Walter of Swiftwater, PA gets the most colorful flounder of the week award. He reeled in this 24" flatfish while fishing on the "Nauti Storm" with Rob Storm on an outgoing tide at the South Ocean City Jetty. He used a top and bottom rig with cut squid to fool the 5.5 lb. fish.

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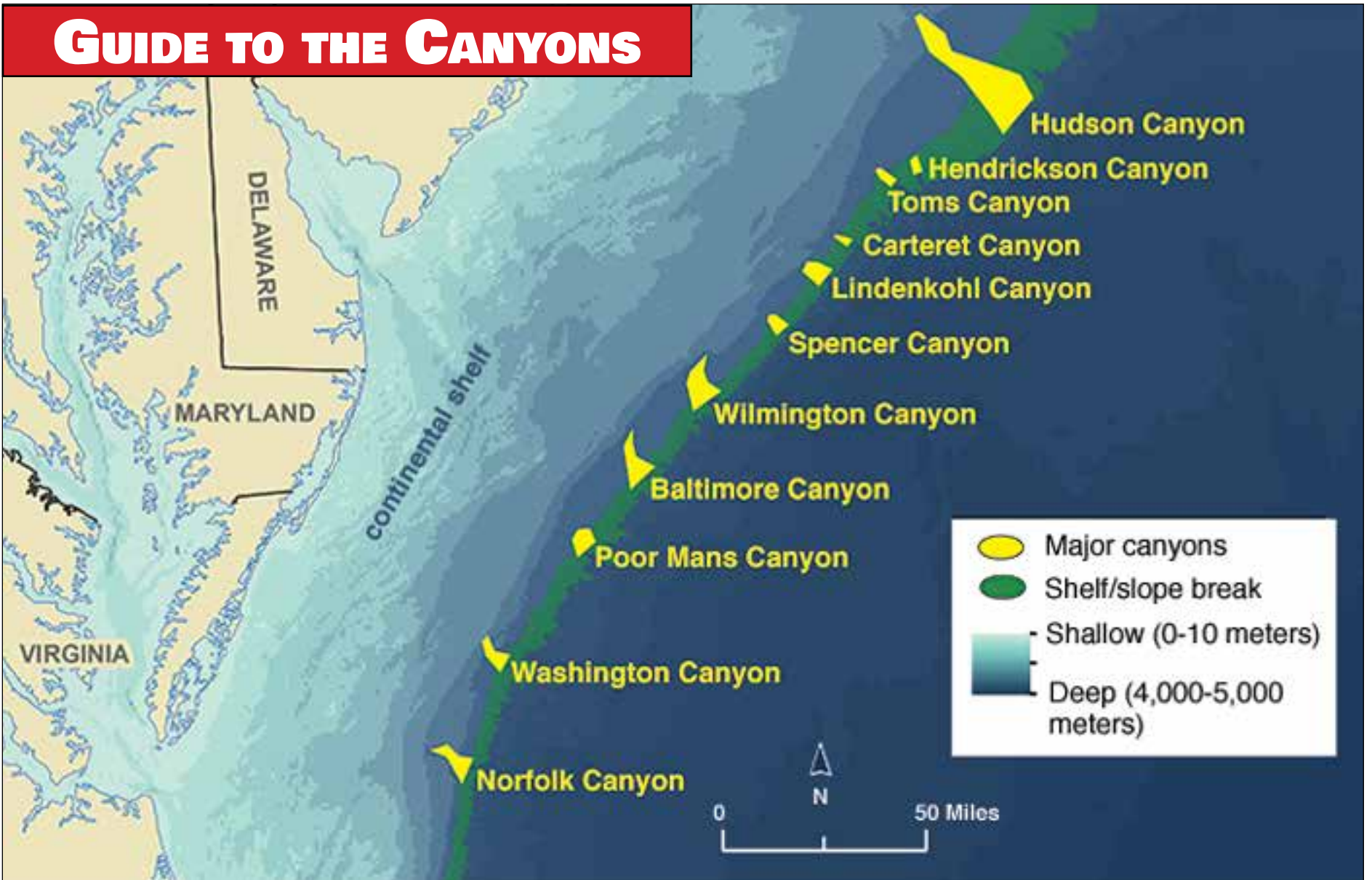
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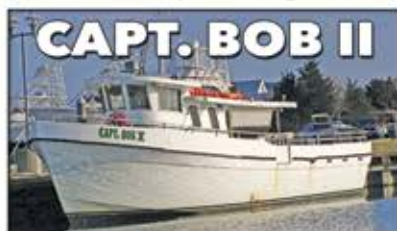
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by Steve Katz



Labeling Systems on your Boat

We are now in the middle of the summer tournament and fishing season, with what seems like an endless schedule of fishing tournaments on the calendar. Keeping your boat in tip top shape is a priority when there is limited down time between fishing trips.

Let's review how to make maintenance and repairs easier by labeling and identifying!

So often a technician or you go to work on one of many boat systems and spend more time locating and identifying the problem than fixing it. Except for a few large production manufacturers, most boats do not come with diagrams or blueprints that show you how each system is laid out or where the critical components are located.

Additionally, different years and models along with optional accessories can result in each boat being unique compared to a similar model. This means a lot of investigative work may be needed to get to a critical component or find how it is connected to the rest of the systems. This is not

just for electrical wiring, but plumbing (water, fuel etc.), HVACR, mechanical and even just accessibility to hidden areas. Accurate labeling can dramatically speed up the service or repair of most any on-board systems.

actually a spare but operates something important?

While the daunting task of labeling or re-labeling everything on your boat may not be in budget or time allotment, this can easily be done little-by-little and on a need-to-know basis.



How to Improve your Boat

Label to identify everything - yes, the simple act of labeling wires, pipes, hatches, switches etc. can save so much time when it comes to identifying, operating, troubleshooting or repairing an on-board system. How many boats have an electrical panel with a switch labeled "spare" - that is NOT

First make sure you have a good quality label maker available. One example is the Brother P-touch label printers that use laminated tape technology. P-touch TZe tapes are tapes that have a unique lamination, which makes the labels heat, cold, water, chemical and fade resistant. The TZe tapes for these label makers come in a variety of sizes and colors and

are readily available at big box stores, office supply stores and on-line too. Brother also offers head shrink tubing labels, great for wiring! Some of the labelers can write the text in various formats, horizontal and vertical, allowing most any label to be created that can be quickly and easily read. There are more expensive industrial specialty label makers for wiring, piping, panels etc., though for most uses on a boat, there is a Brother label maker and tape that will fit your budget and needs.

While you may think labeling is common sense, take a look under the helm or below decks of your boat and see how many wires, hoses, piping etc. are identified and labeled. When it comes to identification of a boat's wiring, ABYC has a broad standard in section E-11 that reads, "Each electrical conductor that is part of the boat's electrical system shall have a means to identify its function in the system". There are many ways to meet the ABYC standard, such as colored coded wiring with an associated legend, labels at each end of a wire or even writing on the wire with a permanent marker!

Unfortunately for other systems, there is no labeling requirement, so the myriad of hoses, pumps, valves, etc. may go unlabeled.

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What is the easiest way to get these systems labeled?

Two easy methods: When a new item is installed, label it! Whether a bilge hose, water line or wire run, label both ends with the pertinent info. As an example, a bilge pump hose may seem obvious and not need a label but when you have more than one onboard, you could label the pump end of the hose with information where the overboard discharge is located such as “starboard midship discharge” and at the discharge point - you can label the hose “from starboard midship bilge pump”. This will help in your maintenance and troubleshooting tasks for years to come. Same goes for

wiring - label both ends and provide details where that wire comes from or goes to.

Another time you should be ready with your label maker is when you work on an existing system and finally find the location of that hose or wire - label it while you are working it and before you forget! You will most likely need to work on it again and many of the hoses and wires look alike a year later!

Be sure your electrical panel and switches are labeled correctly. While you may know the nuances of your boat, sending a fishing buddy to the main panel and asking them to turn on a light or pump is much easier if the panel is properly labeled,

especially the spares. Not often do I find spare breakers in a boat's electrical panel these days. They often get used for new items and usually don't get re-labeled. As an example, it is difficult for anyone else to know that the third spare breaker on the

up bilge pump - especially in an emergency!

Labeling to identify your boat's systems may seem like a big task, but done little by little, the results will be gratifying and beneficial for yourself and your crew for years to come. §



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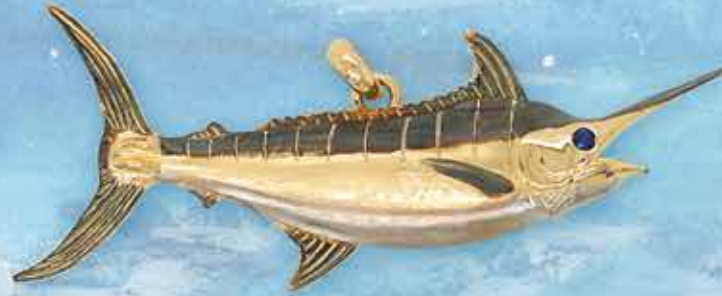
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Mahi Fish Tacos

Ingredients:

Tacos:

1.5 pounds mahi mahi fillets skinless

6-8 6-inch corn tortillas warmed

Avocado Crema:

1 medium avocado

1/2 cup sour cream or Greek yogurt

2 tablespoons mayonnaise

1 tablespoon lime juice

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon ground cumin

1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

15 Minute Marinade:

3 tablespoons olive oil

2 tablespoons lime juice

1 tablespoon reduced sodium soy sauce

1 1/2 tsp each paprika, chipotle chile powder, brown sugar



1 tsp each ground cumin, garlic powder, onion powder, salt

1/2 teaspoon dried oregano

Strawberry Pineapple Slaw:

2 cups thinly sliced green cabbage

1 pint strawberries hulled and chopped

1 cup diced pineapple

1 cup blueberries

1/2 cup diced red onion

1-2 jalapenos seeded, deveined, minced (1 for very mild)

1/2 cup loosely packed cilantro chopped

2 tablespoons lime juice

1/4 tsp each salt, pepper

Directions:

Marinade:

Whisk all of the marinade ingredients together in a small bowl. Add fish to shallow dish in a single layer. Pour marinade over fish and rub the marinade evenly over each side of the fish. Marinate at room temperature while you prep the slaw and crema - no more than 30 minutes.

Strawberry Pineapple Slaw:

Add all of the ingredients to a large bowl. Toss to combine. Refrigerate until ready to serve. You may need to strain excess juice before serving depending on how juicy your strawberries are.

Avocado Crema:

Add all of the ingredients to your blender and blend until smooth, scraping sides down as needed.

You can prepare this 8 hours ahead of time and refrigerate in an airtight container with plastic wrap pressed directly to the surface of the crema.

Heat one tablespoon olive oil in a large non-stick skillet over medium-high heat.

Once hot, gently add fish and cook for about 3 - 4 minutes per side or until cooked to desired doneness (cook time will vary based on thickness of fish).

Remove fish from skillet and break into large pieces. Evenly divide fish between tortillas then top with slaw and crema. Garnish with additional lime and hot sauce if desired.

Grilled Wahoo & Stuffed Portobello

Ingredients:

Filling:

1 cup cooked, brown rice

2 large portobello mushroom caps

1 Tb. olive oil

1 medium onion, chopped

1 tsp. fresh red chili pepper, minced

2 cloves garlic, minced

1 Tb. fresh ginger, grated

2 Tb. water chestnuts, chopped

1 Tb. low sodium soy sauce

1 Tb. sweet chili sauce

1 Tb. rice vinegar

1 tsp. sesame oil

Dash of kosher salt

Dash of freshly ground black pepper

Juice of 1/2 fresh lime

Topping (optional):

1/4 cup plain bread crumbs

1-2 Tb. olive oil (just enough to

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allow the bread crumbs to stick together but still be crumbly)

Basil-Lemon Compound Butter

2 Tb. unsalted butter, softened

1 Tb. fresh basil, torn into small pieces

1 tsp. lemon zest

Dash kosher salt

Dash freshly ground black pepper

Fish:

2 large wahoo fillets

1 Tb. olive oil

Dash of kosher salt

Dash of freshly ground black pepper

Directions:

Cook brown rice according to package directions. When cooked, set aside.

Lightly brush/clean mushrooms and remove and chop stems; set aside.

In a medium skillet, add oil, chopped mushroom stems, onion and red chili over medium heat. Once they start to sweat, add garlic, ginger and water chestnuts and cook another minute or so to combine flavors.

Add soy, chili sauce, rice vinegar and cook about 1 minute.

Remove from heat then add rice, sesame oil, lime juice, salt & pepper; stir to combine.

Heat oven to 375 degrees.

Brush mushroom caps with a little olive oil and place on a baking sheet (gill side up). Place in oven for about 8-10 minutes. Remove and allow to cool for a few minutes. Dab off excess water then top each mushroom cap with a large handful of the rice mixture.

In a small bowl, combine bread crumbs & olive oil. Sprinkle over tops of each rice mound.

In another bowl, make the compound butter by simply

combining all ingredients and mixing together. Set aside until ready to use.

Heat a grill to high then sprinkle fish on both sides with olive oil, salt and pepper.

Place fish on grill and allow the first side to sear/cook about 3-4 minutes on each side (depending on how thick the fillets are), remove and allow fish to rest on a cutting board or dish. Top each fillet with some compound butter so it melts in nicely.

While the fish rests, pop the mushroom caps in the 375 degree oven for a few minutes - until the bread crumbs brown/crisp (you could also broil them for a couple of minutes for faster results). Remove from oven, top with the fish and serve with lime wedges.

Notes:

If you have leftover rice filling (because you just can't fit more in your mushrooms), save it for another time. It will pair nicely as a side with chicken or steak.

Shrimp & Grits

Ingredients:

4 1/2 cups water

1 teaspoon kosher salt

1 cup stone ground white grits

2 tablespoons unsalted butter

2 ounces white cheddar cheese, shredded

4 thick slices bacon

1 cup chopped white or yellow onion

1 cup chopped green pepper

2 cloves garlic, minced

1 to 1 1/2 pounds shrimp, peeled and deveined

1 cup chicken stock

3 green onions, chopped (white and light green parts only)

2 tablespoons chopped parsley

Juice of 1 lemon, about 1 to 2 tablespoons

Directions:

Cook the bacon:

Fry the bacon in a large sauté pan on medium heat until crispy. Remove the bacon and chop. Pour off all but about 3 tablespoons of the fat. Turn off the heat.

Cook the grits:

Bring the water to a boil in a medium pot. Add the salt. Slowly pour the grits into the boiling water while you stir with a wooden spoon. Stir and pour gradually so you don't get any lumps. When all the grits are incorporated, turn the heat down to a low simmer and cook the grits, stirring often, for 35 minutes.

Chop the shrimp:

Reserve about 1/3 of the shrimp whole and cut the rest into 3 to 4 pieces each. Set aside.

Sauté the vegetables, bacon, and shrimp:

When the grits have cooked for 30 minutes, heat the sauté pan on medium high. When the bacon fat is hot, sauté the onion and green pepper over medium-high heat until soft, about 4 minutes.

Add the bacon, garlic cloves and shrimp and toss to combine. Let this cook another minute.

Add the stock, then reduce:

Add the chicken stock and let this boil down for 5 minutes.

Add the cheese and butter to the grits:

Meanwhile, stir the cheddar cheese and butter into the grits.



The dish might not need any more salt, but add some if you'd like.

Serve:

To serve, spoon out some grits in individual bowls. Add to the shrimp the green onions, parsley and lemon juice to taste. Add salt if it needs it. Spoon some shrimp over the grits and make sure at least one whole shrimp is on everyone's plate. Serve at once.

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Ginger Baked Rockfish

Ingredients:

- 3/4 to 1 pound rockfish
- 3-4 Tablespoons soy sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon white pepper
- Dash of chili oil
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch
- 1 green onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced or chopped
- 1 teaspoon ginger, in chunks (easier to remove later)
- 1 Tablespoon mirin
- 1 teaspoon rice wine vinegar

some foil, spraying the foil. Mix everything except for the rockfish together to make the sauce. Add more cornstarch if the sauce is too liquidy.

Place the rockfish in the baking dish, then pour the sauce on top. Bake for about 15-20 minutes, checking the fish halfway through baking. At the halfway point, use a spoon to put sauce that has poured into the baking dish back onto the fish. Continue cooking until the fish flakes when cut with a fork. Near the end of baking you can top with more chopped green onion, if desired.



chopped

- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- Salt and cracked black pepper, to season
- Squeeze of lemon juice

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees and prepare your garlic parmesan crumble.

For the crumble, add all the ingredients and combine well. Place sheepshead fillets onto a parchment paper lined baking

www.coastalfisherman.net sheet and add your mayo (I used a brush to evenly spread it. Add the salt, pepper and garlic powder. Then, add your parmesan crumble on top of your mayo topped fish, but don't add the crumble until you are ready to put your fish in the oven!

Bake the fish for about 12-15 minutes and then turned on BROIL for about 1 minute or so to really crisp up the parmesan crumble! Remember, the thinner or thicker your fillet of fish determines how long to bake them in the oven.

If desired, you can serve the fish with jasmine rice, beans, and some fresh vegetables! You can sprinkle some green onions and red pepper flakes on top to add that crunchy and fresh flavor to the dish!

Garlic Parmesan Crusted Sheepshead

Ingredients:

Fish:

- 4 sheepshead fillets - skinless and boneless

- 1-2 tablespoons of mayonnaise
- Salt and cracked black pepper, to season

Garlic powder, to season

Garlic Parmesan Crumble:

- 1/2 cup panko breadcrumbs
- 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, finely



Directions:

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Prepare a baking dish with

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- 1 tablespoon Creole seasoning
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 cups peanut oil

Directions:

Place the buttermilk in a bowl and add the fish nuggets. Stir to make sure all are covered and let sit for five to ten minutes. Set aside.

Add the cornmeal, flour, Creole seasoning, and salt to a pie plate or large shallow bowl. Mix well.

Take the nuggets out of the buttermilk and let any excess drip off. Place the fish in the cornmeal mixture and toss. Make sure that the nuggets are coated on all sides. Place on a wire rack and

ideally be at 375 degrees F. If the oil is too cool, your fish will be greasy if the oil is too hot, the crust will burn before the insides cook.

When the oil is hot, add the nuggets and make sure not to crowd them. You will most likely have to cook the fish in two batches.

Let the fish fry, turning as needed, for a total of two to three minutes or until the nuggets are golden brown and crispy on all sides.

Use a slotted spoon or fish turner to remove the nuggets from the oil. Place on a paper towel or wire rack to drain.

Repeat as needed until all of the fish is cooked. Serve immediately.

Mahi in Lemon Garlic Cream Sauce

Ingredients:

Fish:

4-5 mahi fillets 4-6 oz. each, 1-inch thick

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 tablespoon unsalted butter

Spice Rub:

3 tablespoons flour

1 tsp each garlic powder, onion powder, salt, paprika

1/2 teaspoon pepper

Lemon Garlic Cream Sauce:

3 tablespoons minced shallots

3-4 cloves garlic minced

1 1/4 cups low sodium chicken broth

1/2 cup heavy cream

1 tablespoon cornstarch

1/2 tsp each dried parsley, dried



repeat until you have all of the fish coated.

Place a cast-iron skillet or Dutch oven over medium-high heat and add the oil. You want at least 1/2 inch of oil in the bottom.

Before adding the fish, test to make sure the oil is hot by dropping in a pinch of the cornmeal mixture. It should immediately start to sizzle. If it doesn't, let the oil heat a few more minutes. The oil should

thyme

2 tablespoons lemon juice more or less to taste

Salt and pepper to taste

Freshly chopped chives, optional

Directions:

Mix together all of the spice rub ingredients in a medium bowl. Pat mahi dry and rub spices into the fish.

Melt 1 tablespoon butter in 2 tablespoons olive oil over medium-high heat in a large heavy bottom skillet. Once hot, add fillets, turn heat down to medium and cook approximately 4 minutes. Flip fillets over, then cook an additional 2-4 minutes to your liking, depending on thickness. Mahi should reach an internal temperature of 137°F. If fish is browning too quickly, then turn down the heat. Remove fish to a plate and tent with foil.

If needed, drain oil from skillet so you are left with about 1 tablespoon oil. Add shallots and sauté while scraping up the drippings for 2 minutes or until softened. Add garlic and sauté 30 seconds.

Whisk chicken broth with



cornstarch and add to skillet along with heavy cream, lemon juice, thyme and parsley. Simmer until reduced by half and slightly thickened, about 4-5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste, about 1/4 teaspoon each and add additional lemon juice if desired.

Nestle fillets back into the skillet and spoon sauce over the fillets. Garnish with fresh chives (optional). Serve immediately with rice, mashed potatoes or pasta. §

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It's that time of year when the croakers start schooling in the back bays for a few weeks before heading out to sea toward the end of August. Charlie Richter from Baltimore County reeled in a decent sized fish from the Ocean City Bay behind 28th St. while fishing with his dad.



It was finally Dean Miller's time to get a photo in the paper after competing with Tracy Heltzinger! The pair fish incessantly and this trip saw Dean on the headboat "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Steve and Griffin. These 2 sea bass are but a few of the 14 keepers he had for the day.

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Some great and easy fishing this time of year is for spot in the back bays. 12 year old Molly Sears of Downingtown, PA used a little Fishbites Artificial Bloodworm with squid on a top and bottom rig and found a few near the Rt. 90 Bridge.

2022 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>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>

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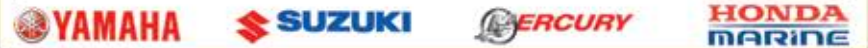
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We fishermen are a diverse lot. We fish for big fish, little fish, in freshwater and salt, we troll, we cast, we drop baits to the bottom and drift. We fish from the shore or from piers, bridges or from boats, and the selections of tackle, baits and lures we use are as wide as the ocean is deep. Beside that fact that we all use (some kind) of hooks, weights and line, there's not exactly a long list of commonalities that all fishermen possess. One trait, however that most fishermen have in common (at least those that fish around these parts) is a use of the "tides."

Of course tides are not an issue in "non-tidal" water such as lakes, ponds and most streams, but those who fish in Delmarva's rivers, bays

and ocean waters know that the state of the tide can mean everything when it comes to catching or not catching fish. Very few fishermen these days put a line in the water without at least taking note of what the tide is doing and many will plan their entire fishing trip to coincide with favorable conditions.

Tides are the result of the gravitational pull of both the sun and moon. But since the moon is so much closer to earth, it's the primary factor of influence. Because there's a lot of smart guys out there who can predict the moon's rotation around the earth, tides can be very accurately forecast right down to the minute and well into the future. "Tide charts" are the

products of these calculations, so if someone needs to know when the morning high tide is going to be - say on July 27th at the Ocean City inlet, all they have to do is look at a tide chart for the area and see that it will occur at (let's just say) 6:30am.

Taking all that into account, here's a question for all you fishermen and boaters out there: If the tide is going to be high at 6:30, would it be right to say that at 6:00am the tide will be "coming in" (or flooding) until it finally "slacks" (or stops moving) at 6:30?

I'll bet that most folks would agree with that statement and then go on to say that sometime after the "high-slack" the tide will start to go out or "ebb." But guess what, it's all wrong! You see (and here's what's going to blow even some old-timers minds) technically speaking, tides don't "come in, flood, go out, ebb," or even "slack." The proper terms to use for what tides do is "rise, fall, or stand" because tides are actually a measurement of the vertical (up and down) movement of water. The horizontal (in and out) movement of water that we see rushing past a dock piling or buoy, or that carries our boat up the bay is actually not the tide, it's the "current", which may be affected by the tide, but not always as much as some folks might think. The proper terms that describe what currents do are "flood" (away from the ocean), "ebb" (towards the ocean), and "slack" (no movement).

Ok, so who cares about technical terms, if I call Joe on the radio and he says "the tide is coming in" I know that means I'll be drifting up the

www.coastalfisherman.net bay, that's all that's important to me. Right? Well, maybe not. At 7:00am on July 27th old Joe could still be drifting up the bay (with the current) even though the tide quit rising a half hour ago. That's because currents are affected not just by tidal movement but also by factors such as wind, rain, and a bounce back effect from land masses. Ever wonder why the tide chart says the low tide was supposed to be hours ago and yet water is still flying out of the inlet? Imagine putting a ping-pong ball in an empty bathtub, then you start filling the tub. At first the ball will float with the "current" to the back-side of the tub, but eventually it will start to drift with the "current" back toward the incoming water. Even though the "tide" in the tub is constantly rising, the "surface current" is flowing toward the source of the incoming water.

Now, consider our back bays where for about six hours as water comes in from the ocean the tide is constantly rising, but in some parts of the bay the surface current may change direction and actually flow back toward the inlet. From his boat, Joe only notices the horizontal movement of the current taking his boat north, not the falling of the tide.

Your tide chart says that the tide started going out over an hour ago, but you ignore this and accept Joe's assumption that the chart is wrong and the tide is still "coming in." Consequently you try to cross a sandbar that you can only transit at high tide but "Whammo!" You end up hard aground and now have almost five hours to wait for the next high tide when you can float your boat off the bar. Now do you see why it's good for all boaters to know the difference between tide and current?

So remember: "Tides" rise, fall, and stand. "Currents" flood, ebb, and slack, and "Joe" doesn't know what he's talking about! §



"Bad Wind Charters" hosted the '611 Boys' - Zachary, Mike and Peter from Ocean City. Capt. Bryce Lynch reported that the flounder did not cooperate on this trip, but they managed 4 keepers and a mess of mahi.



Local boat "Catch 23" (not that one...) had been having a slow year, but fortunately Steve and Kelly Kramarck came on this trip and were a good luck charm. The group went to an inshore lump and Jody Williams landed this just under 52 lb. yellowfin tuna on a light leader.

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Angler Alex Bew from Ocean View, DE had quite the fight with this 10.8 lb. and 34" bluefish, the largest fish he has ever caught! He was on "The Jean Machine" with Capt. Cappy in the Indian River Inlet using live spot. The chopper blue pulled so much he spun the boat around a few times.



Jason Didden switched it up last week. He went fishing over a lower Delaware Bay Structure and used Tautog jigs to fool these two sheepshead! Thanks to Lewes Harbor Marina for sharing.

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Another week and another big ray landing! Nazz Rapone from West Grove, PA pictured with his daughter Dakota pose with this 6.5 foot wide spiny butterfly ray they caught off the beach in Fenwick Island, DE. The bait was fresh kingfish and we are amazed they could get it to the beach on that rod!



TOURNAMENT SERIES 2022 SCHEDULE

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

UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!

64th ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT*

Registration: September 1, 6:30-8:00pm

Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 2, 3 & 4

Weigh-Ins: September 2, 3 & 4 6:00-8:00pm at Sunset Marina

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21st Annual Ocean City Fishing Center Spot Tournament

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44th Annual OC Marlin Club Challenge Cup

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Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament

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CJ Riddleberger of Stockton, MD shows off a Chincoteague slab flounder he caught at the Blackfish Bank Reef Site.



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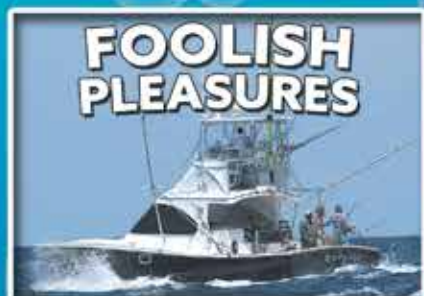
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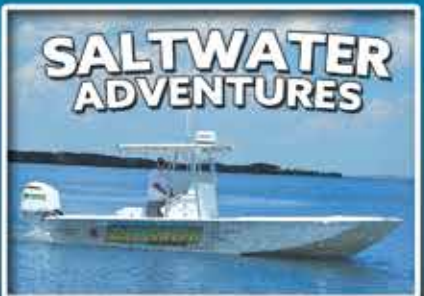
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DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



More hot and stormy weather last week kept many boats at the dock. We had several days of afternoon storms, and when adding a west wind and biting flies, it just made fishing tough.

Lots of flounder are still all over the coral along the shipping channel as well as a few ribbon fish. Sea bass has really slowed unless you head further offshore. This week is the annual Flounder Pounder Tournament out of Paradise Grill in Long Neck. The weigh-ins are always fun and quite the party atmosphere.

Inshore Wrecks & Coral

The area of the shipping channel has been very productive with some nice flounder coming off of the coral ground below the water. Your most productive areas have been to the south of B buoy near or below A buoy. The offshore side of the shipping lane in the deeper 95+ depth has produced more

quality fish than the inshore side. Big Gulp baits are accounting for the majority of the fish. Many anglers are now switching to live spot fish for bait in an effort to target the bigger fish. Live spot can be caught near most docks as well as many bay locations throughout the Indian River Bay. A sabiki rig tipped with Fish Bites or blood worms works best. The spot fish are a hardy bait that can be kept alive easily in a bait well or bait bubbler bucket for the trip offshore. You will not get the quantity of bite with live bait but will usually hook a better quality of fish. Bucktails on the down current side of the wrecks is also a good strategy for targeting bigger fish.

The "Angler" had a new seasonal flounder pool leader when Keith brought in a nice 5.15 lb. fluke last Monday. They reported that despite the sloppy seas, the flat fish bite was pretty good

and even had a few sea bass thrown in for its anglers. Joell Dougherty was out spearfishing and found a nice 28.5 inch, 9.5 lb. fluke hiding behind a rock in the channel. They ended the day with a lobster too!

The "Judy V" out of Hook'em and Cook'em Bait & Tackle at the Indian River Marina reporting fair catches of flounder. The largest fish was an impressive 7.4 lb. flounder.

The sea bass bite here in Delaware has really slowed, however 6 yr. old Trey Guest showed the adults how it was done, catching a nice keeper sea bass while out on his Pop Pops boat, the "Port-A-Bella". It's a good thing they brought Trey or they would have been skunked. Just another reason to take the kids fishing!

The inshore mahi bite slowed up a bit this week with reports of being very scattered and not

usually willing to bite at either trolled lures or at bait thrown to them on the pots. At the lightship, only a few anglers caught this prized fish that only comes inshore for a small window of time in the summer. Terry Murray, Bill Winkler, and John Timmons were out to try their hand at catching a couple and obviously found the right pots because they retired with a cooler full of nice peanut mahi for dinner. Every day has been different in what the mahi wants. One day trolling small chuggers is the only offering they will take, other days squid thrown to them on a small circle hook will work, and then there are the days where only lures behind a big noisy bird will work. Many anglers do not have the resources or boats to go offshore for the big pelagics, so this inshore version allows many anglers a chance at these fine eating and hard fighting fish.

Bay Areas

The bay areas of Indian River were a little slow for flounder, however a few fish are still around with the prime targeted area being the rocks along the



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Capt. BJ Pietryak and his daughter Samantha did some 'applied research' for his weekly fishing reports. The pair worked some Bass Pots just inside D Buoy on BJ's boat, the "Real Runn'R" and brought home 6 gaffer mahi with Samantha boating 4 of them!

www.coastalfisherman.net inlet and the deep channel in front of the VFW. Old Inlet Bait & Tackle reported the area along the rocks at the inlet are producing some decent fluke along with a few short tog. Short stripers and bluefish are coming in the inlet on the morning tides. The night time striper bite has produced a few keepers on sand fleas. They also report that live bloodworms will not be available for a while. They are hearing that Canada, as well as Maine are likely going to put a moratorium on the harvest for a few years to recover from over harvesting. Fish Bites are a great alternative and may soon become the only option. They also mentioned that many of the tog on the rocks are short, but a few keepers have started to come into the shop as well as a few sheepshead and pompano.

11 yr. old Chester Starkey caught his first keeper flounder this past week while fishing with his dad in the Indian River Bay. Carl said his son did a great job fighting and landing the keeper all by himself. So great to see parents taking the kids out for a great time on the water.

Nick Garcia was out with his grandpop reporting that although July was pretty inconsistent for them, August has started off really well. They picked up a few nice fish in the 22-25" range and the rest of the keepers between 19-21".

A few trout are also around with George Wettig bringing home a few nice ones while fishing aboard the "Captain's Lady".

Up in Lewes, the walls are still producing some nice sheepshead as well as a few nice tog. John Spence was out for the morning and quickly got 15 tog all over 14" and the biggest was 15". John reports all his fish were caught on sand fleas.

Surf Fishing

The surf has been a mix of kingfish, spot and a few small blues thrown in. Many larger sharks are cruising closer to shore allowing anglers to hook into a nice fight. Several large rays are also in the surf. The evening hours at last light is the best time to target these big brutes.

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Karmen, Rebecca and Presh Slezak from Middle River, MD hit the flounder hard last week! They fished in the Thorofare with Gulp on the "Grey Goose" and jiggled up 6 keeper flounder with these 3 over 20", the largest at 23".

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

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



Look at how flat that water was for Mary Sue from Michigan! She fished with Capt. Bryan on "Y-Knot" charters just off of Chincoteague and boated a big spanish mackerel.



Ocean City boys Jeff Weeks and Dave Weller made a couple of trips offshore in search of tuna. They have mainly been working the 20 fathom line and chunking with butterfish on the "Turn Me Loose". Over the 2 trips they boated 3 yellowfin tunas, this one was 48".

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VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



After a stifling start to August, the Lord has turned the Eastern Shore into a tidal wonderland on the heels of a refreshing sea breeze that gives you a yearning for a little more salt spray off your bow.

The crispness of an easterly breeze not only awakens anglers out of their summertime stupor, but also stirred up some shallow water surprise rock and spec action in the Tangier and Pocomoke Sounds. Most fish took both paddle tail as well as topwater offerings like Heddon spooks and MirroLure top dogs. The best bites have been at first and last light.

A little farther south in the Chesapeake, anglers are enjoying the start of the late summer bull red drum run. The conniving channel bass earn their name with bull-ish fights that will make your drag scream and heart pound! The targeted area ranges from east of Watts Island down to the Cell reef site. Look for depths of 15-30 feet of water around natural structure like hills

and sloughs. The tackle is very rudimentary with a fish finder or sinker slide positioned above a 8/0 octopus circle hook rigged on 80# leader tipped with a generous chunk of spot, hardhead or kingfish. While in search of your illusive spot tail you will have opportunities to wrestle sharks, rays, blues and even a few late season cobia. Keep on the lookout for incidental spanish mackerel giving up their hiding spots as they leap through the air like little spotted, toothy torpedos. A few of these trolled up on small Clarkspoons will put the icing on this Eastern Shore style cake.

The great Atlantic has provided some great memories as our very own "10-4 Joker" out of Chincoteague was lucky enough to take home the prize for the small boat mahi division of the WMO! Their respectable 29# mahi was the treasure that led these great guys to a wonderful prize and memories that will last a lifetime. My son Sammy was fortunate enough to mate on the award winning

vessel, and let's just say, it'll be a long time before a dinner table conversation does not drift toward the memories of the time him and Captain Crazy Larry went to the scales! A bit deeper, the saving grace of this week's pelagic pursuits have been the number of big eye tuna that have bent our rods and broke our backs. Along with these deep water drag eaters, some yellowfin have also come across the gunwales as we invite them to dinner.

The inshore wrecks have been sheltering their resident flounder from avid anglers looking for tasty fillets. Even though action has slowed on the inshore reefs, the inlets are still producing a decent flatfish bite. The last of the flood and first of the ebb have set the stage for pretty good late summer floundering. Double flounder rigs adorn with pink shine curl tail Gulp tipped with minnows or silversides are all that is required to tempt some of these bottom dwelling bruisers into the net.

As I sit here with my family in the lower Chesapeake

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waiting for a pole to bend and a red to run, I reflect on how lucky we really are. Whether you are watching the sun disappear into the depths of the Chesapeake, or watching your son on the bow of a sportfisher as it pulls into the scales, we are so blessed to have a place like this that we call home. §

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Our Virginia Fishing Report author Capt. Matt Abell got on the rip to do some hands on research. He and Jacob Lucas from New Church, VA headed off of Chincoteague and go their 2 main limit of sea bass and a few triggers.

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TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Estimated Prize Money \$8,600,000

WHITEMARLIN

1ST PLACE
JEREMY DUFFIE
"BILLFISHER"
77.5 LBS. • \$4,536,926

2ND PLACE
KEELEY MEGARITY
"C- STUDENT"
71.5 LBS. • \$197,202

BLUE MARLIN

1ST PLACE
BILL BRITT
"CABANA"
511 LBS. • \$1,208,419

TUNA

1ST PLACE
JASON HERSH
"SOUTHERN C'S"
247.5 LBS. • \$1,278,197

2ND PLACE
ANDERSON BOWEN
"BIG STICK"
246.5 LBS. • \$152,405

3RD PLACE
RICHARD HAWSE
"KOMOTOSE"
242.5 LBS. • \$437,918

DOLPHIN

1ST PLACE
FRANK SINIATO JR.
"IRENE"
59.5 LBS. • \$31,297

2ND PLACE
VERNON MERRITT JR.
"10-4 JOKER"
29 LBS. • \$104,447

3RD PLACE
VINCE PICCININI
"JEB"
28 LBS. • \$28,297

WAHOO

1ST PLACE
CHRIS THOMPSON
"JENNY POO"
71 LBS. • \$24,566

2ND PLACE
HANS MULFORD
"WATERMARLIN"
54 LBS. • \$23,566

3RD PLACE
TIM RICHARDSON
"IRISH TWIN"
51.5 LBS. • \$22,566

SWORDFISH

NO SWORDFISH WEIGHED

TOP ANGLER

1ST PLACE
WILLIAM HAUGLAND
"LIGHTS OUT"
490 POINTS

2ND PLACE
KELLY WEBER
"MAX BET"
420 POINTS

3RD PLACE
VICTOR ROOF
"MISS MAXENE"
420 POINTS

DAILY POINTS

MONDAY 8/8
"OPPOR-TUNA-TY TOO"
175 POINTS

WEDNESDAY 8/10
"FISH WHISTLE"
140 POINTS

THURSDAY 8/11
"JENNY POO"
175 POINTS

FRIDAY 8/12
"REEL ANGEL"
175 POINTS

TOP BOATS

<u>1ST PLACE</u> "BILLFISHER" 708 POINTS • DAY 3	<u>2ND PLACE</u> "MAMA C" 700 POINTS • DAY 3	<u>3RD PLACE</u> "LIGHTS OUT" 490 POINTS • DAY 2
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TOP RELEASE BOATS

<u>1ST PLACE</u> "MAMA C" 700 POINTS • DAY 3	<u>2ND PLACE</u> "BILLFISHER" 630 POINTS • DAY 3	<u>3RD PLACE</u> "LIGHTS OUT" 490 POINTS • DAY 2
--	--	--

SMALL BOAT BIG FISH

1ST PLACE
RICHARD HAWSE
"KOMOTOSE"
242.5 LBS. \$437,918

SMALL BOAT RELEASE

1ST PLACE
"OPPOR-TUNA-TY TOO"
175 POINTS \$28,480

SMALL BOAT DOLPHIN

1ST PLACE
VERNON MERRITT JR.
"10-4 JOKER"
29 LBS. \$104,447

SMALL BOAT TUNA

1ST PLACE
RICHARD HAWSE
"KOMOTOSE"
242.5 LBS. \$437,918

Monday - 292
Tuesday - 15
Wednesday - 279
Thursday - 352
Friday - 286


Boats Fished by Day

BOATS REGISTERED - 408




Photo courtesy of the White Marlin Open.

The crew on the "Cabana" of Brent Feder, Donnie Carswell, Frank Sherman, James David, Mike McCarthy and Bill Britt with Capt. Ed Wheeler and mates Ross Clubb, Grant Clubb & Brent Feder had a lot to smile about during the 49th Annual White Marlin Open. Despite some of the toughest fishing in anyone's recent memory, they managed 3 bites for the whole week, but one counted big. On the fourth day of the event they were north of the Norfolk Canyon in 300 fathoms when they got a hard hit by a blue marlin on the right short line. Bill Britt got in the chair, fighting the fish to the boat 5 or 6 times before it could be subdued. Once to the scales it measured 118" with a half girth of 28½" and tipped the scales at 511 lbs. As the only blue marlin of the tournament the crew took 1st Place for Blue Marlin as well as monies for 2nd and 3rd, plus Winner Take All Blue Marlin and Biggest Fish for a combined payout of \$1,208,419.



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Photo courtesy of the White Marlin Open

What a week for the Texas crew of the "C-Student" during the 49th Annual White Marlin Open. The crew of Beth Bunk, Brittney Blackman, Craig Bunk, Denise Megarity, Fletcher Megarity, Hunter Megarity, Ian Megarity and owner Keeley Megarity with Capt. Ken Blackman and mates Joey Birbeck, Stan Blackman and Mario Velazquez brought in the first of only 2 qualifying white marlins to the scale. The 71½ lb. white caught by Keeley held first place for about 24 hours before slipping into 2nd and earning the crew \$197,202 in prize monies.



Photo courtesy of the White Marlin Open

The "Irene" brought in a real surprise on the 4th day of the 49th Annual White Marlin Open with a 59½ lb. dolphin caught by Frank Sinito Jr. from Cleveland, OH. Fellow anglers Collin Ramani and Philip Weikert were trolling for white marlin east of the Washington Canyon in 1000 fathoms with Capt. James Ewing and mates Dave Hite, Nick Moreno and Jimmy Sullivan. They were near a float hoping to find a white marlin feeding on the mahi, but instead tricked this big fella. This was the heaviest dolphin for the tourney and for the season so far! They also earned Daily Meat Fish award of \$31,297.



Photo courtesy of the White Marlin Open

Bigeye tunas dominated the Tuna Divisions during the 49th Annual White Marlin Open with 6 over 200 lbs. and the top two eyeballs separated by only 1 lb. It was however the 247.5 lb. tuna caught by Jason Hersh of Maple Glen, PA on the "Southern C's" that took the top spot. Jason and fellow anglers Frank Welsh, Gordon Cain, James Conway, Cole Abrams and Lee Bergman were trolling in the Norfolk Canyon with Capt. Travis Ralph and mates Eddie Twyford & James McDougall when around 10AM they hooked up a triple, all bigeyes! One was on a dink rod so they cut that loose and boated the other two, with the 2nd one at 203.5 lbs. The big fish earned a big payout of \$1,278,197, the second largest of the event.



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Photo courtesy of the White Marlin Open

What a difference a pound makes. Day 4 of the 49th Annual White Marlin Open started off well for the crew of the "Big Stick". Angler Anderson Bowen hooked into a bigeye at 8:30AM in the Wilmington Canyon taking 1.5 hours to get the big eyeball to the boat. Capt. Ronnie Fields with fellow anglers David Bowen, Reese Van Beber and Terry Layton with mates Brad Wilson & Jon Henry spent the rest of the day with only one other small yellowfin bite! Once to the scales the bigeye weighed 246½ lbs. moving solidly into 1st Place at the time, only to slide to 2nd after a fish 1 lb. heavier arrived a little later that day. Still, the crew secured 2nd Place in the Tuna Divisions and took home \$152,405 in prize money.



Photo courtesy of the White Marlin Open

Angler Chris Thompson from Mt. Airy, MD shows off the 71 pound wahoo he caught at the Hot Dog on a dink ballyhoo during the 49th Annual White Marlin Open. The big speedster was the heaviest of the tournament and earned Chris and the crew of Capt. Bobby Pastorius, Andrew Lohr, Jenny Pastorius, Grant Gotlinger, Dan Caoila and mates John Frank & Roger Walton a total of \$24,566.



Photo courtesy of the White Marlin Open

As they say, you have to bet big to win big. The "10-4 Joker" out of Chincoteague worked hard during the 49th Annual White Marlin Open. The crew of Capt. Larry Stotler with anglers Vernon Merritt Jr., John Karg and Charlie Altermose with mate Sammy Abell braved the weather on day 1 of the event staying inshore, only 20 miles off the beach from Fenwick Island along the 20 fathom line. Vernon Merritt Jr. caught this 29 lb. mahi on a chain weighted ballyhoo that not only was the 2nd Heaviest, but also earned a Daily Meatfish Award and the Small Boat Heaviest Dolphin Winner Take All earning a total of \$104,447!

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