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COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME 48 • • • ISSUE 13 • • • July 26, 2023



It was chaos when the "Reel Chaos" came to the scales on day 1 of the 19th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club's Kid's Classic! Young anglers Emma Matarese, Amelia Matarese, Joseph Davalos and Leah Davalos had spent the day with Capt. Anthony Matarese, Jr. in deep 800 fathom water outside the Poor Man's Canyon. Mates Mike Matarese & Wyatt Melocik set the lines with naked ballyhoo, and before the day was done Joe, Leah and Emma had all caught and released a white marlin! A first for all three and secured them 1st Place in the Billfish Release Division for the Tournament. They also found some nice weed lines and boated 9 dolphin. Pictured at Sunset Marina are the anglers, the crew and their extended families.



Capt. Brent Wiest on the charter boat "Katydid" did his magic again. He and mate Chris had angler Ernie Stone aboard for a trip to an ocean structure where Ernie caught this whopper of a flounder at 6.98 lbs. Pictured at Lewes Harbor Marina.



Indian River Marina boys Sean Walker, Chad Fenstermacher and mate Treye Coop Matthes had a spectacular day on Sean's boat the "No Woke Zone". They spent the day in the Wilmington Canyon in early July and released a sailfish and a white marlin, and even got this yellowfin tuna in the box!

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The surf before and after lifeguard hours is a great time to just fun fish. Bryson Brown of Paeonian Springs, VA got out on 79th St. in Ocean City and caught this kingfish on a high/low rig using fresh cut spot he also caught in the suds.



The Fenwick Island State Park must have some ray mojo going on! We have had several reports of big rays being caught there including this one from Nazz Rapone from West Grove, PA. He caught this ~5 foot roughtail stingray estimated at 170 lbs. using cut bunker on a Diawa Saltiga spinning reel.



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 Bethany Yacht Club got 4 yellows in the box. As the weather moved in, it seems the tuna moved inshore or out, offshore out.

Saturday saw an amazing catch by the charter boat "Restless Lady". Always known as a tuna slaying boat, Capt. Todd Kurtz did not disappoint. He headed to the 19 Fathom Lump and shortly after lines in they got a knockdown on 12 lines, all of them bigeyes! The crew made some fast choices and cut 4 lines. The anglers amazingly were able to get all 8 eyeballs in the box. They even had the presence of mind to pitch a bait to a mahi that came up with one of the big tuna! That will be a lifetime memory for those anglers.

The weekend saw Ocean City Marlin Club's 19th Annual Kid's Classic. While mostly a bay and inshore event, there were categories for tuna, wahoo, dolphin and billfish release. All the tuna reports from that event were from deep water, offshore of the Poor Man's Canyon in 800 to 1100 fathoms. Naked ballyhoo and spreader bars were most common.

As we were at the scales at Sunset Marina on Sunday, I got a tap on the shoulder and was told about a yellowfin 'I may want to take an interest in!' I could not leave the scales, so I texted my info to the gentleman and a few minutes later I got a report of a 156 lb. yellowfin tuna caught on the "Sea Hag". This huge allison tuna was caught by Elmer 'Junior' Bass, also in deep water offshore of the Poor Man's. This one hit on a ballyhoo skirted with a blue & white Ilander. It is now the Heaviest Yellowfin caught this season and will be a hard one to beat! The crew on the "Layin'

This Week Last Year

- The "Wrecker" caught a 276 lb. bigeye in the Washington Canyon. That one was the heaviest for 2022. Two others over 200 lbs. were also caught there.
- Chunking was in full swing with the Hambone being the hot spot followed by the Hot Dog and Fingers.
- The crew of the "C- Team" caught an 89.2 lb. yellowfin in the Massey's Canyon using a 8000 class spinning rod.
- Bill fishing continued to be some of the worst in recent memory, however the "Billfisher" ran 90 miles out to east of the Washington Canyon to find blue water and did manage to release 4 white marlin.

We all enjoyed some beautiful weather this past week on Delmarva with our normal high heat and humidity though! This pattern did lead to a mix of conditions offshore that created some great fishing days, and of course some challenging ones, even on calm days. We had a nice range of fish reported to us last week with some record setting tuna catches in the mix as well as a pending Delaware State Record for king mackerel. Billfish remain elusive, but not absent, with a few white releases and several hits that did not come tight. A good sign as we head into the Big Fish Classic and the White Marlin Open.

Tuna

Key words for the week for this fish would be a combination of picky and consistent. Meaning they were consistently picky, but

we still saw a consistent stream of yellowfins and some bigeyes hitting the cleaners! Our reports show most are still trolling, but more and more are switching to chunking butterfish as the fish move into the inshore lumps. Early last week we saw some good action at the 19 Fathom Lump. The "Finatic" brought back 5 yellowfin trolling as well as a couple tunny's from there. The "Bet-Sea" has a great story from their trip last week. They had a half day charter expecting to go for sea bass and flounder at some offshore wrecks and reefs. Instead Capt. Eric Mihaly headed to the Lump and got the boys onto 3 yellowfin tuna, 1 every hour, and then back to the dock by midday. An amazing trip for a half day charter for sure!

The "Spring Mix II" headed out Tuesday and found beautiful weather. Capt. Chris Watkowski trolled in the Washington Canyon where the crew hooked into a triple of bigeyes. Two of the three got off, but they got one, or most of one, to the boat. The 193 lb. eyeball had a big chunk out near the tail. We think it definitely would have been over 200 lbs. They also boated 2 yellowfin.

Things cooled a bit mid-week as the heat stirred up the atmosphere causing winds and some serious storms on Wednesday! The charter boat "Pumpin' Hard" did slip out Wednesday, and after dealing with the storms they set the troll in the northern end of the Baltimore Canyon. The crew humorously called the South

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COASTAL FISHERMAN
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is published weekly from May through September and annually in January by Coastal Fisherman Magazine LLC at 12703 Sunset Avenue Ste.8, Ocean City, MD 21842

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Saturday was an epic one for the "Restless Lady". Capt. Todd Kurtz headed to the Poor Man's Canyon with the idea to troll for mahi on their way further out for tuna. Mates Kevin Kurtz and Aiden Whiteley set the spread and all of the sudden 12 lines went down, all with bigeye tuna! They cleared 4 lines and got the other 8 in the boat as well as a single mahi that popped up along side a bigeye. Anglers Colt Sharp, Dan Sharp, Scott Wood, Ken Wood and Scott Biser were back in the slip at the Talbot Street Pier by 1PM, tired but with a great story to tell.

Lines" came back Sunday from an overnight trip in the Baltimore Canyon with an ~190 lb. bigeye.

Billfish

As mentioned above, reports on marlin releases were light, especially earlier in the week. Most at that time were second hand mentions of radio chatter of some white releases. The Kid's Classic saw several release reports, all white marlin. Winning the Category for the event was the "Reel Chaos". They released 3 whiteys outside the Poor Man's in 800 fathoms. Second was the "Max Bet" who also released three that day, also outside the Poor Man's. Sunday saw the "Bet Sea" lose a white in 875 fathoms and the "Kilo Charlie" released 2 from first time anglers Tyson Stouffer and Zach Maniskas. Again outside of the Poor Man's.

We did not hear of any blue marlin releases, but the "Max Bet" reported a bite that did not come tight east of the Poor Man's. Interestingly the "Salty Reel"

caught a sailfish at the Hot Dog while chunking! Realtor Kim Simpler Hook (no irony to the name...) and her crew brought in a swordfish to Bahia Marina.

Mahi and Everything Else!

A review of last week would not be complete without a mention of the uptick in dolphin action. While anglers have been finding them for a while now, there were huge hits this week. Friday saw the start of it when the charter boat "Reel Chaos" returned to Sunset Marina with over 30 dolphin and a wahoo. They were also outside the Poor Man's in 1000 fathoms finding lots of floating grasses. The "Bet Sea" was out on Sunday as part of the Kid's Classic, again in 875 fathoms where they found a floating log and some fishing gear holding fish. They caught a 23 lb. bull to take 1st Place in that category.

Tilefish were still plentiful, with more goldens making an appearance. Most were from the Rockpile. Lot's of king mackerel

were also in the mix, including a pending Delaware state record for a 52.7 lb. king caught by Jeff McCoy. He was anchored at the Fenwick Shoals shark fishing when the big fish hit on a mackerel fillet. Some cannibalism there. The 56" fish beat a record set almost 30 years ago!

Lastly the "One More" brought in a nice 70" and 94 lb. spinner shark to the scales at Bahia Marina. They caught that one at the Great Gull Reef.

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

Upcoming Tournaments

• Marina madness is headed to the Talbot Street Pier as they host the **10th Annual Big Fish Classic** on July 28-30. Always a fun event with of course, big fish! This unique tournament allows for two 32 hour windows to fish. Friday thru Saturday or Saturday to Sunday. This allows the

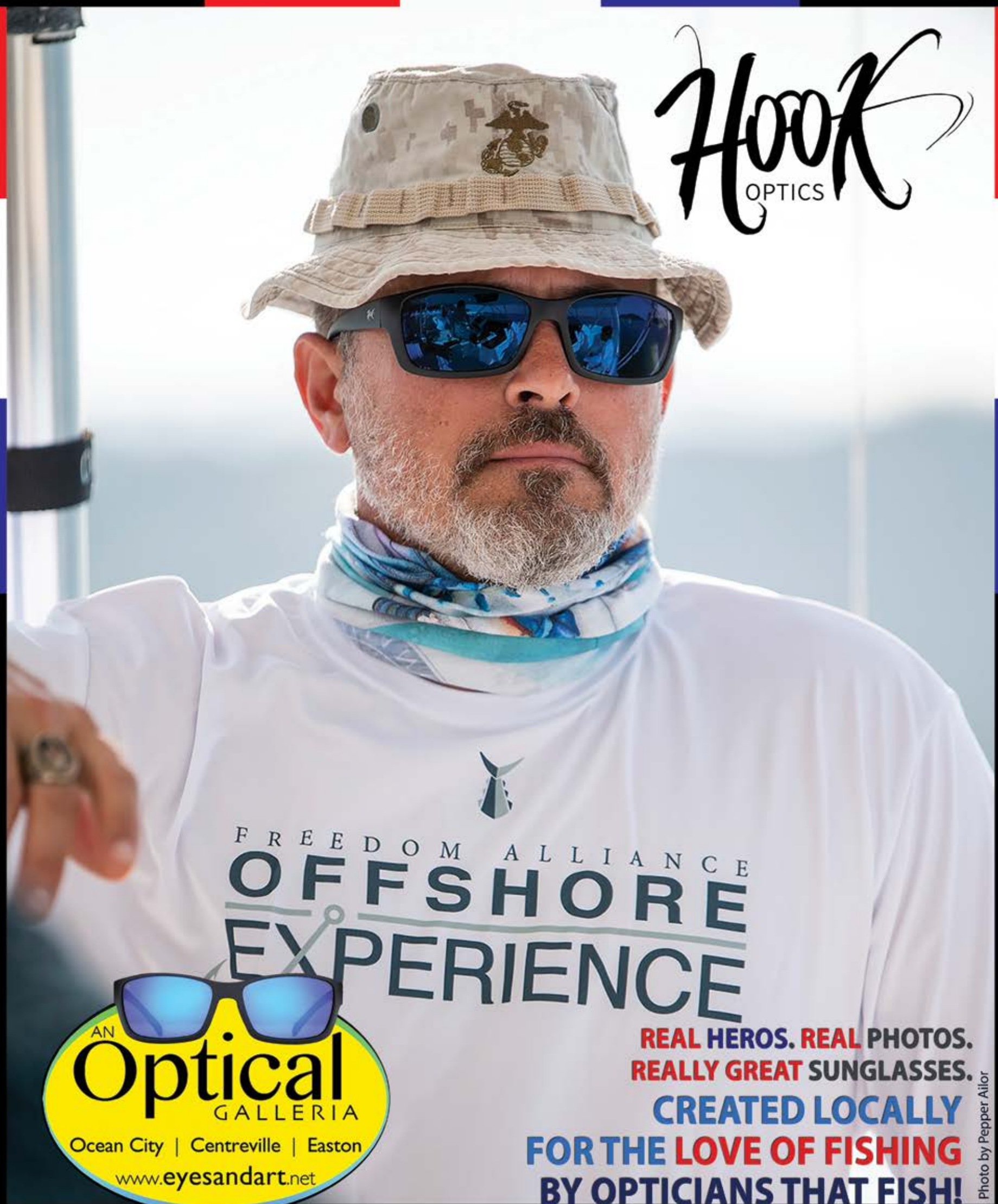
crews to stay overnight for more action or run in early if they have a *big fish!* Scales and the vendor village are open from 4-9PM on Friday and Saturday and 4-8PM on Sunday. Of course MR Ducks is right there too!

More at BigFishClassic.com.

• The weekend of August 4-6 will host two concurrent tournaments. The first will be a new event, the **Marlins for Mason**, a billfish catch and release tournament to benefit the Dravet Syndrome Foundation. More at MarlinsForMason.com. The other is the **Marlin Club's 15th Annual Ladies' Tournament - Heels & Reels** on August 4 & 5.. This always fun filled event benefits the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship fund. Weigh-ins will be at Atlantic Tackle from 5:30 - 7:30PM. More at OCMarlinClub.com/Tournaments.

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We are not sure there are any flounder left in the East Channel after Pennsylvania anglers Matt Weeb, Joe Webb, TJ Wren, Mike Mort, Cody Sterling and Shane Stauffer hit it hard last week. They were fishing with Capt. Jason Mumford on the charter boat "Lucky Break" with mate Wyatt Bostic and caught 12 keeper flounder overall with three over 4 lbs. using Gulp Swimming Mulletts.

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The wrecks and reefs off of the Delaware Shore sure to produce some fat flounder. Brian Schilling headed out with Capt. Keith Beebe on the "Surface Tension" and landed this 7.76 lb. flounder. It qualifies for a citation from the state of Delaware! Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Garrett Elder from Monkton, MD did not let a broken arm or 4 foot seas keep him off the bite. He and Richard Hoenes fished the 2nd Lump and caught 16 spanish mackerel and a ribbonfish. They also released a dusky shark they hooked on the troll.

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FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Last week in Ocean City, the weather painted a challenging landscape with scorching heat, frequent storms, and morning fog. Despite these adversities, fishing in both the nearshore reefs and back bays proved to be remarkably robust, with anglers returning to the docks with top-quality fish. Leading the pack as the hotspot was the Great Eastern Reef, closely trailed by the Bass Grounds and First Hump. While spanish mackerel and fluke were the primary targets, many wrecks held an impressive array of sheephead, triggers, and some of the largest redfish sightings in years.

The nearshore reefs have been a treasure trove of good-sized flounder, accompanied by a few keeper sea bass. The first hump near the bass grounds brimmed with spanish mackerel and small bluefish, while the wrecks

provided a home to several sheephead and triggerfish.

Among those enjoying fruitful days on the nearshore reefs were Blake Gunther and Derek Yobst, who reeled in several sizable flounder and a few sheephead.

Onboard "Bad Wind Charters," a group of skilled Maryland and Virginia anglers experienced an unforgettable outing. Armed with clackers and jiggers, they skillfully pulled in large fluke during their trip, with Wednesday's three-man charter boasting a collection of flatties weighing up to six pounds. The anglers, wishing to remain anonymous, relished their adventure, which also yielded the catch of a unique lookdown fish—a rarity in these waters, typically found in more southern territories.

"Double Trouble Charters" lived

up to its name, boasting an exceptional week of flounder fishing, consistently bringing home limits or coming close on every trip.

Amidst the inclement weather, Capt. Victor Bunting of the "Ocean Princess" reported a decent fishing experience for sea bass, flounder, and triggerfish. Remarkably, the boat continued to encounter a good number of quality sea bass, a sight rarely seen during this time of year. Moreover, several flounder measuring over 22 inches added to the excitement.

Noteworthy catches were not limited to seasoned anglers; young nine-year-old Allison Snyder and her mother Melissa, hailing from Shippensburg, PA enjoyed a delightful fishing adventure on Melissa's father's boat, the "Ocean Blue." During their outing, Melissa achieved a personal milestone, catching her first-ever limit of flounder in just over an hour, while Allison proudly contributed two keepers to the day's impressive catch. Additionally, the group caught numerous throwbacks.

Mike Day from Bel Air, MD displayed his fishing prowess at the African Queen on "Somethin's Fishy." Utilizing Gulp tipped with squid, he expertly caught a few nice flounder, the largest of which measured an impressive 22 inches.

Taking their angling endeavors to the next level, Bill Oass and nephew Tony Nicholas, both from Ocean Pines, embarked on a joint mission to boat a staggering 94-pound, 72-inch spinner shark at Great Gull Reef aboard "One More." The feat was accomplished using a strip of bonita hooked onto a 13/0 circle hook. Additionally, the crew hooked five brown sharks and a dusky shark, ensuring the safe release of all these magnificent creatures.

Further adventures ensued

www.coastalfisherman.net for Dylan, Greg, and David Lawrence, along with Todd Herman from Hanover, PA, who successfully secured their boat limit of 16 flounder. Meanwhile, Andy Dripps, Richard Hoeness, and Austin Smith from Baltimore, MD ventured to the second lump offshore and caught 16 spanish mackerel using Clark Spoons behind small planers. Although most bites were singular, they managed to achieve a couple of double headers. Not to be outdone, Garrett Elder from Monkton, MD faced sporty four-foot waves, refusing to let his broken arm dampen his spirits on his trip with Richard Holmes to the Second Lump. The pair reeled in 16 spanish mackerel, several ribbonfish, and released a dusky shark while on the troll.

Moving to the back bays, Capt. Garrett Hoffman of "Fluke U 2" guided Desi Hoffman from Deep Creek, MD to a remarkable catch. Fishing in the East Channel, Desi skillfully reeled in a remarkable 24.5-inch & 6¾ lb. flounder using live bunker as bait.

Young anglers Delaney, Kieran, and Abby McKelvey, aged 12 to 14, made their mark behind Assateague Island. Armed with a squid and minnow combination, they impressively caught keeper flounder ranging from 17 to 20 inches. However, Cindy Barnhart Gault encountered a tougher week of fishing in the same area, managing to land only one 21-inch keeper.

The "Miss Ocean City" bay headboat also made its contribution to the excitement, securing a few nice fluke throughout the week, including a doormat near the Coast Guard station. Additionally, Pete Jett, the boat's mate, ventured onto another ocean boat and skillfully caught a 24-inch flounder.

In the inlet, Jolly Smith reported a great morning of fishing from 10 a.m. until noon. Safely releasing all 12 flounder ranging from 12 to 16 inches.

Joey, Jonathan, and Michael Hager, accompanied by Ryan Neuffer, opted for a pontoon boat rented from Bahia Marina. Armed with live minnows

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www.coastalfisherman.net and squid, they fished the Thorofare on the incoming tide, successfully landing several nice flounder.

Transitioning to surf, clams, and crabs, Carl Littleton's report indicated a bountiful yield of about 10-12 keepers per pot on a three-day soak in the upper Assawoman Bay. The pots boasted an abundance of jumbo crabs, with very few females to contend with.

Meanwhile, clams off Assateague Island were in ample supply, nestled just below the sandy bottom, making them easily discoverable. While the grounds were becoming increasingly picked over, a wealth of big soup clams remained, though the smaller ones proved more elusive. To savor the delectable cherry stone clams, searching deeper in the sand proved more success.

As for surf fishing off Assateague Island, results were more unpredictable, with small kingfish and spot being the primary catch. Nonetheless, the late evening hours still offered a chance to reel in a few big red drum. The most successful approach involved employing cut bunker on a fish-finding rig, with the hour before high tide proving to be the most consistent for encountering larger predators. Notably, Forrest Bleinberger reported that flounder were still snapping off Assateague, with most measuring between 17 and 18 inches. His past week's catch fell victim to bucktail, tipped with a 4-inch Gulp swimming mullet and a 4-inch Gulp teaser. Furthermore, Bryson Brown from Virginia experienced fruitful surf fishing off 79th Street, capturing several nice kingfish using pompano rigs baited with sand fleas.

Despite the less-than-ideal weather, the week proved to be an exhilarating one for fishing enthusiasts, with several rare catches adding to the excitement and anticipation of future adventures.

Until next week...
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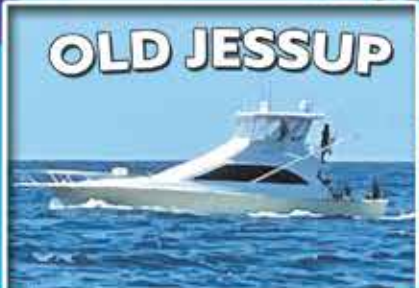
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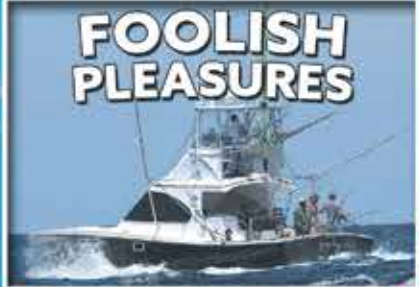
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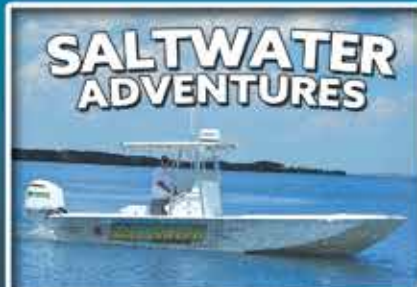
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August 17-19 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

The MidAtlantic

August 20-25 • Cape May, NJ & Ocean City, MD

SEPTEMBER

65th Annual OCMC Labor Day Tournament

September 1-3 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

22nd Annual Ocean City Fishing Center Spot Tournament

September 10 • OC Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

18th Annual Bahia Marina Flounder Pounder

September 10 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

Delaware Seashore Fall Surf Fishing Classic

September 23-24 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974

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



Desi Hoffman from Deep Creek Lake, MD got herself a pretty flounder from the East Channel. She was fishing on the "Fluke U 2" with Capt. Garrett Hoffman when she caught this 24½" flounder using live bunker. Proving the point that you need big bait to catch big ones like this 6¾ lb. fattie.

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Feels like this one should be in a centerfold spread! Ryan Stetser reported this massive smooth butterfly ray he caught off a Delaware beach. It was 78 inches from wingtip to wingtip and probably weighed over 200 lbs. He caught it on a 12 foot Penn Carnage rod with a Penn Spinfisher spinning reel loaded with 410 yards of 40# line and a 80# mono shock leader. It took 45 minutes to get it to the beach before it was successfully released.

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HEAVIEST

Fish of the Year

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	July 10 Crew "Ro Sham Bo" Washington Canyon 246.4 lbs.	July 1 Crew "Reel Passion" Washington Canyon 234 lbs.
 Cobia ★	July 8 Nick Smallwood Little Gull 39 lbs.		 Bluefin Tuna	May 29 Crew "Marli" Baltimore Canyon 216 lbs.	July 4 Bri Stevenson 12 miles of S. Jersey 88 lbs. 2 oz.
 Summer Flounder	June 21 Haleigh Davis Ocean Structure 7 lbs.	June 26 Mike Lewis Old Grounds 9.6 lbs.	 Longfin Tuna		
 Sea Bass	May 20 Wayne Small Ocean Structure 5 lbs.	May 22 Richard Krauss Ocean Structure 4.3 lbs.	 Yellowfin Tuna ★	July 23 Elmer Bass Poorman's Canyon 156 lbs.	July 13 Laszo Kacso Hot Dog 88.9 lbs.
 Sheepshead	June 24 Rob English Ocean City Jetty 14 lbs.	June 5 Paul Mathews Outer Wall 13.78 lbs.	 Dolphin	July 14 Tina Boykin Washington Canyon 32 lbs.	
 Striped Bass	June 1 Buddy Martin Rt. 50 Bridge 12 lbs.	May 22 Chic Stearrett Bethany Beach 18.7 lbs.	 Swordfish	June 16 Crew "Wrecker" Poor Man's Canyon 100 lbs.	
 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



Angler Elmer 'Junior' Bass aboard the "SEA HAG" with Capt. Robbie Valko and mate Drake Cropper set a new record for Heaviest Yellowfin of the season! The big allison was caught offshore the Poor Man's Canyon on a blue/white Ilander/ballyhoo combo. Pictured with Junior at Sunset Marina is boat owner Charlie Duerr.



Jonathan Harmon dealt with some seriously hot weather on his trip to the Outer Wall with Capt. Dave Houser on the "McSlammer". The good news is that the sheepshead didn't mind the heat. Jonathan landed this 10.49 lb. and 24" convict on a sand flea and qualified for Delaware Sportfishing Citation! Pictured at the Lewes Harbour Marina.

TOURNAMENT SERIES

2023 SCHEDULE

Check for Updates on our WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

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

UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!

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

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

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

8th ANNUAL OCMC vs OCLTC SHOOT-OUT

Iztapa, Guatemala

Fishing Days: (2 of 3) Nov. 30, Dec. 1&2

No Weigh-Ins

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OCMarlinClub.com 410.213.1613 info@ocmarlinclub.com

FISHING CHARTERS



It was that time of year when the boys from the South Bethany Yacht Club head down to Sunset Marina for their annual trip with Capt. Mike Burt on the charter boat "Pumpin' Hard". Darrell Renkie, Darrell Long, Jeff Marshall, Michael Marshall, Clay Kassabian and Mike Dwyer spent the day trolling in the north end of the Baltimore Canyon and got 4 yellowfin tuna in the box.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Dustin and Carmen from Germany took a half day trip with Capt. JD Eddy on the charter boat "Green Reaper". They fished some inshore reefs and wrecks, and caught several triggerfish and a keeper flounder.



Capt. Alex Beane on the charter boat "Boss Hogg" found a smooth weather day last Friday after the crazy mid week storms. He and mate Jack Hannum got these anglers onto 4 yellowfin tuna while trolling.

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FISHING CHARTERS



The crew on the headboat "Angler" are still having to deal with some sporty weather Capt. Chris Mizurak reports. The sea bass can be picky at times, but smalls with a few keepers keep coming up over the rails like this one that Bill Fischvein snagged.



It was not a good day to be a flounder when the charter boat "No Limit" headed offshore! They returned to the Indian River Marina with an 8 man limit of 32 fish, but actually had over 50 keepers as well as some undersized fish!

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Lighting struck twice for Cailyn Motta! Last year she took her first fishing trip ever on the headboat "Tortuga" and not only caught a keeper flounder, won the daily pool for heaviest! She came back this year and did it again with this 18" flounder she caught by the Rt. 50 Bridge on a shiner/squid combo. Pictured at the Bahia Marina.

FISHING CHARTERS



The anglers are showing off a little fishing sass with their keeper flounder. They were fishing on one of the morning 5 hour trips on the headboat "Judith M". Capts. Walt Hammond & Rick Shoaff report good variety of fish with a few quality keepers mixed in.

It was a picture perfect day on the flounder fishing charter boat the "Bay Bee". This family scored a nice sized keeper flounder on their 4 our trip. Pictured on the "Bay Bee" at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Chris Adams of the headboat "Judy V" reported excellent flounder and sea bass fishing throughout the week. He encountered less-than-optimal drift conditions at times but still managed to haul in quality fish.



The taxman has been intense this year as this crew learned. They were out with Capt. Chris Watkowski on the charter boat "Spring Mix II" to celebrate Bobby Connor's 60th birthday and film an episode of Fish in OC with Scott Lenox. Mel and Scott took turns on the reel to get this bigeye tuna to the boat in the Washington Canyon and despite a big chunk missing it still weighed 193 lbs.

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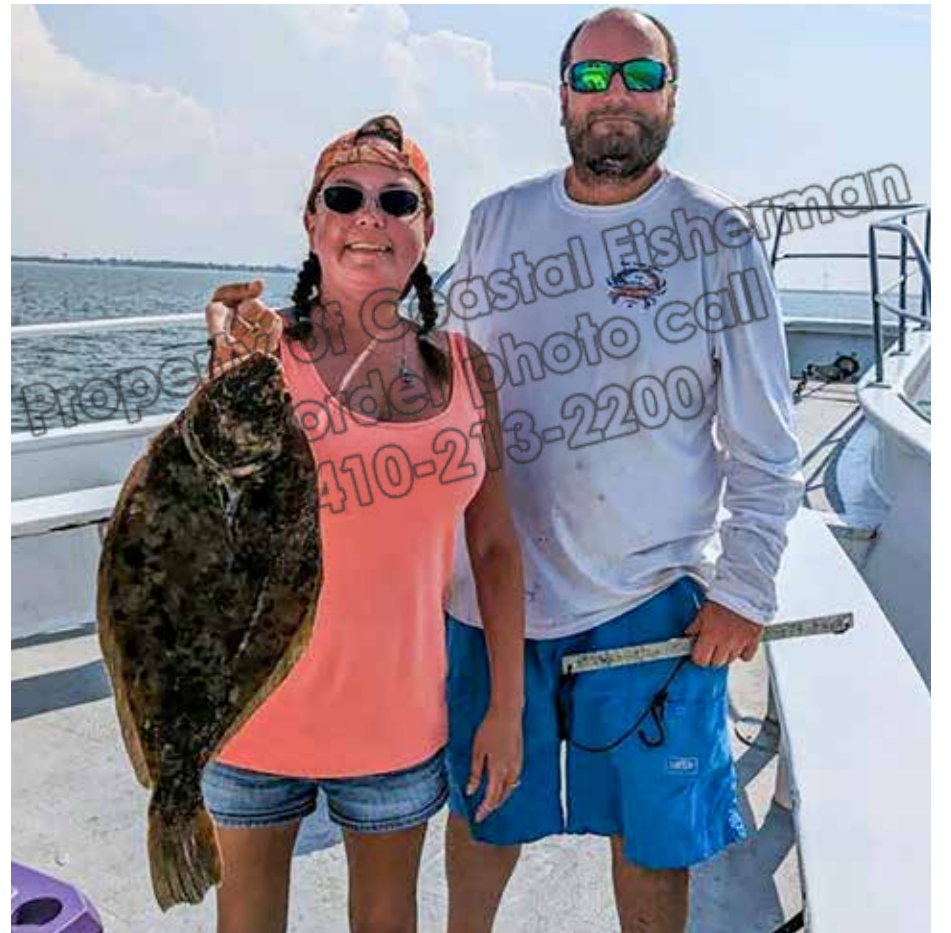
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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Dave Collins on the charter boat "Capt. Ike II" was one of the many who had to deal with a wild lighting storm and pouring rain last Thursday. He still managed however to get his anglers onto 4 yellowfin tuna. Pictured at the Indian River Marina.



Capt. Brin Parsons on the headboat "Thelma Dale IV" based in Lewes, DE reported great drifts before and after the storms last week, but anglers still had to work to hook keepers. Decent amount of flounder and sea bass hit the coolers, however there were a lot of throwbacks to deal with.

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Bill Oass and his nephew Tony Nicholas, both of Ocean Pines, MD teamed up to boat this spinner shark on the "One More". They hooked the 70" shark at the Great Gull Reef using a strip of bonita on a 13/0 circle hook. They also released 5 brown sharks and a dusky. Pictured at the Bahia Marina.



Pat Zurgable, Brent Sanders and Doug Trei loaded up on bait and gear from Fenwick Bait & Tackle for this trip to some inshore reefs and wrecks. They caught their 3 man limit of flounder as well as some sea bass.

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Mark Meehan with Mark Smith and their crew from Perry County, PA put a hurt on some yellowfin tuna. They were trolling with Capt. Mark Malamphy on the charter boat "Finatic" around the 19 fathom lump when these 5 yellows hit on their ballyhoo and spreader bars. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

2023 FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles

 <p>BLUE MARLIN 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>YELLOWFIN TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day</p>	 <p>BIGEYE TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>GOLDEN TILEFISH No minimum • 8 per person/day</p>
 <p>WHITE MARLIN 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p> <p>NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit</p>	 <p>BLUEFIN TUNA 27" to <47" curved fork length 2 per vessel/day or trip 47" to <73" curved fork length 1 per vessel/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 3 per Charter/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 6 per Headboat/day or trip 47" to <73" curved fork length 2 per Headboat/day or trip</p>	 <p>SWORDFISH 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter) 1 per person / 15 per Headboat</p>	 <p>BLUELINE TILEFISH 5/1 - 10/31 3 per person (Recreational) 5 per person Uninspected (Charter) 7 per person Inspected (Charter)</p>
 <p>DOLPHIN No minimum Length Boat Limit 54 Charter Limit Daily 10 per angler</p>	<p>SAILFISH Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>WAHOO No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day</p>	

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.

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

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Looking at my seawater temperature gauge I saw that it was reading 81.1 degrees. "Whoa!" I thought. "That seems awfully warm for this time of the season". Sure, it was late morning on a hot, calm day and we were only about 5-miles offshore, but temps in the 80's are more August stuff and we were only a week into July!

So to confirm my thoughts I pulled out my 2022 log book and saw that during the same week a year ago we were recording temperatures only around 72-74 degrees. I'm guessing that a lot of anglers would likely conclude that a temperature variation of 9 degrees would have created quite a difference in the fishing last year vs last week, and maybe they'd be right - maybe. But before we get into those differences perhaps we should consider some of what goes on above and below the waves that affect water temperatures and the fish we hope to catch.

First we have to remember that our temperature gauges most of us have on our boats pretty much only read the surface layer of the water, which can be dramatically different from the temperature just a few feet down and where the fish we're trying to catch actually reside.

On a hot calm day the sun will warm the surface making an even greater difference between what's up top and what's down below. On a choppy day the surface water will mix a bit with what's underneath it and our readings will be a little more true to form for the upper levels of the water column. But unless they're a diver, and swim down or have a temperature probe they can drop many feet below the surface, few know what it's really like at any given time 10 or more feet below their boat. I've done both and can attest that there can be a dramatic difference in the temperature our boats are floating in and that where we have our baited hooks. But that's not to suggest that surface temperatures aren't important in directing us to where the fish might be, they certainly are. It's just that we have to keep what they're telling us in proper perspective and use that "best available science" as a guide where the fish might or might not be, not a rule.

Water temperatures are affected by many factors including west wind turnover, Gulf Stream, wind speed and direction, upwellings (from shoals), rain (inshore), currents, tides and of course, the air temperatures.

West wind turnover is when a prolonged wind from a westerly direction pushes the ocean's warm surface layer to the east and away from the beach. As the warm water moves offshore it is replaced right at the beach (the surfline) with the cooler water that has been below it. As long as the wind remains out of the west, the cooler water continues to be pushed farther and farther offshore until the entire area off our coast is nothing but cold water with temperatures that might drop from the upper 70's to the lower 60's in a very short amount of time. This phenomenon is obvious not only to boaters with temperature gauges but also to anyone inclined to take a swim from the beach and find that even though it's the hottest day of the summer the ocean suddenly feels like ice! The cool water will also cool the air over the ocean enough that boaters might find themselves donning sweatshirts in the middle of a heatwave.

So what does all this mean to the fisherman? First we have to remember that what we're seeing is not necessarily the best representation of what we have beneath our hulls, at least when it comes to warm water. The temperature our gauges tell

us is always going to be a little, or sometimes a lot, higher than the water down deep because warm water rises and cold water sinks. And since most of the fish anglers are typically trying to catch might spend more time down below the warm surface layer than right at it, it can be tough sometimes to accurately conclude that you're fishing in the best temperature of water for a certain species even if you know what temperature range that type of fish prefers. However, since sea surface temperature gauges are typically all we've got to go by, they're still the best tool we have to help figure out if we're at least fishing close to the right ballpark.

Something else to consider about water temperatures and how they affect the fact that even if temps are just right for XYZ fish, they might be way out of line for whatever those fish want to feed on. If the little critters leave or avoid the area because it's too hot or cold then the larger predators might just move out with them. I don't know if it's a water temperature thing or not but did you notice that the last couple years we haven't had the huge schools of bunker (menhaden) off our coast? Apparently they've been showing way up north in places they've never been before and it hasn't exactly been a banner couple of years for the cobia, sharks, stripers, bluefish and so many other fish known to feed on the important bait fish. Have

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they traveled north following the bunker? Is all the temperature related?

One great advantage to offshore anglers is the ability to use their gauges to see temperature differences or "breaks" when trying to catch pelagic species such as tuna and billfish as these fish will often either hang out along the break or just stay primarily on the warm or cold side of it. While these breaks can be 5-10 degrees different, 2-3 degrees is more common and enough to show that the water is, for some reason, different. Maybe it's the west edge of the Gulf Stream, or an eddy that spun off of it. Maybe the difference is from some current that pushed into the area, or possibly from an upwelling of water produced when a current flows across an underwater hump, or the edge of the Continental Shelf, or maybe it's from water flowing out of an inlet. Whatever the reason for being, temperature breaks can very often produce fish because they can effectively create a wall that predator fish or the bait they want to feed on aren't inclined to

cross.

So anyway, how important is that seawater temperature gauge on a fishing boat? Not at all, maybe a little, possibly a lot. It all depends upon where, when, and what you're pursuing. Overall they're a great tool for any fishermen to have, and since just about every depth finder these days has a temperature gauge built into it, there's almost no excuse not to have one on your boat. The coastal waters are a dynamic and complicated ecosystem, and knowing the surface seawater temperature in any given place won't always tell you where you will or will not find fish, but add that information to whatever else you might know about what's going on under and around your hull, and you might just be able to figure it out.

Getting back to a couple weeks ago when we encountered 81 degree water compared to the 74 we had exactly one year earlier - my log showed the fishing activity was almost identical. Go figure! §

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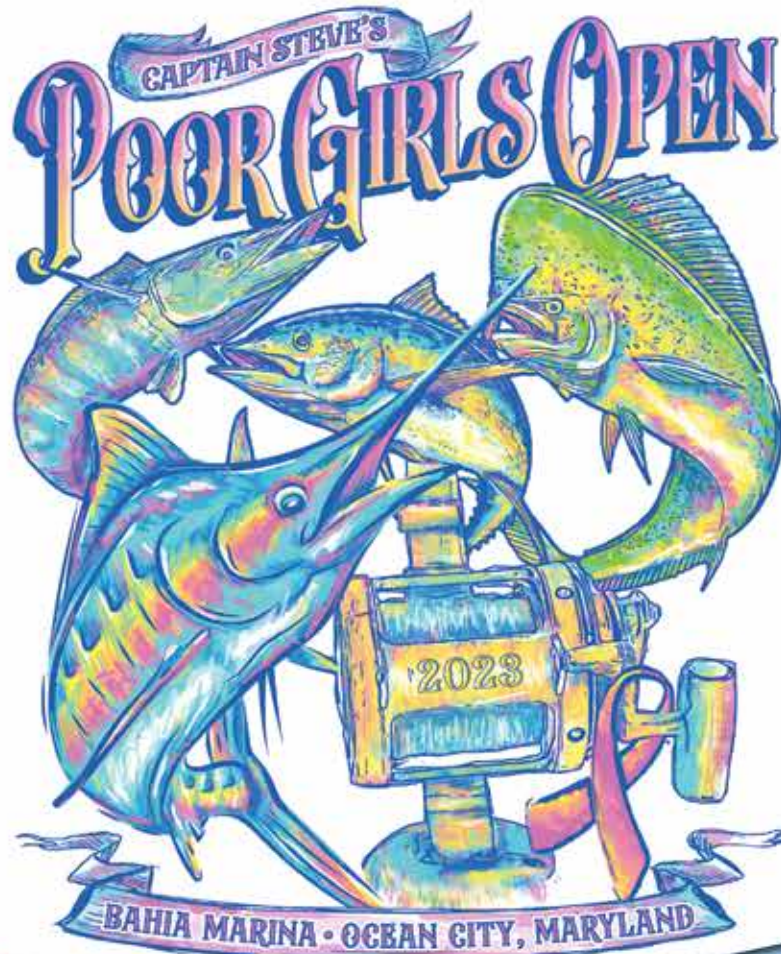
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Ocean City neighbors Mike Quade and Carl Augustine had a great day in the Thorofare catching 7 keeper flounder. They were fishing on the "Barbar Ann" using live minnows with the flounder ranging from 17" to 20".

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DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Despite the challenging weather in Delaware last week, marked by thunderstorms and intense heat, the fishing scene remained undeterred and lively! Flounder, in particular, have been abundant, and anglers have been treated to some other remarkable catches as well.

Nearshore Structure & Reefs

Jeff McCoy, hailing from Birdsboro, PA had a memorable experience at the Fenwick Shoals. He was anchored and originally targeting sharks with a mackerel filet, when he unexpectedly hooked and brought aboard a massive king mackerel. This magnificent fish measured an impressive 56 inches in length with a girth of 24 inches, weighing in at 52.7 pounds. Incredibly, this catch is now pending as a new state record beating the last one of 48 lbs. 9 ozs. set in 1992!

Capt. Richard Harpel, aboard the "Flip N Fins," had a successful outing at the Fenwick Shoals as well, catching several spadefish and sea bass. Employing free-lined clams with a 15-foot, 12lb leader and a red 1/0 hook while anchored over a wreck, the team managed to make some exceptional catches.

Additionally, Eric and his crew had a fruitful day, live lining stripers at the mouth of the Delaware Bay.

Capt. Keith Beebe of "Surface Tension" reported exceptional flounder fishing, boasting a five-man limit on one outing and a four-man limit on another, with Gigi Law and her crew capturing the boat's first citation of the year with a 7.76 lb. flattie. All the flounder were expertly caught over ocean structures using Gulp bait, and their catches were weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

Lewes Harbour Marina also celebrated successful fishing trips for various groups, including Bob Wham, David Wham, Bob Wooster, Pat D'Amico, and Kevin Burns on the "Chasin Tail" with Capt. Mike Faust, who returned with a mix of sea bass and flounder. Additionally, Gerry Meklaus, accompanied by his son and grandkids, enjoyed a half-day trip with a plethora of hook-ups, resulting in the capture of five sea bass and three flounder.

Capt. Chris Adams of the "Judy V" reported excellent flounder and sea bass fishing throughout the week. Both the "Judy V" and

"Capt. Bob II" encountered less-than-optimal drift conditions at times but still managed to haul in quality fish in significant numbers. The boats proudly displayed several large flatties and sizable sea bass, providing anglers with a delightful bonus.

Rich Morgan embarked on a successful expedition to the DE/NJ Reef from Indian River, returning with limits of flounder and numerous nice sea bass.

On the "Katydid," Ernie Stone was fortunate to reel in a 7 pound flounder, which was duly weighed in at Lewes Harbour Marina.

Jim Hammell had an exceptional day offshore from Indian River Marina, bringing back a limit of flatfish, many of which exceeded 20 inches.

Fishing on the "Inconclusive," David Price, Chris Beard, and Anita Becklin-Tyndall had a remarkable day nearshore, returning with a variety of dinner fare, a testament to their angling expertise.

Back Bay & Inlet

The 6th Annual Paradise Bay Flounder Tournament took place last weekend, with the first day graced by beautiful weather,

attracting a multitude of anglers competing for the best positions in Indian River Bay. The second day, however, brought storms and strong winds, prompting many anglers to remain at the docks for safety. Despite the challenging conditions, the final results unveiled Luke Horney as the champion, with a massive bay flounder measuring 24 1/8" and weighing 5.9 pounds. John Coffey was a close contender with a 23 7/8 inch, 5.9-pound fish, and both anglers were part of the "Yahoos Fishing" team. Matthew Schuler secured third place with a 24.5-inch, 5.7-pound flounder, while Steven Matarese Jr. captured fourth place with a 24-inch, 5.5-pound flounder. Paul Caras clinched fifth place with a flounder measuring 23 1/4" and weighing 5.5 pounds. Daryl Merg took sixth place, and Robert Carpovich, the first out-of-state angler, secured seventh place. Remarkably, local Delaware anglers dominated the top six spots, underscoring their fishing prowess. Congratulations to all participants and winners for contributing to yet another fantastic tournament.

As a reminder, the upcoming Flounder Pounder Open is scheduled for August 16-20, with registration opening on July 31st. It is the world's richest flounder tournament with a \$100,000 prize for 1st Place.

The "Capt.'s Lady" enjoyed

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a fruitful week of charters, managing to secure croakers, kingfish and flounder. Ron Vanaman achieved an impressive feat, catching two nice flounders weighing in at 4 lb., 2 oz., and 4 lb., 11 oz. Consequently, Ron triumphed in the flounder derby taking both first and second place. The crew also added a 3 lb., 11 oz. flounder to their impressive haul.

Zack Hildreth had an eventful day on the Delaware Bay with his first two drops resulting in two 7.5 pound fish. However, Bruce Hildreth surpassed everyone by landing a magnificent 10.5 pound sheepshead, and the crew caught several other nice flounders over 18 inches—a truly exceptional day in the bay!

Joy Mango, celebrating daughter Brie Custis's birthday, had a delightful time on the bay, capturing some truly nice flatfish for a celebratory birthday dinner.

Kayaking in the Lewes Canal, Tracy Roles successfully reeled in a remarkable 22.5

inch flounder weighing over 3 pounds.

Surf Fishing

Lowell Salzman, Jr., accompanied by Kellie Morris, had an enjoyable time reeling in a ton of spot, snappers, and a few flounder from the northside surf. The fish fell for mullet rigs, adding to their memorable fishing experience.

Tom Scibek skillfully utilized floating jig heads in sizes 3/0 and 4/0, leading to successful outings every day. The floating jig heads proved effective in keeping the bait within the strike zone, resulting in some nice fluke catches.

In a thrilling occurrence, David Moore encountered a redfish blitz for two consecutive nights, successfully capturing four trophies. Although some fish managed to escape the hook, the abundance and size of the redfish population in local waters have been a delightful surprise this year.

Until next week...
Tight Lines and Fins Up!



There is a new pending state record in Delaware for the Heaviest king mackerel ever caught! Angler Jeff McCoy of Birdsboro, PA was anchored at the Fenwick Shoals shark fishing with mackerel fillets when this big mack hooked up. Once back to Hook'em and Cook'em at the Indian River Marina it measured 56" long with a girth of 26" and weighed 52.7 lbs. Pictured with Jeff are Lynda Boas, Dennis Boas, Jen McCoy and Jeff Boas.

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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



Spanish Garlic Shrimp

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. large shrimp peeled and deveined
- Kosher salt
- ½ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 10 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes (start with less if you don't want it too spicy)
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 2 tablespoons dry sherry or dry white wine
- Juice of ½ lemon
- ½ cup chopped fresh parsley

Directions:

Pat the shrimp dry and season with kosher salt. Set aside for now.

Heat the extra virgin olive oil over medium heat until



shimmering but not smoking. Add the garlic and red pepper flakes. Cook over medium heat up to 60 seconds or until the garlic gains some color (be careful not to burn it).

Add the shrimp and paprika. Cook briefly, tossing regularly, and watching that the flesh turns opaque with a pearly pink color (about 3 minutes or

so. It will depend on the size of the shrimp). Remove the pan from the heat.

Stir in sherry, lemon juice and parsley.

Transfer the shrimp and sauce to a serving bowl. Serve with your favorite crusty bread.

Notes:

This recipe will serve 4 to 6 people as a tapas or appetizer with a side of crusty bread to dip in the sauce.

Cook's tip for the sauce. Use quality extra virgin olive oil as the flavor is important to the sauce. Do not cook the oil too much and be careful not to burn the garlic or it will make the sauce bitter.

Cook's tip for the shrimp. Even the largest of shrimp will cook fast, so watch the shrimp carefully. The flesh should turn opaque and pearly pink in color. And remember, even when you take the pan off the heat, the warm sauce will continue to cook the shrimp.

Baked Fish Tacos with Peach & Jalapeño Salsa

Ingredients:

For the fish:

- 1.5 tablespoons butter, melted
- Juice of 1 lime
- 2 garlic cloves, finely grated
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 (5-6 ounces each) mahi fillets or other white fish, thawed

For the peach and jalapeno salsa:

- 1 ear of corn, husked
- 2 medium peaches, peeled, pitted, and diced small
- 1 small jalapeño, minced
- 1/4 cup minced red onion
- Juice of one large lime
- 1/8 teaspoon kosher salt

To serve:

- 4 corn or flour tortillas
- Simple Mexican crema*
- Lime wedges

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 400°F

Marinate the fish:

In a small bowl, combine the melted butter, lime juice, garlic, paprika, salt and cayenne pepper. Pat the mahi fillets dry and place the fish in a small rectangular baking dish. Pour the marinade over the fish. Place an air-tight lid or aluminum foil on the baking dish and let the fish marinate in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.



Char the corn:

Meanwhile, preheat a heavy skillet over medium-high heat. While the skillet is preheating, hold the corn by the stem and place it upright on a cutting board. Using a sharp knife, starting from the top, and getting as close to the cob as possible, cut the kernels off of the cob. Rotate the cob clockwise on the cutting board as you cut strips of corn off of the cob from a top to bottom motion. Add the corn to the preheated skillet and saute, stirring occasionally, until the kernels are lightly charred, about 5 minutes. Once the corn is charred, remove the skillet from the heat and place the corn in a medium bowl to cool. Wipe the skillet out to warm tortillas in Step 6.

Peach & Jalapeno Salsa:

Add the peaches, jalapeños, red onion, lime juice and kosher salt to the bowl containing the corn. Toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use.

Bake the fish:

Uncover the baking dish and place it in the oven. Bake the fish until it is firm to the



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www.coastalfisherman.net touch and flakes easily, about 15 minutes. Once the fish is cooked, flake the fish with a fork in the baking dish.

Assemble the tacos:

Warm tortillas in the skillet used for the corn over medium-high heat. Top each tortilla with fish, salsa and a simple mexican crema, if desired. Serve with extra lime wedges if you like.

Notes:

For simple Mexican crema:

Combine 2 Tbs. mayonnaise, 2 Tbs. sour cream or yogurt, zest of 1 lime, and 1 finely grated garlic clove in a small dish. Dollop on top of fish tacos.

Black Sea Bass Piccata over Lemon Rice

Ingredients:

Lemon Rice:

- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 onion, chopped
- ½ lemon
- 1 ½ cups uncooked white rice
- 1 ½ teaspoon salt

- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 1 cup water
- 1/3 cup fresh Italian parsley, chopped
- Fish:**
- 4 tablespoons butter
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- 2 eggs
- ¾ cup panko breadcrumbs
- ¾ cup Italian breadcrumbs
- 2 lbs. black sea bass fillets, skinned

Piccata Sauce:

- 1 cup chicken stock
- 1/3 cup fresh squeezed lemon juice
- 1/3 cup dry white wine
- 3 teaspoons corn starch
- 1/3 cup water
- 1/4 cup capers
- 4 tablespoons cold butter, cut into pats

Directions:

To make the rice, melt the butter in a large non-stick



sauce pan. Add the onion and the lemon, squeezing all of the juice out and leaving the rind (seeds removed) in the pot during cooking. Cook for 5 minutes until the onion begins to brown and add the rice and cook 2 minutes more stirring frequently. Add the salt, pepper, stock, and water to the pan and bring to a boil.

Reduce the heat to low, cover and let simmer until all of the liquid is absorbed, about 10 minutes. Remove the lemon rind from the rice. Stir parsley in just before serving.

To make the fish, melt the butter and add oil in a large frying pan. Beat the eggs in a small bowl and combine the panko and Italian breadcrumbs

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in another shallow dish. Dip the fillets in egg and then press into the breadcrumb mixture. Cook in the butter until golden brown, about 2-3 minutes per side until a fork slides in and out of the center of the fillets easily. Remove the fillets to a baking sheet and keep warm in a 325° oven.

In the same pan add the chicken stock, lemon juice and white wine, stirring to scrape up an brown bits. Let boil over medium high heat until reduced by half, about 5-7 minutes. Whisk the corn starch into water and add to the pan, stirring to let sauce thicken, about 1 minute. Turn off the heat, add the capers, and whisk the cold butter into the sauce until melted and the sauce is silky.

Serve the fish over the rice and top with sauce. Garnish with lemon slices and chopped parsley.

Note: This dish can also be made with chicken breast. Just pound boneless breast to

1/2" thickness and follow the instructions above.

Shrimp Stuffed Flounder

Ingredients:

Stuffing:

- 6 tablespoons butter, cubed
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup finely chopped celery
- 1/4 cup finely chopped green pepper
- 1 pound uncooked shrimp, peeled, deveined & chopped
- 1/4 cup beef broth
- 1 teaspoon diced pimientos, drained
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon dill weed
- 1/2 teaspoon minced chives
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 1/2 cups soft bread crumbs

Fish:

- 6 flounder fillets (3 oz. each)
- 5 tablespoons butter, melted



- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375°. In a large skillet, melt butter. Add onion, celery and green pepper; saute until tender. Add shrimp; cook and stir until shrimp turn pink. Add broth, pimientos, Worcestershire sauce, dill, chives, salt and cayenne; heat through. Remove from heat; stir in bread crumbs.

Spoon about 1/2 cup stuffing onto each fillet; roll up. Place seam side down in a greased 13x9-in. baking dish. Drizzle with butter and lemon juice. Sprinkle with seasonings. Bake uncovered, 20-25 minutes or until fish flakes easily with a fork.

King Mackerel Islamorada Style

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups Italian breadcrumbs
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 lb. mackerel (about 3 fillets), pin bones removed
- 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 garlic cloves, smashed and diced
- 1 shallot, thinly sliced
- 1/4 teaspoon dried Italian herb mix
- 1/4 cup sliced mushrooms

- 1 whole scallion, thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons white wine
- 1 lime, halved
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 slices provolone

Directions:

Preheat the broiler.

Place the breadcrumbs and mayonnaise in separate shallow dishes. Coat the fish fillets first in the mayonnaise and then in the breadcrumbs, shaking off any excess. Heat 2 tablespoons of the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat until hot. Place the fillets skin-side up in the pan and cook until golden brown, about 3 minutes per side, and then transfer to a broiler-safe plate.

Drain the oil and wipe out the skillet with a paper towel. Replace the pan and heat the remaining oil over medium-high heat until hot. Cook the garlic and shallots, stirring



frequently, 1 to 2 minutes. Stir in the dried herbs, mushrooms and scallions and cook 1 minute. Pour in the wine and half of the lime juice, season with salt and pepper and cook, stirring frequently, about 1 minute more. Melt in the butter until incorporated, and then remove the skillet from the heat.

Pour the mushroom mixture over the fish and top with the cheese. Place under the broiler until the cheese is melted, browned and bubbly, 3 to 5 minutes. Transfer to a serving plate and serve immediately, squeezing the remaining lime juice over the fish, if desired. §



Forest Bleinberger and Mariah Sterrett were at it again on Assateague Island. They worked a cast and retrieve strategy with a top/bottom rig with bucktails. The bottom had a 4" Gulp mullet and the top a 4" Gulp shrimp. They got one 17" keeper flounder and as well as several shorts on the incoming tide.

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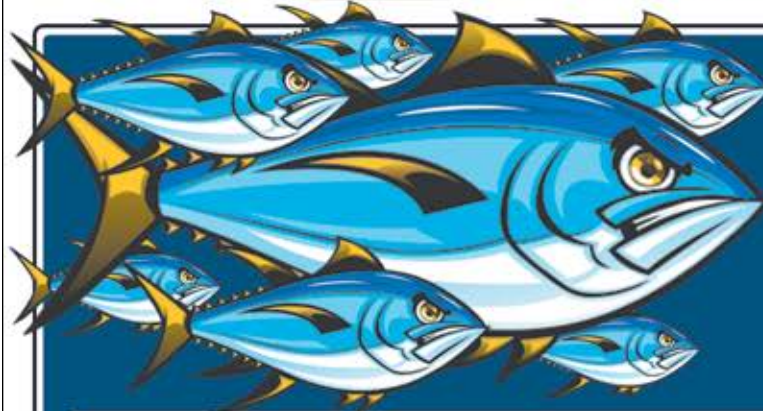
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Master angler Shaun Flaherty had a couple good nights on the Rt. 50 Bridge last week. He was trying out a new Roy Rig model that was heavier than the original at an ounce and a half. Both were over the very narrow 28"-31" slot and released.



Joseph Ortiz and James Downey fished in the Old Grounds and cleaned up some flounder. They caught these 6 keepers up to 6 lbs. using Gulp Swimming Mulletts. Pictured at Rick's Bait & Tackle.

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. JULY 26	High 02:04 am High 02:57 pm	Low 08:09 am Low 09:06 pm
THUR. JULY 27	High 02:58 am High 03:56 pm	Low 08:58 am Low 10:09 pm
FRI. JULY 28	High 03:55 am High 04:56 pm	Low 09:53 am Low 11:14 pm
SAT. JULY 29	High 04:54 am High 05:55 pm	Low 10:52 am Low -----
SUN. JULY 30	High 05:52 am High 06:53 pm	Low 12:15 am Low 11:53 pm
MON. JULY 31	High 06:51 am High 07:50 pm	Low 01:10 am Low 12:53 pm
TUE. AUGUST 1 Full Moon	High 07:51 am High 08:46 pm	Low 02:01 am Low 01:49 pm
WED. AUGUST 2	High 08:51 am High 09:38 pm	Low 02:50 am Low 02:44 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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Anglers Mike Moss, Joseph Wallace, Sam Wolfe, Ryan Scopin, Taylor Reneker and Brad Emory teamed up to catch 7 yellowfin tuna up to 54 lbs. while chunking in the Massey's Canyon on the "Capt Ike II" out of Indian River Marina with Capt. Dave Collins and mate Alex Neiss.



The Briggs sisters had a productive day at the Indian River Inlet. 16 year old Carlina boated a 17½" keeper flounder and 12 year old Dalaina almost matched her with a 17" flatfish. Both were caught on a squid rig with Gulp Swimming Mulletts.





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Ship to Shore

STEVE'S MARINE SERVICE
by Steve Katz



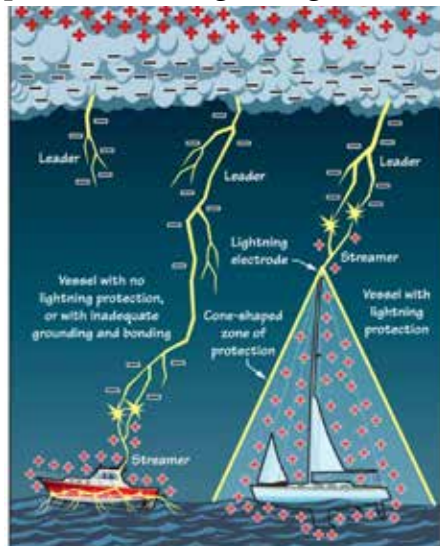
Lightning

Chasing fish across the seas usually means your boat is docked in a warm weather climate with warm water temperatures. This good fishing climate is often the same weather that can create thunderstorms and associated lightning.

Traditionally it was the sailboat owners who were the most concerned about lightning strikes, and rightfully so, they do have a very tall mast, often made of metal or even conductive carbon fiber. Often you would see sportfish captains hoping there was a taller boat (possibly even a sailboat) near them in the marina that would be more attractive to lightning than their vessel. Many captains and owners quickly learned that is not just the tall boats that can be struck directly or indirectly by lightning, almost any vessel around a lightning strike can be affected. The NOAA weather service indicates that a typical lightning flash is about 300 million Volts and about 30,000 Amps. This electricity can travel through almost anything including air and water.

While we cannot control mother

nature, we can prepare for a possible lightning event. There are companies that sell lightning prevention systems that could reduce vessel damage and personal injury by providing a path for the lightning or even



detering it to begin with. Some of these systems are engineered and tested systems based on industry guidelines, and some seem to be an attempt to push an unproven product.

What is a Lightning Protection System?

ABYC - The American Boat and Yacht Council offers Lightning Protection guidance as a technical report (TE-4) though it is not part of the standards that most boat builders adhere to when designing

and building new boats. The National Fire Protection Association publishes Standard 780, "installation of Lightning Protection Systems" that is often also used as a guide to design lightning protection for watercraft. Most marine lightning protection system designs are based on engineering principles used in commercial and residential structures. This generally consists of an attractive metal at the highest point of the boat and wiring to direct the lightning charge downward through the vessel's outer edges into the water. Installing a lightning protection system on a boat after it is built can be a time-consuming, labor-intensive task. When building a new boat, designing the lightning protection system alongside the other electrical and bonding system becomes an incremental cost during the construction process.

The basic components of a traditional lightning protection system include an air terminal at the highest point of the boat, connected to a primary conductor wire of #4 AWG or larger and secondary conductors #6 AWG or larger.

These conductors should be vertical and straight as they head down to the water from the air terminal. Large metal objects such as tanks, engines, electric winches, etc., within six feet of any lightning conductor should be connected to the lightning protection system by means of a secondary lightning conductor. Due to electromagnetic induction, these lightning conductors should not be run alongside of other electrical wires since high frequency electricity (from lightning or other sources) can transfer from wire to wire without a physical connection.

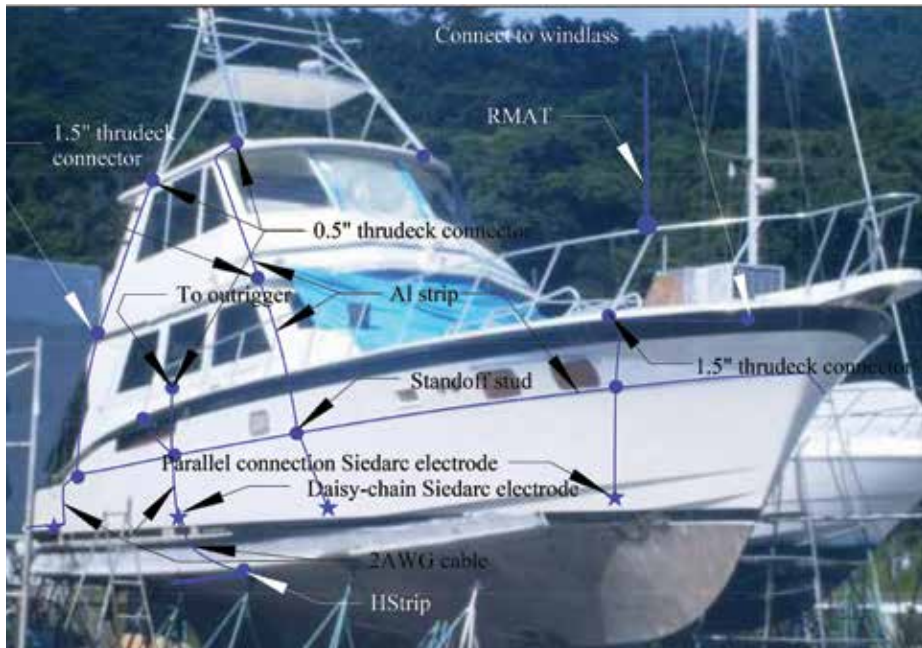
When lightning enters a boat and does not have an easy direct path to the water, a side flash often occurs where the electricity travels on multiple paths through the boat on its way to the water. These side flashes are often the most destructive element of a lightning strike since they can travel along most any metallic object, mainly the boats wiring, engines, tanks, underwater gear etc. The side flashes bounce around the boat using the grounding and bonding system until the electricity exits into the water. Unfortunately, there are a lot of expensive items along the path from topside to bottom!

Direct or Indirect

Lightning does not need to

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make a direct strike on your boat to cause damage. A side flash, ground current, conduction, and streamers are an all components of indirect lightning that can cause damage to your boat. Boats in a marina share a common ground wire on the marina side of the shore power wiring effectively interconnecting the boats and can become a conduit for lightning related events. Additionally, the sensitive transducers and other devices

connected to the underwater bonding system can also act as a path for the nearby lightning, including propellers and rudders.

What can I do to help decrease the damage of a lightning strike?

While there are many products designed to manage and direct a lightning strike by routing the electricity away from sensitive components, there are a few marine products

that are designed to deter lightning from hitting your boat. Dinnteco and CMCE both offer lightning suppression and prevention systems for use on boats. Dinnteco defines the operation of their product "as a passive collector system of electrostatic currents that takes them to ground. The operating principle is based on balancing or compensate the variable electric field on the environment, avoiding the upward leader on the DDCE and on to the protected structure."

Certainly, a lightning protection system can help mitigate damage in the event of a strike. In a perfect world, you could electrically disconnect all the boat's vital electronics, navigation, entertainment, operational and propulsion hardware, though that is often impractical.

What to look for after a direct or indirect lightning event

Safety first! Check and test for electrical safety before boarding

a boat after an event. Turn off the shore power and test the boat to be sure a compromised electrical system has not energized the grounding or bonding system which could cause a personal safety concern. A boat's fiberglass or wood structure can be damaged, especially at or below the water line. Check for water leaks as soon as practical. Once the boat is deemed electrical and structurally safe by a professional, detective work can begin. After a lightning event, each piece of electrical and electronic gear needs to be checked for proper operation. Sounds simple though it is often difficult to detect a malfunctioning system. Many systems seem to operate initially but degrade or fail in the days or months following a lightning event.

Lightning is here to stay and unfortunately, we cannot prevent it, but we prepare for a situation of a direct or indirect strike using the above preventative measures. §

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Kayak angler Tracy Roles has an awesome day fishing in the Lewes Canal. She reeled in this fat flounder that measured 22.5" and was at least 3 lbs.



Trent and Rob Brenneman from PA gave us a call to share the good fishing they had over a couple days at the 4th St. bulkhead in Ocean City. The first day saw 4 bites with 3 keeper flounder and the second had 2 bites and this one 24½" citation sized keeper Rob reeled in. All caught on jigheads with minnows.

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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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	July 4 Gabriella Kendus Faithful Steward	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



Our local *snake handler* Dick Wetzel was at it again. This time in the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. He caught 15 invasive snakeheads from 25" to 32" in about 2 hours using 3½" white swim baits.



You might think this is a groovy pic from the 70's, but it is actually Stephanie Pilichowski from Dewey Beach channeling her inner vibe! She fished an ocean structure last week and caught this 25" and 5 lb. 15 oz. flounder that hit on a Gulp Swimming Mullet. Pictured at Old Inlet Bait & Tackle.

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These girls tore it up fishing the bay behind Assateague Island! Delaney, Kieran and Abby from Townsend, DE fished the lower bays with Kim and Dave McKelvey. The managed 3 keeper flounder between 17" and 20" using a squid and minnow combo.

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FACTS ABOUT FLOUNDER

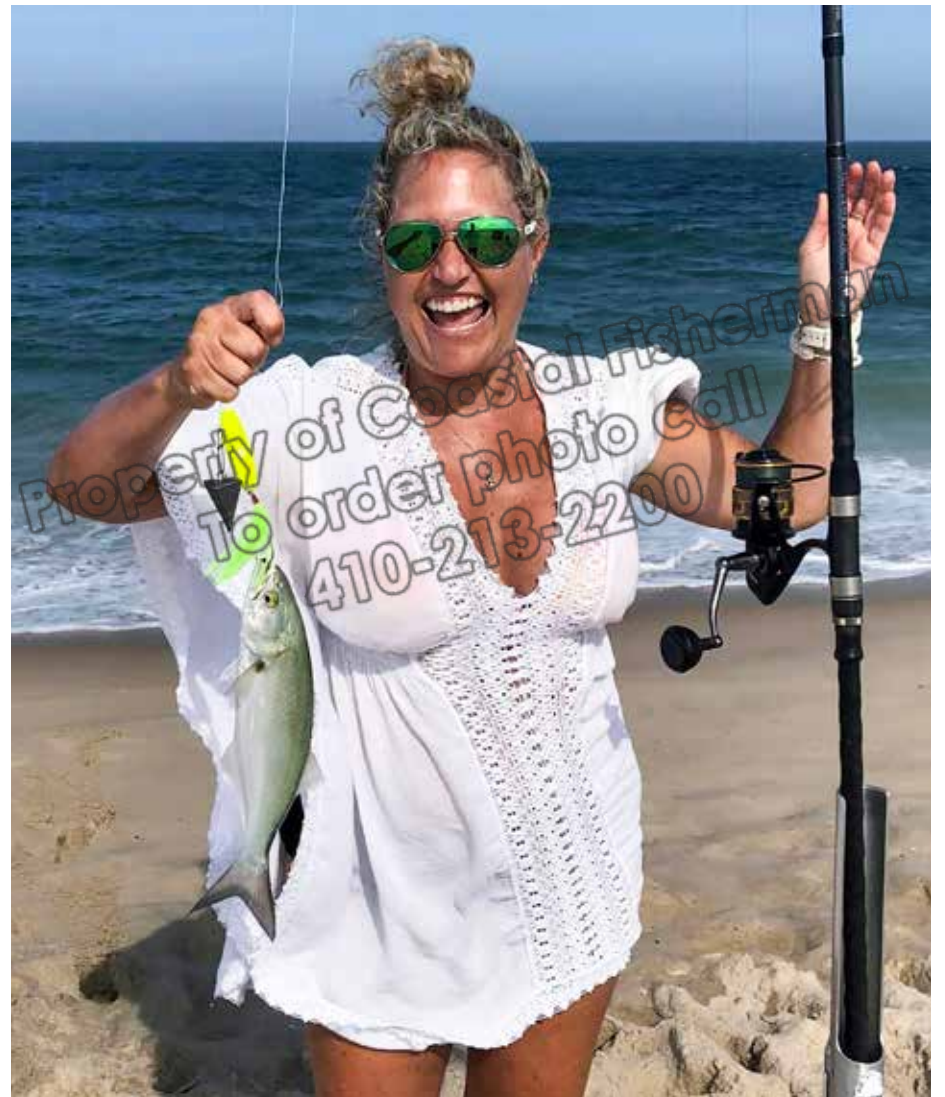
- The IGFA world record summer flounder weighed 22 lbs. 7 oz. and was caught in Montauk, NY in 1975.
- The IGFA world record winter flounder weighed 7 lbs. and was caught in Fire Island, NY in 1986.
- Color of the body depends on the habitat. Flounder are usually brown colored with various red, orange, green and blue markings on the body. They can change the color of their body to blend in with the colors of the environment in 2 to 8 seconds.
- The color of the body also indicates the emotional state of the flounder. Threatened animals are usually pale-colored.
- Flounder have bulging eyes on two short stalks that are located on one side of the head. Their eyes can move independently from each other. Based on the position of the eyes, flounder can be divided into two basic categories: right eye and left eye flounder.
- Flounder are a carnivore (meateater). Its diet is based on fish, shrimp and crabs.
- Flounder are ambush predators. It lays motionless and waits for potential prey to appear and grabs it in a blink of an eye.
- Well-camouflaged flounder are also safe from numerous sea predators when it lays motionless on the sea floor.
- Flounder use it's fins to bury itself into the sand. Eyes are usually the only visible part of the body.
- Natural enemies of flounder are sharks, eels and humans.
- Mating season of flounder takes place during the warmest months of the year.
- Female flounder release up to 100,000 eggs in the water at the same time when male flounder release sperm cells. Larvae (fry) hatch from the fertilized eggs a couple of weeks later.
- Larvae look like typical fish with eyes on both sides of their head. It freely swims and feeds on miniature crustaceans and plankton.
- Transformation of larvae into juvenile fish (metamorphosis) starts a couple of days after hatching. Their body starts to flatten, dorsal and anal fins become more elongated and young flounder lose it's swimming bladder (it provides buoyancy required for active swimming). Either the left or right eye migrates toward the top of the head. Side of the body where eyes are located becomes darker colored and represents the top of the fish. Other side starts to fade and becomes bottom part of the body.
- Flounder can survive from 3 to 10 years in the wild.

Source: softschools.com

















This crew from Lewes, DE got a change up from Capt. Eric Mihaly on the charter boat "Bet Sea". They originally booked a half day wreck trip for sea bass & flounder, but instead got a trip to the 19 Fathom Lump and 3 yellowfin tuna! Definitely a trade up. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Kellie Morris and Lowell Salzman, Jr. had a blast fishing the surf at the Faithful Steward dune crossing in the Delaware Seashore State Park. They caught a ton of spot, a few snapper bluefish like this one and a couple keeper flounder.

2023 MARYLAND REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - December 11</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH 8" minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day Charter</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day up to 6 per boat/day</p>	 <p>COBIA 40" minimum 1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/15 Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers</p>
 <p>CROAKER 9" minimum 25 per person/day</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 18-27" minimum 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD 4 per person/day</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 4 per person/day</p>
<p>NEW!</p>  <p>STRIPED BASS 28-31" Less than 3 miles from shore 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 16" minimum 4 per person/day</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 2 per person/day 7/1 - 10/31 4 per person/day 11/1 - 12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

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VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



Welcome to the doldrums of summer. Hot and humid conditions mixed with pop up thunderstorms make for challenging obstacles that will halt you on your way to your favorite fishing hole faster than a shallow oyster bar at low tide. But don't worry, the tide will flood and a this stagnant summer weather pattern will be subdued.

The near shore reefs of the Atlantic have provided the greatest therapy in regards to our feverish summertime woes. Flounder have been actively participating in the treatment that we seek. Folks have been jigging a variety of baits like spro bucktails over and around reef structures like the rail cars found on blackfish banks. Tipping the lures with Gulp, squid or other succulent strips of cut bait will definitely improve your chances for a gourmet flounder dinner fit for a king. The productive colors ranged from bright chartreuse and

pink to more muted whites and browns like Berkley's New Penny. While you search the rubble for these hidden ambush predators, you may come across some bizarre looking, toothy ribbon fish. While these silver sea monsters are not your targeted prey, their silvery fillet strips will certainly add an advantage when fished behind your favorite flounder jig!

The inshore flounder also continues to be a lucrative endeavor. The areas around the inlets during the last part of the flood tide on teaser rigs tipped with Gulp silversides and minnows have produced good numbers of flatfish with a fair amount of keepers to invite to the dinner table.

The shallower wrecks and reefs have been the recipients of a seasonal population of spade and triggerfish. These tropical looking trophies eagerly take small bits of clam suspended over the

structure, and right in the strike zone. I like to use a slip float and a bobber stop to keep baits in short grasp of the scrappy southern transplants.













The depths of the Atlantic have finally started to give reward as offshore bound anglers pursue prized pelagic prey. While rumors of inshore bite radiate from the north, with the exception of some mahi, our tuna and marlin action has been confined to the deeper depths of the Norfolk and Washington Canyons. Most of the excitement has come from the cockpit of a trolling vessel towing an array of lures including Squidnation Flippy Floppy rigs, Tormenter sidewinders and of course, skirted ballyhoo. There has been some recent encounters with sharks stealing hooked fish before they could be hoisted over the gunwale. After fishing all day for a tantalizing tuna, losing it to a sharp toothed marauder is really a

While the Chesapeake has been quiet we have had a pleasant surprise in the surf of the VA Barrier Islands. Along with the expected summer kingfish and spot action on bloodworms fished just on the deep side of the break, we also have had the opportunity for some sporty spotails. Some of these rough and ready reds are in the VA slot of 18"-26" while other's blow the maximum size limit out of the water, or I should say, maybe back into the water to be released to bend a rod another day!

So no matter if you are tugging a tuna out of the deep abyss, taking your shark crazy son out for a quick trip for sharp toothed seaside sport, or even taking your daughter that's head over heels for horses to the 98th Annual Chincoteague Pony Swim....get out there and do it! If there is one responsibility we as sporting shoreman have, it's to pass on the great legacy of enjoying the outdoors and the state of mind that comes with NOT taking for granted this wonderful place we call home! §

2023 VIRGINIA REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - December 11</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH No minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day headboat All Year</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>COBIA 40" minimum / Only 1>50" 1 per person/day • 2 per boat/day 6/15 - 9/15</p>
 <p>CROAKER No minimum 20 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 18-26" minimum 3 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD No minimum 4 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 5 per person/day All Year Only 1>24"</p>
 <p>28-31" Coming Soon! STRIPED BASS 28-36" 1 per person/day 1/1-3/31 & 5/16-12/31</p>	 <p>FLOUNDER 16" minimum 4 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1-5/15 & 7/1-12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 12" minimum 1 per person/day All Year</p>

eregulations.com



Neal and Jodie Ammerman certainly found a clear and calm weather day to head to the Washington Canyon from Chincoteague, VA. They spent the day on the troll and raised this 51 lb. yellowfin tuna!



Capt. Monty Hawkins on the headboat "Morning Star" had a couple of surprises on this trip. The first one was 'as nice of a day a partyboat skipper could ask for' and the other was a bachelorette party on board! The girls out-fished the boys despite ripping currents that required 16 oz. weights with keeper knotheads flying over the rails.

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Avid fisherman David Moore got out on Assateague Island last Friday night with his friend Kurt and his son Fin. Fin hooked up with a beast of a blacktip shark on a casted bait. Kyle got onto a 6' butterfly ray and David landed this fat 46½" red drum! Pretty early for those.

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Jesse Behler from York, PA took out his new Sea Doo Fish Pro jet ski for its inaugural run, taking it out of the Indian River Inlet. He was about 4 miles out jigging with a Double Trouble when he connected with this 23.4" flounder.

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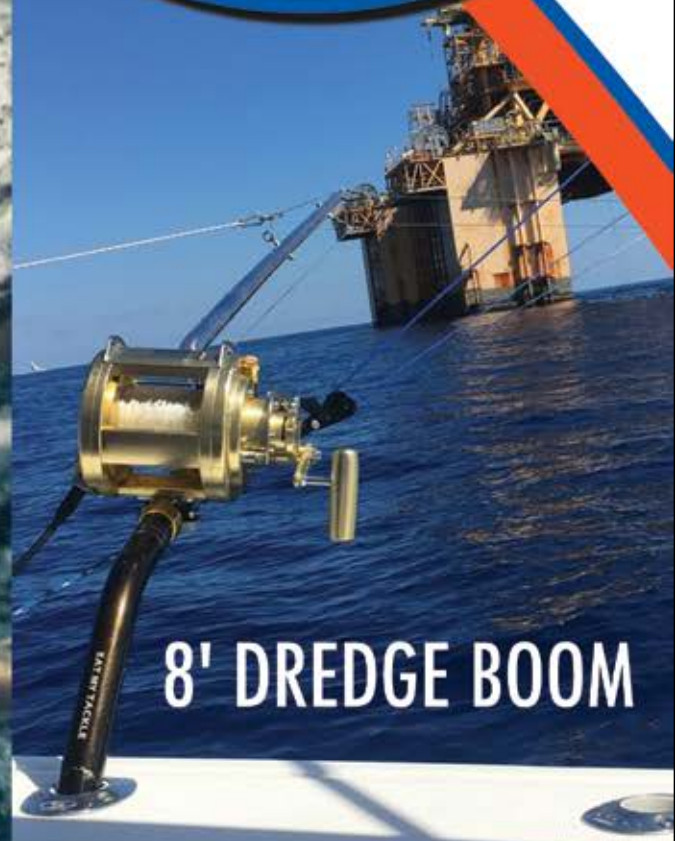
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Local USGC Auxiliary & Marlin Club Crew of OC Sponsor Dock Safety Coloring Book

Our local Ocean City Maryland US Coast Guard Auxiliary has partnered to create a coloring book to raise dock safety awareness in children. Auxiliarist Dan Collins was contacted by Mr. David Thomas, a grandfather who had lost his young grandson Noah as the result of a dock incident in Norfolk, VA. As an artist, David created the initial publication and was funding printing and distribution locally. Once Dan heard the story and David's vision, he rallied behind him and coordinated with the local USCG Auxiliary to gain approval to print and distribute it broadly here. A couple samples pages are printed below.

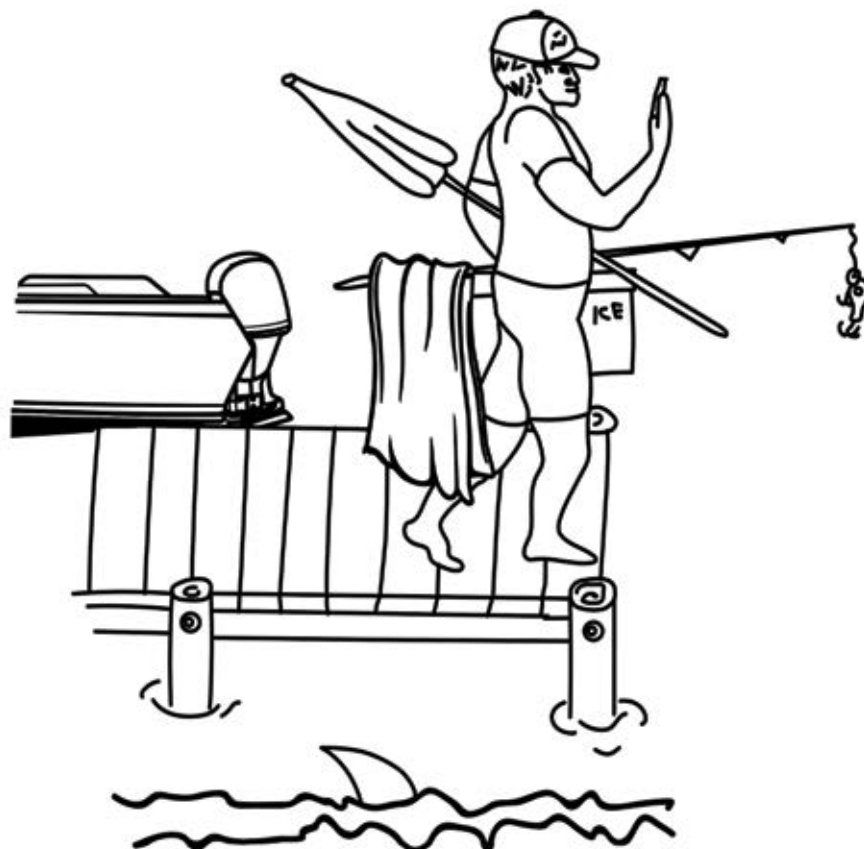
Since the Auxiliary is a nonprofit and further restricted by its affiliation with the US Coast Guard, they need to secure grants, donations or other funding to finance the printing. Initially Dan reached out to Maryland State Senator Mary Beth Carozza for help securing funds. She thought of the Ocean City *Marlin Club Crew of OC* as they are a 501(c)(3) public charity dedicated to the promotion of safe boating, fishing, conservation and the education of youth in those activities. Susan Seifert was the initial contact point and the *Crew* quickly came to support the idea, agreeing to fund \$1,350 which should allow for over 1,000 books to be produced. Pictured here are auxiliarists Dan Collins and Maureen Hoffman accepting the donation from *Marlin Club Crew of OC* members Susan Seifert, Elaine Mott, Nancy Kalin, Jodi Danzi and club President Ryan Freese. They hope is that the publication will gain momentum and Coast Guard approvals to be distributed nationally. §



Dock Safety



**Presented by the Ocean City, Maryland
USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 054-12-05.**



**When on a dock pay attention
and watch where you are going.**



Most remember their first time fishing the canyons offshore for the adventure alone. Jack Laur got that and more on his first trip on the rip. He was fishing with his dad Jesse in the Wilmington Canyon on their boat the "EUPHORIA" when he caught this big wahoo that hit on a blue and red daisy chain.



It was another successful trip for Capt. Mike Burt and mate David Burt on the charter boat "Pumpin' Hard". While the tuna have been a little picky the mahi have swarmed with good catches being found around weed lines offshore of the Poor Man's. This crew of Chris Dorsey, Kevin Gough, Connor Dorsey, Thomas Lester, Robert Dorsey and Mike Dorsey also got a few tilefish in the box as well.



Day 1 of the Ocean City Marlin Club's kids classic was spectacular for the crew of the "Reel Chaos". Joe & Leah Davalos and Emma Matarese all caught their first white marlins on naked ballyhoo in 800 fathoms of the Poor Man's Canyon. Capt. Anthony Matarese was at the wheel with Mike Matarese & Wyatt Melocik in the pit.

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19th Annual KID'S CLASSIC

2023 RESULTS

BLUEFISH

1st Place (Tie)
"DELICIOUS"
"PARTNERSHIP"
2.5 lbs.
2nd Place
"LIT UP"
1.5 lbs.

STRINGER CROAKER

1st Place
"PARTNERSHIP"
2 lbs.
2nd Place
"PARTNERSHIP"
1 lbs.

STRINGER DOLPHIN

1st Place
"BET SEA"
23 lbs.
2nd Place
"WIGG ONE"
22 lbs.
3rd Place (Tie)
"ABSOLUT PLEASURE"
"LIT UP"
17.5 lbs.

STRINGER FLOUNDER

1st Place
"FISH BOUND"
15 lbs.
2nd Place (Tie)
"FOUR EIGHTS"
"DOUBLE TROUBLE"
10.5 lbs.
3rd Place
"TIGHTEN UP"
9 lbs.

STRINGER SEA BASS

1st Place
"MARLI"
8 lbs.
2nd Place
"ALTERNATING CURRENT"
7 lbs.
3rd Place
"FISH BOUND"
6.5 lbs.

KING MACKEREL

1st Place
"MANKI"
15.5 lbs. x 2
2nd Place
"SPRING MIX II"
14 lbs.
3rd Place
"MANKI"
13 lbs.

GOLDEN TILEFISH

1st Place
"MARLI"
26 lbs.
2nd Place
"MARLI"
24.5 lbs.
3rd Place
"BUCKSHOT II"
15.5 lbs.

TAUTOG

1st Place
"FISH BOUND"
13.5 lbs.

TUNA

1st Place
"ABSOLUT PLEASURE"
58.5 lbs.
2nd Place
"GAME OVER"
46 lbs.
3rd Place
"STILL LUCKY"
46 lbs.

WHITE MARLIN RELEASE

1st Place
"REEL CHAOS"
3 - 1:38pm
2nd Place
"MAX BET"
3 - 1:55pm

SPANISH MACKEREL

1st Place (Tie)
"PARTNERSHIP"
"GRANDE PEZ"
5 lbs.
2nd Place (Tie)
"SKEETS"
"ALLEN CREW"
"SPRING MIX II"
"KNOT WOKE"
4.5 lbs.
3rd Place
"SKIPJACK"
4 lbs.

BLUELINE TILEFISH

1st Place
"STILL LUCKY"
17.5 lbs.
2nd Place
"AMANDA MAYHEM"
17 lbs.
3rd Place
"BUCKSHOT I"
12.5 lbs.

UNUSUAL CATCH

1st Place
"READY OR NOT"
Restless Lady Gaff

STRINGER SPOT

1st Place
"PARTNERSHIP"
2 lbs.
2nd Place (Tie)
"PARTNERSHIP" "JOY STICK"
"IVY SEA" "RILED UP"
"MISS MARY" "GET SUM"
"HURRICANE" "4 REELS"
"ALTERNATING CURRENTS"
1.5 lbs.
3rd Place (Tie)
"DELICIOUS"
"JEB"
1.0 lbs.

73 BOATS ENTERED / 283 ANGLERS PARTICIPATED



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The Billfish Release Division was competitive during the 19th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Kid's Classic. Day 1 saw most of the action with two boats reporting releases of three white marlin. Capt. Austin Robins on the "Max Bet" had young anglers Scarlett Robins, Eleanor Robins, Payton Weber and Samantha Weber east of the Poor Man's Canyon in 800 fathoms. Eleanor, Payton and Samantha all released a white earning them 2nd Place in the Division! The crew also had a blue marlin that bite that did not come tight.



Both days during the 19th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Kid's Classic saw a lot of action at the scales with several nice mahi coming in on Sunday. It was this crew of Mason Hetherington, Luke Houen, Hailey Lewis, Betsy Mihaly, Lilly Kirby and Kennedy Kirby though that locked in the top slot in the Dolphin Category with a 23 lb. bull. Capt Eric Mihaly had the crew in 875 fathoms outside the Poor Man's Canyon when they spotted a floating log as well as some floating gear ripe with fish underneath and hooked the winner and several others.



The tuna bite was picky during the 19th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Kid's Classic, however the "Absolut Pleasure" set the bar on day 1 of the event with this 58.5 lb. yellowfin caught by Ellie Cheynet. She was fishing with fellow anglers Parker Moore, Jace Conrad, Ally, Coleman, Aiden Romero and Walker Hastings with Capt. Steve Moore in the Poor Man's Canyon trolling naked ballyhoo. The big tuna held up to Sunday's challengers and took 1st Place in the Tuna Category. They also found some weed lines and boated some nice mahi.

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SKEETS
Capt. Stu Windsor



FIN CHASER
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The "Partnership" had a solid two days of fishing during the 19th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Kid's Classic. Over two days anglers Addison Lane, Brynlee Lane and Colton Lane brought 6 species of fish to the scales including sea robin, blowfish, spot and bluefish. It was however their stringer of 2.0 lbs. of croaker that put them in the top spot in that category and the 5 lbs. of spanish mackerel that gave them a tie for 1st Place in that division! Capt. Nick Lane fished the Verrazano Bridge and the 1st Lump over the two days to find this cornucopia of fish.



This crew on the "MARLI" was no stranger to coming to the scales at the Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Kid's Classic. Saturday saw anglers Trey Hoos, Weston Mills, Jack Hoos and Sophia Perry focus mainly on tilefish and sea bass. Capt. Mark Hoos took the gang to the Rockpile where they caught 2 golden tilefish, 3 bluelines and 3 chunky sea bass using squid. The largest golden at 26 lbs. held off challengers to take 1st Place and their 3 fish stringer of sea bass at 8 lbs. also locked into the top spot for that division!



The "Fish Bound" is renowned for the diversity of fish it usually brings to the scales during the Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Kid's Classic. While this year proved a little more challenging for Capt. Kane Bounds forcing him to move to several ocean structures, he still got anglers Connor Vaughan, Nora Vaughan, Landon Bounds, Carter Bounds, Brook Hewet and Braxton Giardinia onto some nice fish. Their 15 lb. stringer of 3 flounder on Sunday slid them into 1st Place in that Division and as the only tog caught during the event, their 13.5 lb. blackfish took that category.



Apparently consistency counts on the "Mahki"! During the 19th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Kid's Classic Jackson and Chappo Pritchett brought in king mackerel weighing 15.5 lbs. both days. Capt. Nate Pritchett had the boys fishing the Jack Spot using Clark Spoons where they also caught 13 lb. and 6.5 lb. kings. Their big kings however ruled the day and earned the 1st Place in the King Mackerel Division.

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Anglers Brooke, Ethan and Tanner Gladwin had good luck in the Poor Man's Canyon fishing on the "Still Lucky" with Capt. Steve Gladwin during the 19th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Kid's Classic. The crew returned to the scales at Sunset Marina with 2 yellowfin tuna and 3 chunky blueline tilefish. The heaviest blueline at 17.5 lbs. slid into 1st Place where it held on to finish the event, and their 46 lb. yellowfin finished in 3rd Place in that Division.



The "Grande Pez" focused on spanish mackerel during the 19th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Kid's Classic. Capt. Pat Svehla worked the Bass Grounds both days, however it was this Sunday crew of William Ash, with Emmet, Lathen and Wyatt Elderkin that raised several spanish mackerel. Their 3 fish stringer that day weighed 5 lbs. and tied for 1st Place in that Division.

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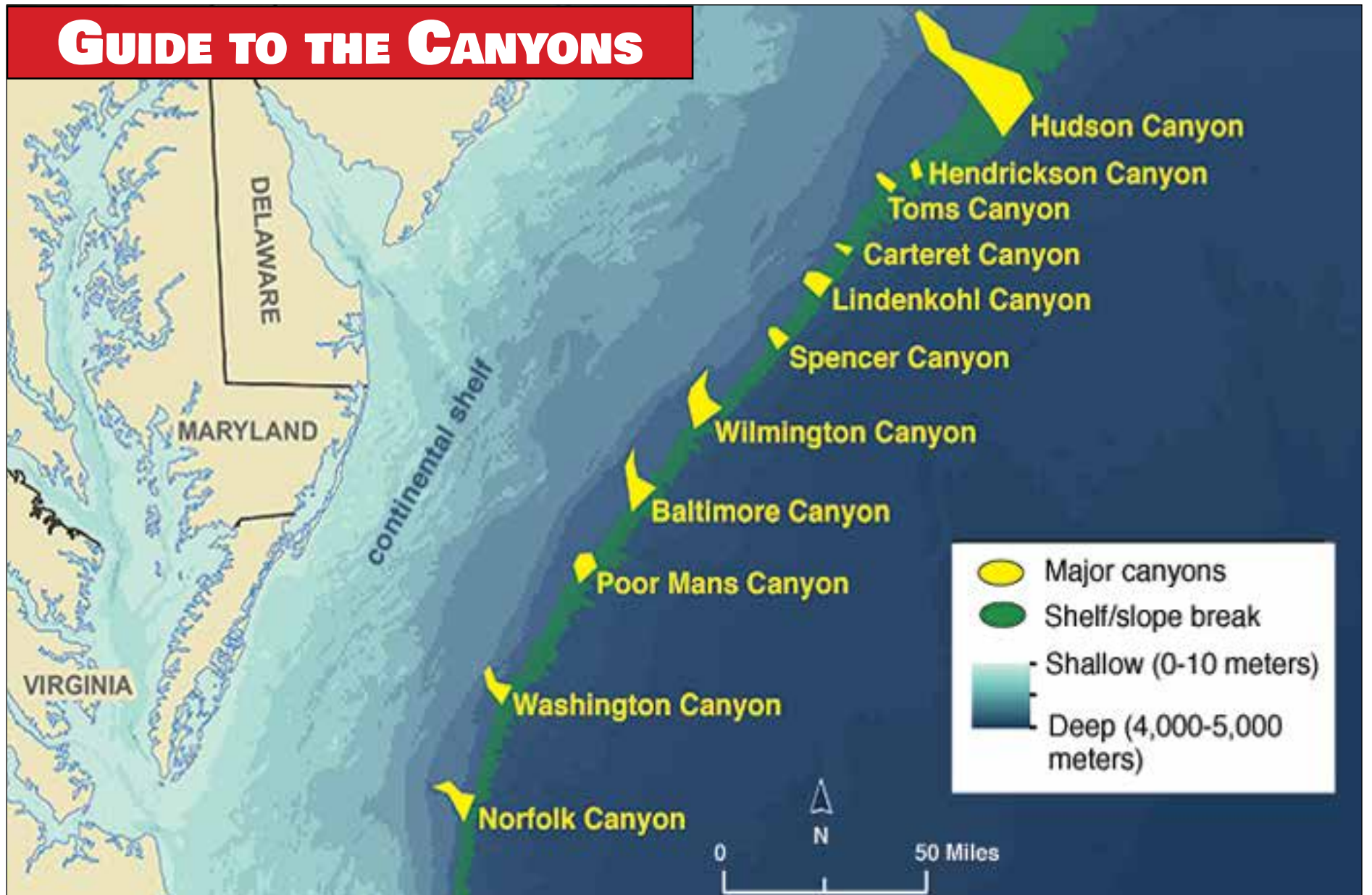
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The most unusual catch during the 19th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Kid's Classic had a most unusual backstory. The "Ready or Not" with Capt. Matt Groff was trolling in 1000 fathoms at the Poor Man's Canyon when anglers Chase Groff, Hailey Groff, Jack Groff, Isaac Rodriguez and Alex Rodriguez saw a pole sticking out of a weed line. They approached and found a 6' gaff from the "Restless Lady"! The "Restless Lady" had lost the tool during their trip on Saturday where they caught 8 bigeye tuna at the same time. One of the eyeballs in the cockpit flipped its tail and sent the gaff flying up like a missile. For their effort the boys won the Most Unusual Award and will reunite the gaff with Capt. Todd Kurtz!



The Ocean City Marlin Club teamed up with the Wish-A-Fish Foundation during the club's Kid's Classic Tournament weekend to get special needs children and their families out on the water for a day of fishing fun. This year's event was last Saturday and the Marlin Club chartered several party boats for the event, the "Calico Jack", "Judith M", "Tortuga" and the "Bay Bee". Over 60 anglers and family members spent the day catching a mix of flounder, croakers, sea robins, bluefish and other bay creatures. Afterwards the anglers enjoyed festivities at the Ocean City Marlin Club where the Wish-A-Fish Foundation received a donation raised from area organizations in addition to private and corporate donors like Atlantic Tackle, Harborside Bar & Grill, Wockenfuss and Bahia Marina. Picture at the Marlin Club festival.





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Boatworks Call Jeff James**



\$224,000

**2003 35' Carolina Classic
Call Chris Workmon**



\$242,000

**MOONSHINE - 1996 38' Duffy
Highshare - Call Mark Pagano**



\$180,000

**1998 45' Ocean Yacht
Call Chris Workmon**



\$139,000

**2017 27' Cobia
Call Colton Cunningham**



\$129,900

**2003 38' Fountain
Call Terry Layton**



\$99,500

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



\$69,000

**TWIN BILLS - 1970 36' Hatteras
Call Jeff James**



\$67,000

**TABBY CAT - 2005 28' Hydra-Sport
Call Jeff James**



\$49,000

**CARIBENA - 1982 35' Bertram
Call Jimmy Fields**



\$42,000

**2020 18' Key West
Call Jimmy Fields**

Ocean City, MD • Palm Beach, FL • Outer Banks, NC

