

Capt. Brian Porter on the "Boss Hogg" knew he had so slug it out the first few days of the 32nd Annual MidAtlantic Tournament. The blue water was far north and in deep water and was just too far away given the waves. Thursday's forecast however changed that and he with owner Howard Berger, anglers Mike Dahl, Rich McCann and Paul Hannum along with mates Alex Beane and Jack Hannum headed 105 miles northeast to outside the Lindenkohl Canyon in 1000 fathoms. Overall, they went 6 for 7 on white marlin for the day with one boated at the end of the day. As the lines out time approached, Capt. Brian decided to turn off the sonar and go 'old skool'. He saw a white marlin tailing and as he approached, angler Mike Dahl hooked up, taking half an hour to land the fish. They were the last boat to the scales that day with their 73" and 76 lb. roundscale spearfish that slammed into 2nd Place in the White Marlin Division where it finished the event. While the "Boss Hogg" finished second, they earned the biggest payout for the tournament by being 'across the board' including the 32nd Annual Mega Marlin Calcutta and others for a total winnings of \$1,406,938, a tournament record for the category!



Ralph and Beth Redden from Millsboro, DE joined Bad Wind Charters for a day of inshore fishing. They caught 16 mahi, including this 43 lb. slammer on sea bass gear and light tackle spinning rods!



Angler Will McGrath from Lewes, DE reeled in a nice surprise last week from the Lewes Canal. After some prompting from his wife Liz to go fishing, he headed out to a spot under the bridge on Gillsneck Rd. On his second cast using frozen shrimp, he felt several bumps and then set the hook on this citation sized 25½" and 5.72 lb. weakfish! Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.







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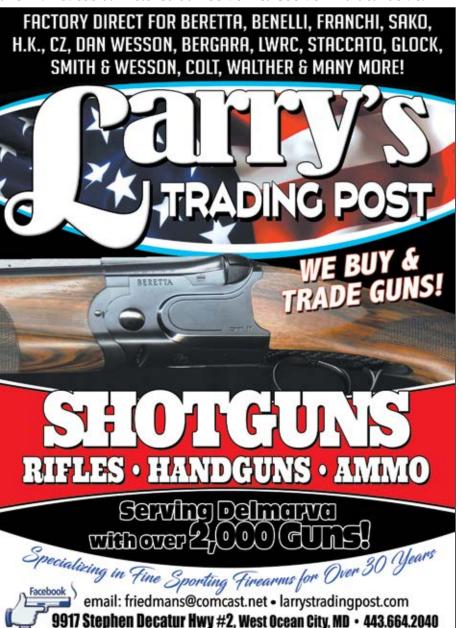
FOR THE FISHERMEN AND THE HUNTSMEN AND THE GRILLERS AND THE CHILLERS AND THE FRIENDS AND THE FAMILY AND THE GOERS AND THE DOERS AND THE ADVENTURERS AND EVERYONE IN BETWEEN.

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John Davis of Milford, DE wanted to get up close and personal with his prey last week. He went spear fishing at an inshore shoal and speared this 47.7 lb. cobia. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em Bait & Tackle.





George Frigm of Summertime Park in Fenwick Island, DE worked the suds off the Fenwick Island State Park. He caught the largest mullet he had ever seen at 18'' using a casting net. He also landed this $17^{1}/4''$ flounder on a 4'' mullet strip about an hour before low tide using a hi/low rig.





Josh Culver from Salisbury, MD headed out in the lower Chesapeake Bay aboard the "Isla Mae" out of Princess Anne, MD. He caught this 47" red drum at twilight using cut whiting.



Offshore Report by Larry Budd

Offshore was a blur last week as we saw the last major tournament of the summer take place. The MidAtlantic held last Monday was through Friday with 181 boats participating and 115 of them based in the Ocean City Area. Once again, our local boats made us proud earning a total of \$4.499M of the \$5.790M total prize money. That's 77.7%!

There were also several records set this year:

- Payout for the White Marlin Division of \$1,406,938 to the "Boss Hogg"
- Payout for the Blue Marlin Division of \$1,180,342 to the "Pipe Dreamer"

 Most Points Overall scored by the "Trashman" with a total of 2,010 points including 26 white marlin released.

In total, 750 white marlin were caught with 735 released is the third highest in tournament history and a staggering 98% release rate. This equates to an average of 1.46 white marlin released per boat, per day. While Cape May had some fish place in the top three, I want to give some color on the local boats and their catches.

In the Billfish Division, the northern canyons were the hot spots. Since the tournament allows for fishing 125 miles from the Cape May sea buoy, the Ocean City boats were able to explore much further

north than most OC based events that set the limit at 100 miles from the Ocean City sea buoy. The "Trashman" from Savannah, GA lead in white marlin releases with 26 for the week, including 15 last Wednesday for a total of 1,950 points. They spent the week fishing the deep water offshore of the Toms Canyon.

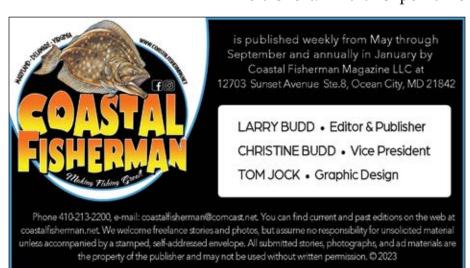
Speaking of billfish, it's hard not to applaud the crew on the "Boss Hogg". They spent the last good weather day last Thursday fishing 105 miles out, offshore of the Lindenkohl Canyon in 1,000 fathoms. For the day they went 6 for 7 on white marlin including one that was boated. The 73" roundscale spearfish was caught by Mike Dahl and tipped the scale at 76 lbs. taking 2nd Place. Roundscales are counted in the white marlin category in most tournaments. It earned the crew the tournament record payout mentioned above! The "Catch 23" rounded out the top 3 with a 75 lb. white and the "Reel King" took 4th Place with a 73 lb. white from offshore of the Spencer Canyon.

Big fish were also on display as 7 blue marlin made their way to the scales, all in Ocean City! The first fish on the first day was a blue caught on the "Pipe Down" by boat owner Tom Luke. His came up on the left teaser and took a pitch bait. The bar was set for blue marlin at 489 lbs. Another blue made it to the scales that day, but it included a story of hard luck. The "Amarula Sun" called in ahead of arriving to the scales to report their catch, but also that they were disqualifying the fish, as it had been cut by the boat's 5 foot propellers. The MidAtlantic follows IGFA rules which clearly state mutilated fish are disqualified. The tournament did weigh the big blue that measured 126" and pulled down the scale to 808 lbs. The crew also released 2 whites that day also in the Toms Canyon.

It was Wednesday that saw the leaderboard change completely for blues. The "Tighten Up" was waiting at the dock for the scales to open at 5PM. They had a blue marlin caught by Jay Keller in the Baltimore Canyon in 500 fathoms. Theirs hit on a plug and jumped repeatedly during the 45 minute fight, and they also released 2 whites. At 528 lbs. it finished in 3rd Place.

Next was the "Pipe Dreamer" from Oceanport, NJ. Capt. Richard Fernandez headed north, in between the Carteret and Lindenkohl Canyons. First thing in the morning he saw a big bait ball holding big fish, and once the lines were in they trolled through, releasing a 67" white marlin. On the second pass the blue came up on the left long, and as the crew was reeling it in to toss a pitch bait, the big fish took the plug on the left short. At this point he





was right behind the boat and was thrashing its head violently trying to spit out the plug for 5 minutes. Capt. Richard kept the line tight by moving forward and once the fish settled down, he backed down - hard - bringing the fish right to the transom door. The whole process took less than 20 minutes! They made several other passes and saw white marlin, but none came tight. It really didn't matter though as the blue marlin measured 1331/2" and weighed in at 889 lbs., the 3rd heaviest in the tournament's history, and took 1st Place in the Blue Marlin Division.

The 3rd blue to the scale that day was a form of redemption. It was the "Amarula Sun" returning to the scales with another blue marlin. time they were offshore of the Lindenkohl in 1000 fathoms when the fish came up on the left teaser and then took on a pitch bait. Angler and boat owner Shon Craig was on the rod for just about an hour to get the 1141/4" and 548 lb. blue to the boat. It took 3rd Place for event in the Blue Marlin Division.

Several others were weighed, including a 470 pounder that "The Zipper" caught in between the Lindenkohl and Spencer Canyons.

The Tuna Division was dominated by bigeyes. Of the 58 tuna weighed, over 2 dozen were bigeyes with 4 over 200 lbs. On top was the venerable tuna boat "Talkin' Trash" with Capt. Chris Little at the helm. He brought two eyeballs to the scales with the first on Monday from the Washington Canyon at 195 lbs. It was however his second fish caught on Thursday that shattered the leaderboard. He started the day going about as far south as allowed to the Norfolk Canyon. He found no action so they pulled in the lines and burned some precious fishing time to run back to the Washington. The strategy paid off when angler



We have been getting more spear fishing reports lately, including this massive 80 lb. wahoo speared by Auston Burnley of Stroudsburg, PA deep in the Poor Man's Canyon. It took 2 shots and a 50 ft. bungee line with a pollyball to get the big speedster. Auston was fishing on the "Unreel" with Capt. Joe Schweiger and fellow divers Jonathan Genaro of Loxahatchee, FL and Dylan Thomas from Garrett County, MD.

Matt Weaver connected with a 253 lb. bigeye. It took 45 minutes to get the 73½" eyeball to the boat, it was their only bite for the day and easily slid into 1st Place where it finished. It was also a gift for mate Jacob Bialk as it was his birthday! The 3rd Place finisher hit the scales at Sunset Marina on Thursday. The "Taylor Jean" was way north in the Carteret Canyon when angler Tony Chieffo hooked into a 216 lb. bigeye.

The top 2 dolphin for the event were from Cape May boats however, 3rd place went to the gang on the "Too Many Martinis". Angler Jeff Kogok caught the 33 lb. mahi with only 3 minutes left before lines out in the Toms Canyon. They also released 2 white marlin and boated a lot of smaller mahi. It was a similar story in the Wahoo Division with the top 2 slots from NJ boats. 3rd Place was secured by the "Water Damage" with a 51 lb. speedster they caught in 350

feet at the Poor Man's Canyon when it hit on a marlin rig getting caught in the lip.

You can see our full coverage, leaderboard and payout starting on page 58.

Outside the tournament there were a couple of notable catches. The charter boat "Spring Mix II" caught over 50 mahi last Thursday from the Baltimore Canyon. The "Action Jackson" out of the Indian River Marina found a few marlin fishing inshore lumps. They also found a few under a floating boogie boat that they 'caught' as well!

Two new Heaviest Fish for the season were also set last week. The "Unreel" was deep in the Poor Man's Canyon when Austin Brunley dove in and speared an 80 pound wahoo. Ralph Redden was out with "Bad Wind Charters" out of Delaware and caught a 43 lb. mahi at an inshore lump using light spinning gear. They also boated many other peanuts

and a couple more gaffers.

Finally, we got a great report from the private boat "Milla Time" and their trip last Thursday. They were just east of the Hot Dog in 200 to 400 feet and released a white marlin, blue marlin and a mako! Both marlin hit on a Green Machine and some of the mahi took naked ballyhoo and Smokers while the remainder picked off some floating debris.

We still have one offshore tournament action to look forward to this summer before the fall schedule. The Ocean City Marlin Club is holding it's 65th Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament this weekend from Friday through Sunday. Weigh ins will be at Sunset Marina from 6PM to 8PM.

Until next time; I will see you at the scales! §



Jennifer Hanwell shared an unusual catch she made while fishing with her husband on the "Sea-N-Double". They were about 3 miles out of the Indian River Inlet where they saw a big school of hound fish pushing up a bait ball. They caught 2 including this one and also boated 20 mahi around the Delaware Lightship. Nice day on the water!

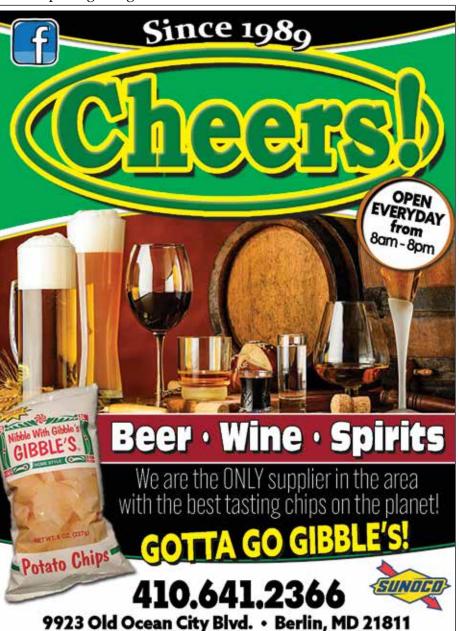


Another unusual catch for our area came from Brooke McGinnis. She was fishing at the Bass Grounds on the "Salty Sons" out of the Bahia Marina when she caught this 1.5 lb. atlantic moonfish fish using a hard plastic deep diver. They are not normally this far north. She was fishing with Capt. Shane McGinnis and mate Brandon Elliott.





The charter boat "Green Reaper" out of the Ocean City Fishing Center worked the rocks of the Ocean City South Jetty with anglers Curtis Moyer, Jessie Dile and Alan Gelsinger and caught 2 sheepshead and this keeper tog using sand fleas.





12 year old Caleigh Hutson caught her first keeper a 17" flounder aboard the "Schools Out" in the East Channel using Gulp. Caleigh's younger sister, Kendall Hutson convinced the boat to release the fish to live another day.





2023 TOURNAMENTS

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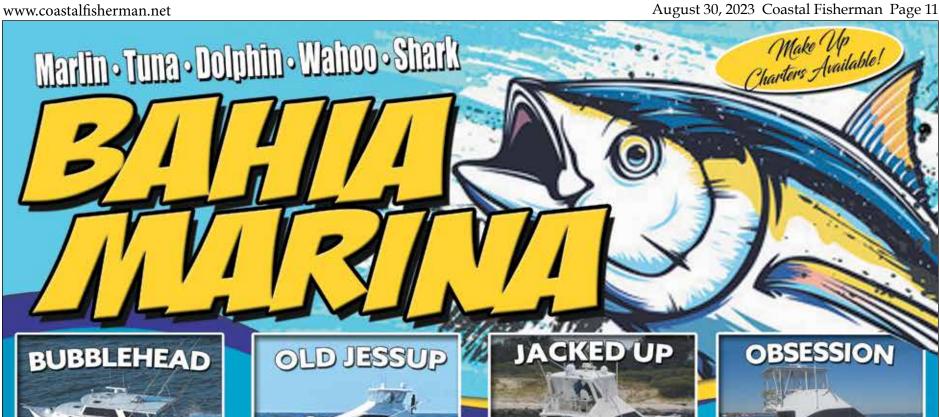
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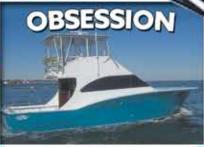


54' Chesapeake Capt. Buddy Whetzel 301-325-0420

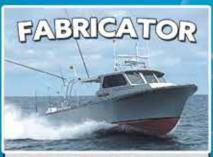




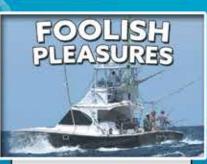
45' Ocean Capt. Dean Metcalfe 717-404-3331 Capt. Nick Skidmore 717-615-0644



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36' Custom Capt. Kevin Marshall 410-289-7438



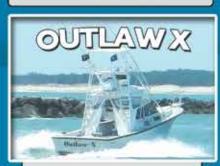
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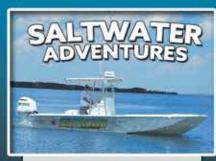
30' Century Capt. Wayne Anderson 443-880-7516



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Last week in Ocean City saw the kids returning to college and high school and a lot less traffic both on the roads as well as the waterways. Fishing in the back bays remains very strong with some big fluke as well as redfish and trout being caught on a more consistent basis. Nearshore wrecks are producing good numbers of big fish as well as a few dolphin on the bass pot balls.

Nearshore Wrecks & Reefs

The near shore reefs have been producing a good pick of both nice sized flounder as well as some big sea bass. Deeper wrecks near the Great Eastern Reef as well as the Jack Spot are holding the best chance for big knothead sea bass. These two areas are also giving up some trophy sized mahi which are staging on the bass pots. Tossing cut bait or squid on a small circle hook near the pots and allowing it to sink down is producing the best hook-ups.

Blake Gunther and Sam Yobst pulled in their 3 man limit of flounder with the biggest fish measuring 25 inches. Jeremiah Kogan had a fun dive with Pete Kelly, Alex Sterling, and Rich Fouts spearing several big flounder and exploring some new inshore wreck sites.

The "Angler" was out this past week and reported that the beginning of the week started out with a slow but steady pick of both sea bass as well as some nice flounder. After some rougher days at sea the bite continued to improve yielding better catches for their clients. The boat also reports a nice catch of dolphin up to ten pounds.

The "Judith M" also had several good trips bringing home coolers full of the ocean's delights for the anglers. Captain Rick Shoaff had a great day with Paul Pedone and Debbie Lappe Erhardt, with Paul's nephew winning the fishing pool on the boat.

David Price got a 3 man limit of fluke on the reefs, several of the fish being over 20 inches.

Wendy Reynolds along with Angelina Merryman and Garrison Cooper fished with the "Pole Dancer Sport Fishing Charters" and caught several knothead sea bass on deep ocean structure. Clam and squid accounted for the vast majority of keepers they caught.

Chuck Sharpe was out at the African Queen and scored a limit of sea bass using small 2 oz bass jigs.

Capt. Kane of the "Fish Bound Charters" stated his 8 hour trips are still seeing excellent catches, but the anglers are having to work at it a bit harder than in past weeks. He reported that the slowest day yielded 22 keepers for the 6 anglers and the best day was 48 keepers for a group of 12. Their largest fish of the week was Duke's 7.75 pound flounder. Some good catches of spanish, blues and cutlass were also reported by the boat.

Jennifer Hanwell fished with her husband aboard the "Sea-N-Double" and found big schools of hound fish about 3 miles out of the Indian River Inlet. They also caught about 20 mahi. The group fished near the southern end of the shipping channel, near the Lightship.

Brooke McGinnis had a rare catch while fishing the Bass Grounds catching a lookdown fish. The fish was a good size, weighing 1.5 pounds. This is another species we have seen

www.coastalfisherman.net this year that rarely venture this far north.

John Foreman also had some summertime exotics catching juvenile moonfish as well as blue runners and lizard fish.

Jeffery Donnelly hailing from Wrightsville, PA caught a big 28 inch 3.8 pound flounder at the Bass Grounds.

Back Bays & Inlet

Some really nice catches are coming out of the back bays and inlet area now that the boat traffic around Ocean City has calmed down.

The Jetty Wall along the Inlet is producing big flounder, a few tog and even a few nice redfish along the rocks. The Rt. 50 Bridge is holding decent size blues along with several smaller rockfish, and even an occasional keeper.

"Lucky Break Charters" was out in the south bay of Ocean City last week and scored their anglers several big flounder. The crew used Gulp baits to entice the fish to bite the hook.

Tom Tatum had a good day of fishing at the East Channel. He caught 5 throwbacks along with 2 nice keepers measuring 17.5 inches and the second one at 18.5 inches. Pink Gulp Alive 4" mullet paired with live minnows were the trick to catching these fish. He fished aboard his boat, the "Open



www.coastalfisherman.net Debate".

Dave Deitrich from Perry Hall, MD got a nice 21.5 inch fluke at the 2nd Street Pier using squid strips and a live minnow combination rig. Dave reports this was his biggest flounder from the pier and is still quite excited about the catch.

12 year old Caleigh Hutson caught her first keeper flounder, a nice 17 inch one while fishing on the "Schools Out" boat in the East Channel. Caleigh's younger sister convinced the boat to release the fish to live another day. Great work girls!

Danny Cox was out at the Rt. 50 Bridge and caught a nice limit of fluke measuring 17 to 26 inches, and the biggest one weighed 7 pounds 13 oz.

David Weller and Jeff Weeks of Ocean City caught some big sheepshead at the South Jetty of the inlet using sand fleas. The two also reported catching around 30 throwback tog. Live sand fleas are readily found along the water lines of the surf

at this time of year and make an excellent bait for both tog, sheepshead and stripers. Most tackle shops are also carrying live sand fleas if you don't want to dig up your own.

Matt Ritter fished the 22nd Street area using white Gulp bait on a bucktail as well as green Otter Tail bait to catch his flounder dinner.

"Beach To Bay Guide Service" had a few good trips last week keeping a few big fish for their clients' dinner. Their motto is "Take what you need; thou shall not freeze. Bleed 'em if you need 'em". A great motto for all anglers to live by.

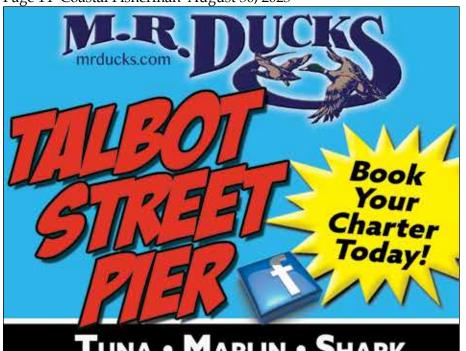
The "Happy Hooker" and "Bay Bee" reported lighter crowds on their boats this week making it easier for anglers to hook more fish. The bay boats are a great way to see the bay areas of Ocean City and even catch a nice fresh fish for dinner.

Until next week, Tight lines and fins up! §



Danny Cox was giving the flounder in the Ocean City Bay a break for a while, but that is over now! He headed out to the Rt. 50 Bridge and caught his limit of flatfish using cut bunker. They measured from 17" to 26" with the heaviest at 7 lbs. and 13 oz.





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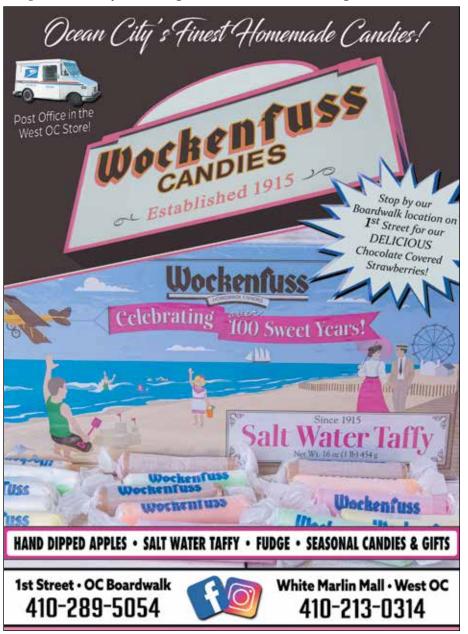




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This OC crew of Jeff Weeks and Dave Weller fished the south Ocean City Jetty using home made rigs and live sand fleas to catch these 3 sheepshead. They also caught over 25 undersided togs as well.



BAIT · TACKLE · FUEL · MARINE SUPPLIES







Capt. Chris Mizurak on the headboat "Angler" reported slow picking at the beginning of last week, but they were picking! Some really impressive sea bass came over the rail at this natural bottom spot, especially considering it is late August!



Tim Goodman reported that the Indian River Bay and Rehoboth Bay were still producing nice flatties. He and John Durkin from Lancaster, PA landed 4 keeper flounder over the weekend with the largest at 21". Bucktails with Gulp were still doing the trick.







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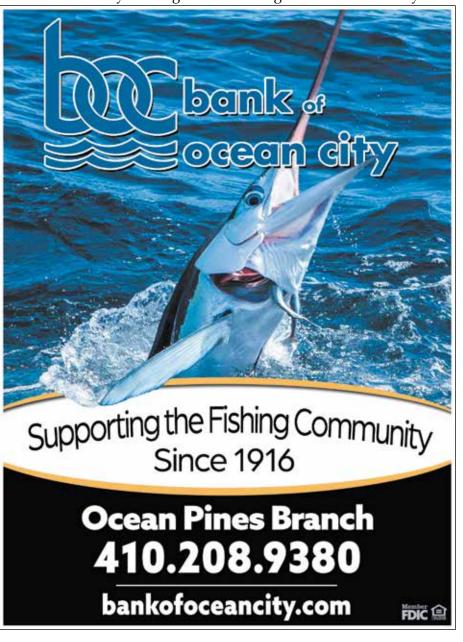
#LOSSUENOSTRIPLECROWN



(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	August 11 Brian Stewart Washington Canyon 265 lbs.	July 1 Crew "Reel Passion" Washington Canyon 234 lbs.
Cobia	July 8 Nick Smallwood Little Gull 39 lbs.	August 21 Jon Davis Fenwick Shoal 47.7 lbs.	Bluefin Tuna	May 29 Crew "Marli" Baltimore Canyon 216 lbs.	July 31 Eric Widland 19 Fathom Lump 89 lbs.
Summer Flounder	July 26 Capt. Dave Caffrey Reef Structure 8.25 lbs.	June 26 Mlke 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	August 9 Ed Quick Poorman's Canyon 162.5 lbs.	July 30 Crew "Fish Whistle" Norfolk Canyon 132 lbs.
Sheepshead	June 24 Rob English Ocean City Jetty 14 lbs.	June 5 Paul Mathews Outer Wall 13.78 lbs.	Dolphin	August 1 Jack Hannum Poorman's Canyon 65 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	August 23 Andy Confortini Lindenkohl Canyon 889 lbs.	
Wahoo	August 22 Auston Burnley Poorman's Canyon 80 lbs.		White Marlin	August 24 Mike Dahl Lindenkohl Canyon 76 lbs.	



A new billfish tournament was started this year, the Marlins for Mason, to raise awareness and funds for the Dravet Syndrome Foundation. Here tournament founder Amanda Prather presents this years donation of \$312, 457. It is twice the size of the largest donation in the Foundation's history! Pictured with her are her children Mason & Abby, her husband John and tournament organizers Sarah Evans, Shelby Zimmer, Kourtney Duffie and Lindsay Harrington. Fellow organizers were Lindsey Stanton and Chrissy Keller who are not pictured.





FSH CCHARTERS



The bay fishing boat "Tortuga" based at the Bahia Marina found lots of flounder this past week in and around the Ocean City Bay. They run three trips daily that are 3 hours each.





Mary Eddy snagged a pretty red drum while fishing with Capt. JD Eddy on the charter boat "Green Reaper". They were on the south side of the south Jetty at the Ocean City Inlet using cut bait.



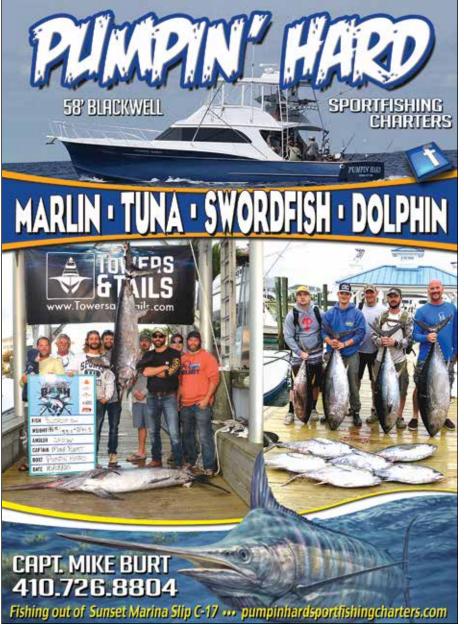
FISHICCHARTERS





Day 4 of the 32nd Annual MidAtlantic saw every boat fishing except 1, so there was a lot of action at the scales. The charter boat "Hall Pass" with Capts. George Hall and Jimmy Hahn headed 102 miles north east to fish between the Lindenkohl and Spencer Canyons where angler Nick Lane landed these 2 tunas. The larger 106 lb. bigeye secured 1st Place in the 50' and Under Calcutta Heaviest Tuna and \$12,972 in prize money. Rounding out the crew were Jeff Carroll, Bo Chaggert, Mike Goodman and Jim Messina.

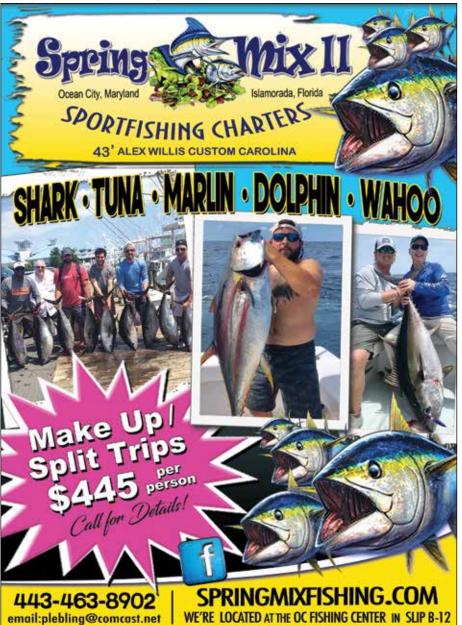




FSH CCHARIERS



Capt. Chris Watkowski with mate Chase Porter put this crew onto some serious mahi action last week. They were in the Poor Man's Canyon trolling weed lines and other flotsam putting over 50 in the box! Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.





Capt. Chris Keller on the charter boat "Action Jackson" found the drift too fast on this trip for sea bass & flounder, so they switched up to target mahi. They found several including some under a floating boogie board that they 'caught' as well! Give him a call to schedule your boogie board charter!

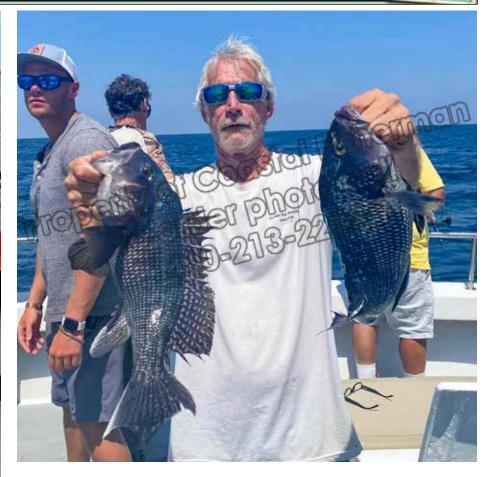


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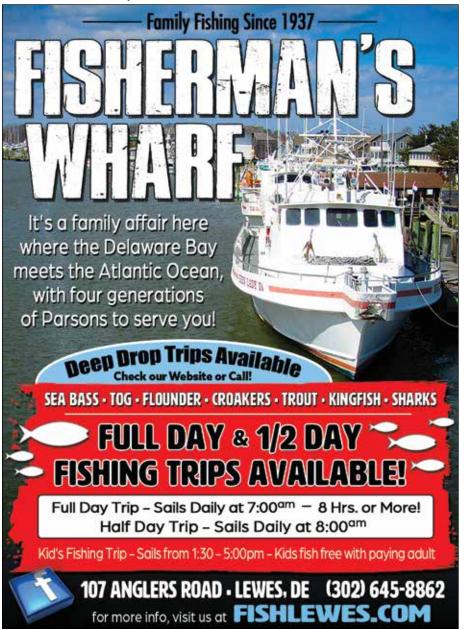


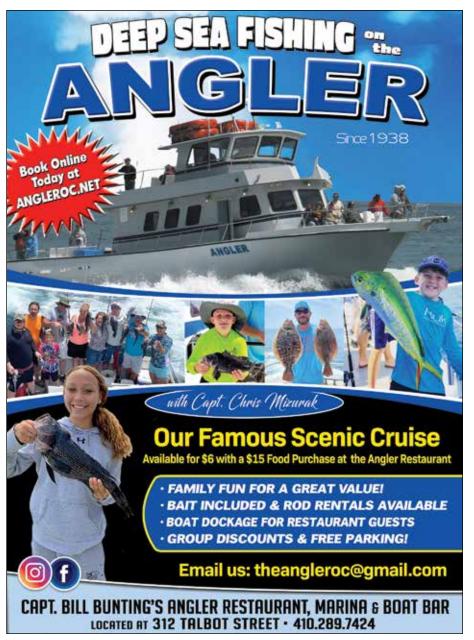


The Fisherman's Wharf in Lewes, DE offers 'Fishy Fun' trips aimed at kids. They provide the gear, tackle and knowledge to make a great outing. This trip saw a number of keeper bluefish caught near the Outer Wall. There are only a few of these left for the season, so check it out!



The headboat "Angler" has moved to its fall schedule with 8 hour trips daily with some 10 hour ones mixed in. Capt. Chris Mizurak reports recent trips have shown great catches of mahi (up to 10 lbs!) and hefty sea bass like this pair, as well as keeper flounder all coming over the rail.





FISHIGCHARTERS



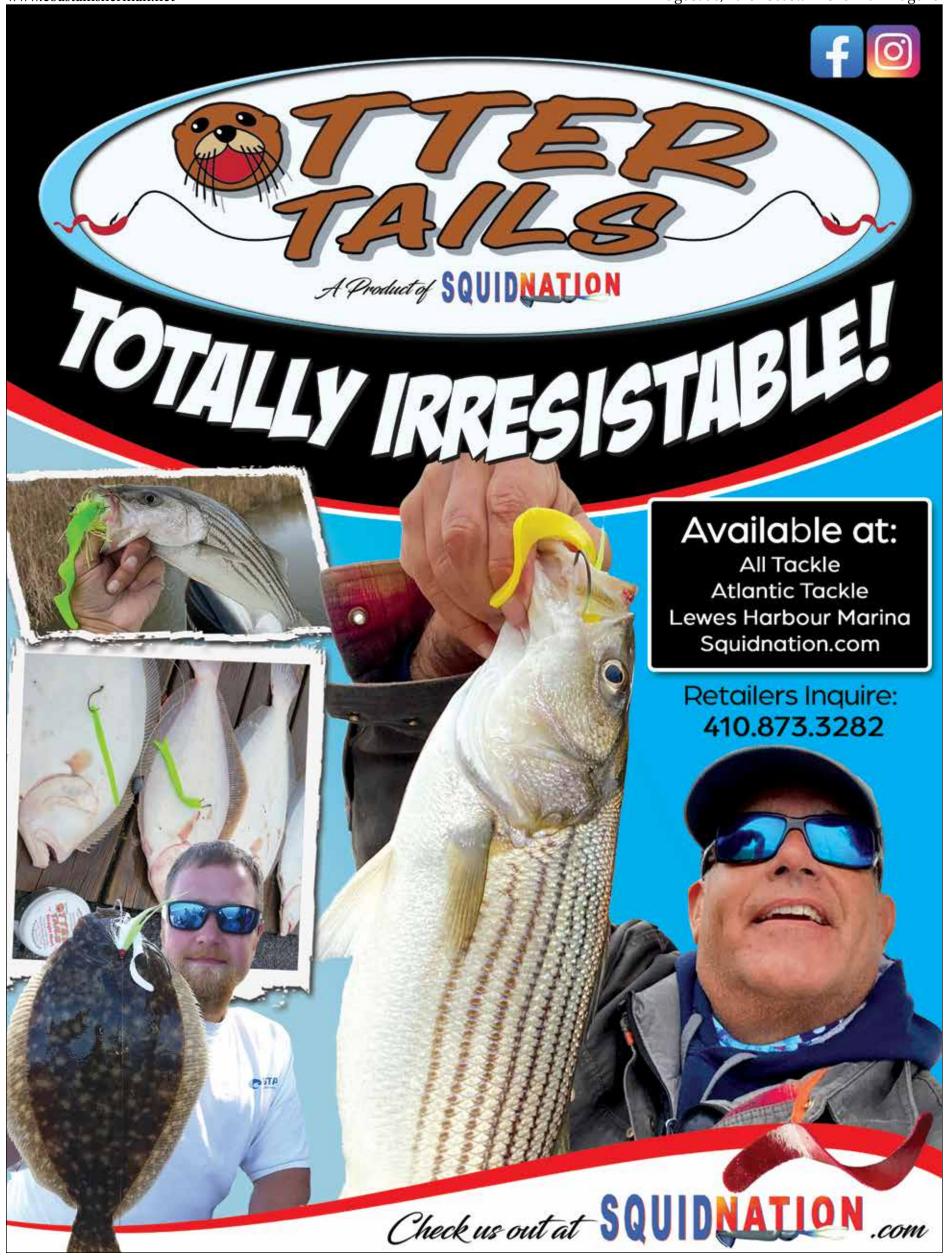




Capts. Walt Hammond and Eric Shoaff on the headboat "Judith M" have been heading to a little deeper water to get their anglers on some nice fish. Working both wrecks and reefs as well as natural bottom sites about 25 miles out, they report less action on sea bass, but those coming up are of a better quality & size. Flounder too are in the mix. Crowds are less this time of year so a great time to get out and get yours!











Blue water has moved a little closer and has brought a great inshore bite for mahi. Angler Leah Klump caught this 10 lb. gaffer at a natural bottom while fishing on the headboat "Angler" out of the Talbot Street Pier.



One of the great things about the Ocean City Bay is that it is accessible to fish from several bulkhead locations as well as private docks. Matt Ritter of OC caught this 18" keeper in the bay at 22nd St. off the dock using white Gulp on a white bucktail with a green Otter Tail teaser.



GREPORT by Capt. BJ Pietryak

Last week in Delaware we saw reel it up from the bottom, windy days and tons of beach erosion. Many boats chose to stay at the docks rather than fight the angry seas. For those brave soles that ventured to the near shore wrecks and coral, the fish were very willing to bite. Flounder remains the best catch at the wrecks along with some big sea bass when you can find them. Ribbon fish are on most of the wrecks and have become a nuisance when targeting other more preferred fish for dinner.

Nearshore Wrecks & Coral

The surface water temps are still very warm for this time of the year and the water has that green tint to it, however the bottom water temperature is much cooler. If you grab hold of your sinker after you

vou can feel the coldness of the bottom. Sea bass are still being caught on deeper Although limits structures. are hard to find, several good size knotheads can be found on both the deeper wrecks as well as the taller coral.

I was out last weekend with Carl Gutberlet at the coral just east of A buoy and managed some really nice flounder on clacker rigs tipped with pink Gulp Pink Shine. The biggest of our fish was 24" and 4.8 lbs.

"Last Chance Charters" with Captain Matt Cook had a couple nice half day trips bringing home several fish in the 23"- 25" range from inshore structures.

The charter boat "Miss Ene III" stated he had a deep wreck all to themselves and slayed some big flounder, sea bass and even managed a nice lobster. On a trip later in the week Captain Cook reported that the spanish macks were eager to bite the trolled spoons, allowing their clients to bring home some big fish for dinner and provide a fast paced trip for the anglers.

Dale Owens Jr. was out at the Old Grounds and caught several fish over 20 inches with his biggest being a huge 26 inch 7 pound fluke that put up one hell of a fight.

"Ocean Arsenal Tackle" was out fishing also at the Old Grounds with their Squid Thing tipped with a meat strip and managed a few decent flounder. This was notable since the Coral Grounds were pounded the week before by all the Flounder Pounder tournament anglers. outer edges of the coral beds are holding the best and biggest fish.

"Bottom Line Sportfishing" whacked the fish again last week bringing back 24 mahi, 18 sea bass and a huge flounder. The crew reported over 100 mahi in 3 days.

Good reports of mahi staging on the bass pot balls are coming in daily. The water to the north appears to be much cleaner and blue compared to the areas in the south. Trolling small chuggers or squid lures past the pots has been the most productive with chunking pieces of squid and minnows at the pots being a close second.

"Last Chance Charters" managed to put some nice Gaffer mahi in the boat this past week and will be out hitting the pots again this coming week. Walt Gazdzik said he found some truely big mahi on the balls, however, he

couldn't get them to bite so he jumped in the water and used his spear gun to capture a few for the dinner table.

"Bad Wind Charters" said the fluke did not cooperate so they hit the pots for some mahi. They stated they had a few nice sized ones on board until Ralph hooked into a monster 43 pound giant. After about a 35 minute fight they brought the beast on to the boat. Last year was a banner year for big inshore mahi and this year appears to be following the same trend of bigger mahi than we have seen inshore in

Jay Werner went out to Massey Canyon and using bucktails tipped with meat had a box full of dolphin. He stated they could have had over 50 of the delicious fish but stopped when they had enough for dinner and left the fish to be caught by the next anglers.

Captain Brent of the charter "Katydid" was out fishing an ocean structure by himself last week and landed a nice 7.28 pound fluke. The fish was weighed in at Lewes Harbour Marina.

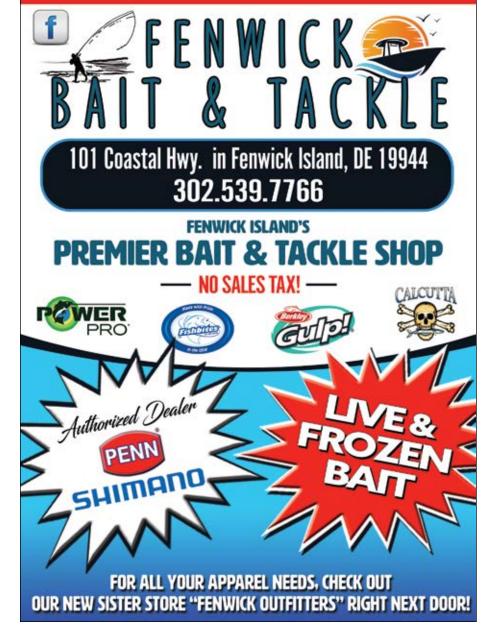
"Jay Sea 2" charters with Captain Jamar hauled in a cooler full of flounder along with a few big sea bass this past week hitting the deeper wrecks.

Back Bays & Inlet

The back bays have started to calm down after the big rush of boats in and out fishing the Flounder Pounder Tournament. Some really nice fish are being caught with the arrival of the big schools of peanut bunker in the back bays.

Will McGrath from Lewes fished the Lewes Canal and caught a huge sea trout on his second cast. At 26.6 inches and weighing 5.72 pounds it earned Will a Delaware Citation! Frozen shrimp was the ticket for catching this trophy fish.

Jake Marsili caught his first



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keeper flounder on salmon Gulp while fishing the Lewes Pier with his father Danny James. The fish measured 17 inches and dad said he couldn't contain his excitement of catching his first keeper fish.

Phillip Hurd caught his biggest fluke out of the Delaware Bay, that being a fish weighing 8.7 pounds.

Surf Fishing

Geaorge Frigm was out at Fenwick State Park and managed to hook a nice flounder with a 4" mullet strip on a bottom rig.

Joe Dinisio added another 3 kingfish to his freezer collection this past week. Pompano rigs and sand fleas accounted for these delicious treats.

Spot and mullet are all along the surf, and over the next few weeks surf fishing should begin to greatly improve.

Until next week,
Tight lines and fins up! §



INCLUDE IN THE EMAIL:

- · Angler's full name and town
- Names & towns of others in photo
- · Weight and/or length of fish
- Bait/lure used
- Location of catch
- Name of boat, if any

 Please do not compress the photo

Please do not compress the photo and do not run it through any photo software.

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

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



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Tim 'Cappy' Hahn of Ocean City fooled this 6.1 lb & 25½" flounder with a live pinfish and a 5" Gulp Swimming Mullet. He was fishing at the Bass Grounds on the "Saylor Gray".

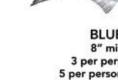


You could say this group on the charter boat "Green Reaper" went a little trigger happy last week! Curtis Moyer from Lebanon, PA with Jessie Dile of Schaefferstown, PA and Alan Gelsinger from Womelsdorf, PA fished the Ocean City Jetty to land these 10 triggerfish and a tog using sand fleas.

STATE WATERS ONLY



BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - December 11



BLUEFISH 8" minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day Charter



BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day up to 6 per boat/day



COBIA
40" minimum
1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/15
Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers



CROAKER 9" minimum 25 per person/day



RED DRUM 18-27" minimum 1 per person/day



SHEEPSHEAD 4 per person/day



SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 4 per person/day



STRIPED BASS 28-31" Less than 3 miles from shore 1 per person/day



SUMMER FLOUNDER 16" minimum 4 per person/day



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



WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day

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Tim Gola from Newark, DE caught his limit of flounder up to 24" on this trip aboard the "Aboat Time" out of the Cedar Creek Marina. He rotated a mix of squid, cut bluefish and ribbonfish as bait.



SEPTEMBI

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

OCTOBER

41st Annual Mid-Atlantic Surf Fishing Tournament

Oct 5-7 · Ocean City, MD · 410-251-2203

7th Annual Ocean City Inshore Classic

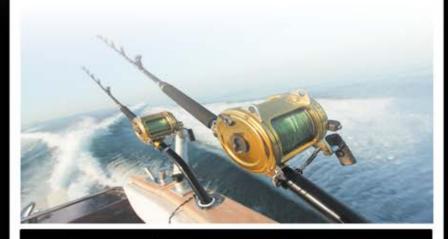
Oct 7-8 • Atlantic Tackle • 410-430-1016

4th Annual Bishop Broadbill Bash

TBD • Sunset Marina • 410-213-9600

DMS Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament Oct 8-10 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974

Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament Late October - Late November • Lewes, DE • 302-645-6227



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





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SPRING MIX II

43 FT. WILLIS Capt. Chris Watkowski



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All the talk this season about the White marlin Open celebrating its 50th anniversary jogged my memory about how things were around our local docks and out on the water back in 1973 and how much they've changed since. Back then I was a 15-year-old kid working at Bahia Marina and just starting my "formal education" about how to catch fish and drive a boat around Ocean City's inshore and offshore waters. Back then I could not have even begun to imagine how much our shorelines, waterways, and fisheries would change in a (short) half century, but they surely have, and here's just a small taste of what's gone on since the 1st Annual White Marlin Open.

Old RR Bridge

Wonder why Old Bridge Rd. in West Ocean City is named the way it is? It's because the east end of it is where the old railroad bridge used to cross the bay over to just above the Coast Guard station. Right now it ends at someone's house, but when I was a kid the road ran right out across remnants of the old bridge that no longer spanned the entire bay, but did still run over a hundred yards out into it. It was essentially to bulkheads running parallel and filled with dirt with an asphalt cap, the very end was a ragged mess of wood and rubble. The pavement was pretty sketchy but you could drive your car almost all the way out and fish or crab beside your car if you wanted to. The north side of the bridge was a cove of pretty shallow water but from the end you could cast right out into the channel and it was a good place to catch big croaker during the day and sea trout at

Incidentally, "Stinky Beach" extended both north and south

of where the old RR bridge made landfall. The south side is now all filled in, built up, and covered with expensive homes while what's left of the north side shoreline has been set aside for public use and more appropriately named Homer Gudelsky Park.

Dog and Bitch Islands?

Yea, I don't know who named them but for the longest time there were two marsh islands in the Thorofare known as Dog and Bitch. They were just a couple hundred yards (if that) off the shoreline right where the deep dropoff is now. The islands were pretty big, but over time they got whittled down to nothing by strong nor'easters. currents and The last remnant of the last island disappeared sometime within the past decade, but I don't recall exactly when. Old nautical charts show the islands quite well and even some of the newer charts continue to suggest the Dog and Bitch are still around, but if they are they're nothing more than a bump on a depth

Speaking of vanishing islands for the longest time there were three islands on the west side of the sandbar out in front of Bahia Marina on 22nd st. One is still there (it's the one with the house on it and the bridge), the other two were to the north, and for a while were at least half the size of the one with the house. My friends built a little shack out of scrap lumber in the center of the middle island and it would be our little base camp when we would go to clam and gig blowfish in the summer or shoot ducks and an occasional goose in the winter. The two islands have since melted down into the sandbar.

Marinas that Came and Went

When I was a kid there was no Sunset Marina or Ocean City

Fishing Center. Where they are now was just marsh, brush and sand dunes. But back then there were some other marinas that no longer exist. Right behind where Hooper's Crab House is now (the restaurant wasn't there then) was "Elliott's Marina" which had slips for small boats and a bait and tackle shop. Directly across Rt.50 from Elliott's was Bayside Marina which also rented slips, sold bait and tackle, and rented small skiffs. At the end of the Bayside canal was Bayside Boatel which was OC's first indoor "stack" facility for storing boats. They also sold and repaired boats and motors.

"Captain Joe's Marina" was located in the cove at 1st street where "de Lazy Lizard" restaurant now sits. From what I remember, Capt. Joe's had a pretty big fleet of brown wooden rental boats powered by 6hp Evinrude motors. I think that the first time I ever fished here in OC was when my father rented one of those boats and took me out on the bay. Just by happenstance, about 30 years ago I was able to buy one of those old rental boats from a relative of Captain Joe . It was built in 1965 and my wife and I still have it and use it for messing around in the back bays.

The canal up at 53rd St used to be home to "Bouldens Marina" which rented slips for small boats, had a store, and a small fleet of 13' Boston Whalers for rent which, at the time, were the fastest thing you could rent on the water. I remember fishing from the docks and bulkhead around the Ship's Cafe Marina (which is now Harbour Island) and catching sand sharks and blowfish with handlines and squid. The homes weren't there then, so it was mostly an open lot with a few little cottages. Most of the www.coastalfisherman.net marinas that were here then are still around today but have certainly grown up, taken on a new look, and offer a lot more amenities. I really miss the atmosphere of the sleepy little marinas!

In Town Marine Railway

It's really hard to imagine now, but just off Talbot Street right about where M.R.Ducks is now, there used to be a marine railway where a pretty good sized boat could be hauled out of the water for painting and other maintenance and repair work. I remember the first time I noticed the railway, it was in the spring and a friend and I were hunting monkfish or "headfish" as we called them. The fish used to swarm into the bay that time of the year and often lay up on the marshes, sandbars and - well, the sandy marine railway on Talbot Street! "Headfishing" with rocks and spears was something kids did back then, but that story is probably better left for another time.

No Limits on Flounder

When I was a kid there was no size or creel limit on flounder, and there were lots of them!. Back then, anglers just pretty much used their own discretion as to what they thought was big enough to get some decent size fillets from. I'm not suggesting there shouldn't be limits now. Maybe back then anglers listened to their conscience more, or just had better ethics, but I don't recall much of a problem with anglers keeping little flounder. Eventually Maryland's DNR came up with a 10-inch size limit and the next year bumped it up to 12-inches. Back then a lot of anglers took exception to the size limits, not so much because they wanted to keep small fish but they weren't keen on being regulated in what they "could" or "could not" keep. If they only knew what was coming in the future!

Parasailing has Changed!

Watching a parasail boat the other day it reminded me about the first such operation

Annapolis, MD 21401

www.coastalfisherman.net here in OC. It was run in the bay and the operators had a big floating dock anchored up off 30-something Street which acted like an aircraft carrier in that the customers would be lifted off from, and then landed back on the deck. I used to watch them operate the process always seemed precarious, because in order to land the customers the boat had to swing the line over the platform and slow down so that it would come close enough for someone on the deck to grab it and snap a line to it. The boat would then

All these changes and a whole lot more have occurred around here since the 1st Annual White Marlin Open. It'll likely be from a different vantage point, but I can't wait to see what things will be like in another 50-years! §

move forward and the person would be pulled down to the deck. It wasn't exactly as slick (or as safe) as they do it these

days.



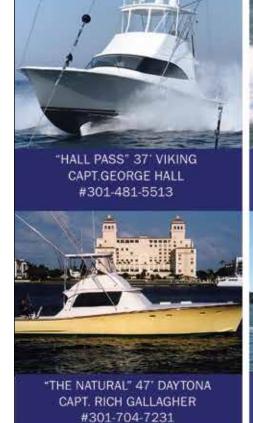
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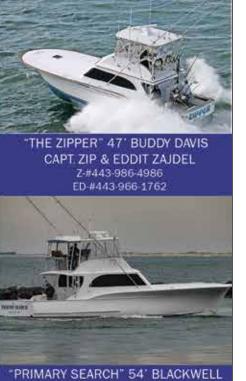








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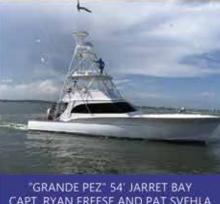




PRIMARY SEARCH" 54' BLACKWELL CAPT. AUSTIN ENSOR #443-392-4926



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"PUMPIN' HARD" 58' BLACKWELL CAPT. MIKE BURT #410-726-8804



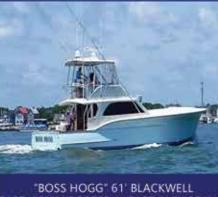
CAPT. MARK HOOS #410-456-7765



"REEL CHAOS" 60' GUTHRIE CAPT. ANTHONY MATARESE #609-685-0704



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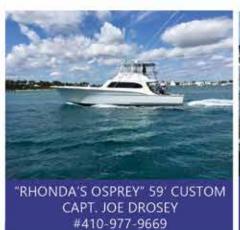
"BLOOD MONEY" 64' CAISON CAPT. ANTHONY PINO #410-490-0035

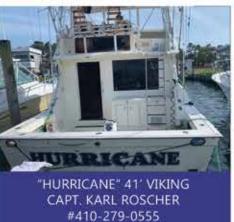


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Al Miller of Rockville MD with Joe Wyatt, Steve Cannon and Scott Beattie from Ocean City had a full day on the private boat "Milla Time". They fished just east of the Hog Dog in 200 to 400 fathoms releasing a white marlin, blue marlin and a mako in addition to all of these mahi. The marlin were both caught on Green Machines. About 15 of the mahi were on naked ballyhoo and Smokers, and the rest were picked up off some floating structure.

NEW! 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



It was a family day for Annapolis, MD teens Brady & Michael with their father Mike Feranec and grandfather Alan from Frankford, DE. They were fishing in the Indian River Inlet on the charter boat "Razorback" with Capt. Roger Quigley and mate Mike where they caught 8 bluefish using spot.

WEAKFISH

13" minimum

1 per person/day

eregulations.com



SUMMER FLOUNDER

16" minimum

4 per person/day

TAUTOG

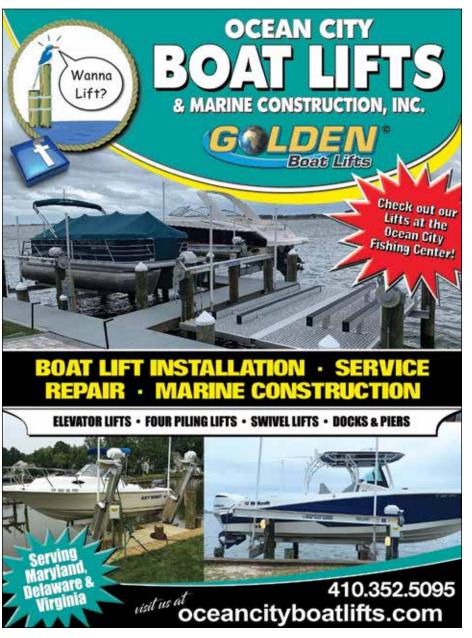
16" minimum

4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31



Sophia Perry, Brandon Perry, Lyla Perry, Eva Greenlaw and Payton Whitlock did a post fishing trip line up to show of their mornings work while fishing with Capt. Jason Mumford and Rob Perry on the "Lucky Break"! They reeled in 4 keeper flounder and a couple of bluefish from the southern bay and Ocean City Inlet using Gulp and Otter Tails.





THE GALL ENGLISH By Chef Christine

Seared Tuna Tostadas

Ingredients:

1 6-8 oz sashimi grade tuna steak

1 large ripe avocado pitted, thinly sliced

1 large jalapeno thinly sliced into rounds

Arugula

Pepper

Sesame seeds

1-2 limes

Grapeseed or sunflower oil

Corn tortillas

Old Bay Crema Ingredients:

1/3 cup sour cream

2 Tbsp mayo

1/2 lime juiced

2 Tbsp Old Bay seasoning

1 tsp chipotle pepper

Water to thin

Directions:

To make the Crema:

Whisk together all of the ingredients until combined. Taste and adjust if needed. Add a tsp of water at a time

if needed for thinning. This helps drizzle the sauce better. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use.

Preheat a griddle or flat top on high heat. Use a large pan if you don't have either. Dress



the tuna with fresh ground pepper on both sides pressing to create a crust. When the cook top is hot, sear the tuna on both sides for about 1 minute per side. Remove from heat and let rest a few minutes. This will make it easier to cut. Once cooled, use a sharp knife to thinly slice, going across the grain.

On the same cook top, reduce the heat to medium. Brush both sides of tortillas with oil (you can do this on the grill). Lay each tortilla flat on the grill. Be sure not to overlap for even cooking. Cook on both sides for 1-2 minutes until they begin to bubble and turn slight golden. Remove from the heat and cover to keep warm. Repeat until all tortillas are cooked. When the tortillas have finished put the jalapeno rounds on the grill and give them a quick cook to soften them up a little.

To assemble, layer 1 tbsp. crema as the base over each tostada, top with a bit

www.coastalfisherman.net of arugula, a few slices of avocado, layer 2-3 pieces of tuna, top with jalapenos, sesame seeds and more crema if needed. Serve with lime on the side.

Shrimp Creole

Ingredients:

4 Tablespoons butter

1 large onion, diced

1 rib celery, diced

1 green bell pepper, diced

2 cloves garlic, minced

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon thyme

1/2 teaspoon black pepper

1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper

1 Tablespoon flour

1/3 cup dry white wine (optional)

1 15 oz. can diced tomatoes, or about 1 ¼ cups peeled and diced fresh tomatoes

1 cup chicken stock

2 bay leaves

Hot pepper sauce, such as Tabasco, to taste



2 lbs large uncooked shrimp, (about 32)

6-8 cups hot cooked rice, for serving

2 green onions, chopped for garnish

Directions:

Add butter to a large skillet over medium heat. Add onion, celery, bell pepper, and garlic and sauté until veggies are lightly browned.

In a small bowl whisk together the thyme, salt, pepper, cayenne and flour. Stir into onion mixture and cook for 2 minutes.



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Deglaze the pan with wine (if using) and then add chicken stock, tomatoes, bay leaves and hot sauce. Reduce heat and simmer for 20-25 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Remove bay leaves. Add shrimp and cook until pink, just 3-4 minutes.

Serve over hot cooked rice and garnish with green onion.

Baked Mahi with Parsley Sauce



Ingredients:

4 mahi fillets, about 1-1.5 lbs.

Salt & pepper to taste

1/4 cup lemon juice

3 tablespoons olive oil

2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh parsley

1 tablespoon capers + teaspoon brine

1 tablespoon minced garlic

1/4 teaspoon coarse salt Directions:

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Season fish with salt & pepper. Place in a baking dish.

Stir the remaining ingredients together in a small bowl. Spoon about 1/2 the sauce onto the fish and reserve the rest for later.

Bake the mahi for about 10 – 15 minutes, or until the fish flakes easily with a fork.

Remove from oven and top with remaining sauce before serving.

Flounder Piccata

Ingredients:

4 flounder fillets, about 20 ounces total

Freshly ground black pepper

2 large egg whites

2/3 cup seasoned bread crumbs, or gluten-free crumbs Olive oil spray, about 1 tbsp worth

1 tbsp whipped butter, or regular butter

2 lemons, 1 juiced with squeezed lemon halves reserved, the other sliced for serving

1/4 cup dry white wine

1/2 cup chicken broth

1 Tbsp capers, drained

2 Tbsp chopped fresh parsley, for serving

Directions:

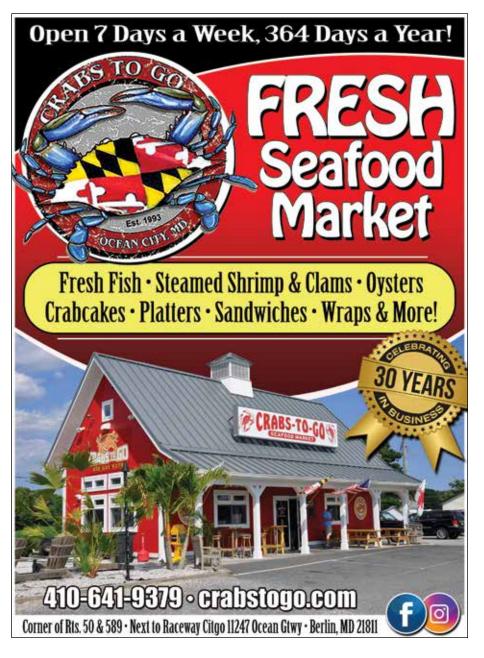
Season fish with salt and pepper. Heat the oven to 200F. In a shallow bowl, beat the egg whites. Place the bread crumbs



in another dish. Dip each fish fillet in the egg whites, then bread crumbs.

Heat a large skillet over medium to medium-low heat. Spray a generous amount of olive oil spray on one side of the fish, and lay it in the pan, oil side down. Spray the other side of the fish generously to coat and cook for 4 to 5 minutes on each side, until fish is opaque and cooked





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through.

Set aside on a platter in the warm oven until you make the sauce.

Over medium heat in the same pan, melt butter, add the lemon juice, wine, chicken broth and the reserved lemon halves, salt, and pepper and bring to a boil.

Boil over high heat until the liquid is reduced to half, about 3 – 4 minutes.

Discard the lemon halves, add the capers and spoon the sauce over the fish; place a slice of lemon on each fillet and top with fresh parsley.

Blackened Fish Flatbread

Ingredients:

For the Fish:

1 lb of mild local fish

Blackening seasoning of choice

Salt

Pepper

1 Tbsp Butter



1 Tbsp Canola oil

For the simple spicy tartar sauce:

1/3 cup tartar sauce

2-3 tsp of lemon juice

Cayenne, Sriracha, and/or Blackening Seasoning to taste

Other:

Flatbread

Chopped lettuce

Thinly sliced red onion

Thinly sliced tomato

Directions:

Heat butter and canola oil in a large skillet over medium to medium-high heat. Sprinkle a little salt and pepper on one side of fish and then coat with blackening spice to desired preference.

Place the fish, seasoned side down into the pan and quickly season the other side in the same way. Cook fish for roughly 3-4 minutes per side: 7-8 minutes in total. Remove from skillet, tent with foil and allow to rest for 3-5 minutes.

Heat flatbread in oven at 350° F until just warmed through. Remove from oven and layer on the lettuce, tomato, red onion, and spicy tartar sauce to preference. Place fish fillet on top, fold up the sides and wrap one end in parchment paper or foil. Serve with a lemon wedge if desired.

Blackened Tuna Steaks with Mango Avocado Salsa

Ingredients:

Blackening seasoning or Cajun / Creole seasoning, about 1–2 tablespoon

4 ahi tuna steaks

1 tablespoon cooking oil

For the salsa:

1 mango, diced

1 avocado, diced

1/2 red bell pepper, diced

1 tablespoon lime juice

2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh cilantro

www.coastalfisherman.net 2 tablespoons diced onion

1 teaspoon minced garlic

1 teaspoon coarse salt

Directions:

Combine the mango, avocado, pepper, red onion and cilantro in a large mixing bowl. Add lime juice, salt and pepper, and stir to combine. Refrigerate until ready to use.

Pat the tuna steaks dry and season them liberally with



blackening seasoning.

Heat a large skillet to high heat with cooking oil. When oil is hot, add the steaks and sear for 1 – 2 minutes per side.

Remove from the pan and allow the steaks to rest for a minute or two.

To serve, slice the tuna and top with mango avocado salsa. §



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54' Jarrett Bay 2000 - Call Chuck: 703.999.7696



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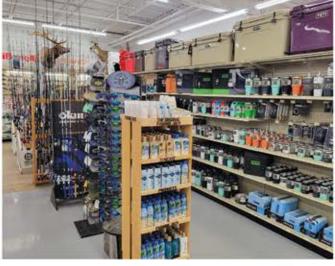
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Capt. JD Eddy on the charter boat "Green Reaper" took Dan Beirc from Pasadena, MD for some fishing at the Winter Quarter Shoal. He caught this 36" cobia using live eels.



Jamie Crosby of Berlin, MD found success casting off the rocks of the South Ocean City Jetty. He fooled this 25" flounder on a 5" Lunker City soft plastic with a 1 oz. jig head.



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Micheal Davis of Essington, PA reeled in one fat flounder while fishing on the "Ocean Princess"! He and Malcolm Karl from Woodbridge, VA were on one of their 6 hours trips on a beautiful day when he caught this 5 lb. and 24" fattie using a squid and silverside combo.



Under the 'you never know what you are going to catch' category, we have this juvenile atlantic moonfish. It was caught aboard the headboat "Angler" last week along with a mixed bag of flounder and sea bass. The boat is now on it's fall schedule with 8 hour trips with a few 10 hour ones mixed in.

FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS 3-200 Miles





WHITE MARLIN 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit

NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit



DOLPHIN
No minimum Length
Boat Limit 54
Charter Limit Daily 10 per angler



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



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



Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit



GOLDEN TILEFISH
No minimum • 8 per person/day



BLUELINE TILEFISH
5/1 - 10/31
3 per person (Recreational)
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.

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

Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov

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Autopilots

Congratulations to all the participants and winners in last week's 2023 MidAtlantic Tournament.

As it turned out, last week many boats were running 100-125 miles in the dark to get to the fishing grounds, it takes skill and patience to safely navigate the busy waters and without an autopilot it can be even more stressful.

If you have an autopilot, you know how useful it can be for those long offshore runs. When it is not working properly it can be a distraction, requiring you to manually steer the boat for hours on end. A typical marine autopilot is one of the most complex marine electronics system on a boat. Its job is to steer the boat on a selected heading or course, giving the captain more time to concentrate on other navigational and operational tasks.

The autopilot system consists of 5 major components – rudder feedback, drive unit, heading sensor and course computer and the boats steering system. If any of these parts are not operating 100%, the entire autopilot package will suffer. For those of you who are familiar with autopilots, you may have wondered why the display is not mentioned as a critical component. Most modern

autopilots are designed to operate with a dedicated display or connected to a network with a Multifunction display (MFD) or even a wristwatch! No longer do all autopilots require a dedicated display.

The rudder feedback is a sensor



system.

that mounts next to the rudder and moves in unison with the rudders. This motion is converted to an electrical signal that is sent to the course computer for processing.

The autopilot then knows how much it is turning the rudders and learns what is needed to keep the boat on course. The rudder feedback can be an optional component for some boats where it is not practical to install a sensor, such on an outboard powered boat. In this case the autopilot computer is equipped with an electronic motion sensor (sometimes called phantom feedback) that "senses" how the

boat. Most sportfish boats have a hydraulic steering system and therefore use a dedicated hydraulic pump as the autopilot drive unit. Some new boats have a steer-by-wire system (Seastar/Dometic, Yamaha Helmmaster, Optimus, Viper) that incorporate an electronic gateway module, allowing the autopilot to "talk" to the electronic steering system.

boat is turning when the autopilot

is in operation. For most boats,

if you have rudders, you need a

rudder feedback in your autopilot

The drive unit must match the

type of steering system on the

Some larger boats have a power steering system operated by solenoids, the autopilot system needs to have the ability to connect to and operate the solenoids to steer the boat. There are also autopilot drive solutions for other types of steering systems, such as

www.coastalfisherman.net a linear drive and rotary drive.

The heading sensor is another important part of the autopilot system, its job is to provide a fast and accurate measurement in angular degrees (0-360) referenced to North. Traditional magnetic or fluxgate heading sensors operate like a traditional ship's compass, with sensors that convert the compass heading to an electronic format that the autopilot computer can process. Many modern heading sensors are all electronic, typically incorporating an attitude and heading reference system (AHRS). Since these systems do not need the traditional sphere, they can often be installed in a variety of orientations and subsequently calibrated after installation. These heading sensors still sense the north magnetic field and can be affected by interference from nearby metallic objects.

Previously only available for larger vessels due to the size and cost, the Satellite compass is now becoming a popular option as a heading sensor for autopilots and the rest of the boat's navigation system. A satellite compass uses multiple satellite receivers that each receive a GPS signal and perform internal calculations to determine heading. While these satellite compasses are not affected by a magnet field, they do need to be installed with a clear view of the sky for proper operation.

The final key component is the course computer or the brains behind the autopilot system. This computer receives inputs from the

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heading sensor, rudder feedback and chart plotter and captain and then steers the boat to a waypoint or heading as programmed. Each brand of autopilot uses a different computer with different abilities and adjustments. At a minimum one sea trial is necessary to calibrate and tune an autopilot to meet the specific characteristics of your boat. Once calibrated and tuned, there is often the ability to fine tune the autopilot settings to make improvements or customize the operation to meet your needs. Many modern autopilot computers unique steering patterns in addition to the typical straightline heading or waypoint holding ability. Some of the steering patterns include U-Turn, Circles, Zigzag, Williamson, Orbit and Cloverleaf. Check to see if your system includes special patterns, they may be useful while fishing.

navigation to a waypoint (nav). When engaged on heading hold, the autopilot's job is to maintain the vessel's heading, keeping the boat's bow pointed in the same compass direction for the duration of operation. Depending on wind, waves and current this mode may not deliver you to your destination, since the overall direction of travel is not compensated. When an autopilot is used in navigation mode, waypoint information, including cross track error is sent from the GPS chart plotter to the autopilot and using that information, the autopilot will attempt to steer the vessel to the waypoint using any heading necessary to keep the vessel on the calculated path to the waypoint. This is most useful for long runs and when wind, waves, and current affect your course. When engaged in navigation mode, the cross-track error is the distance your vessel has varied to one side or the other from the theoretical straightline course to the destination

operation, heading hold (auto) or

waypoint. This information from

the chart plotter is mandatory if

you want to use your autopilot in

navigation mode.

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Auto vs Nav

The autopilot computer uses the heading sensor to determine the vessel's heading which is where the bow is pointed and not necessarily the direction of travel (course). Autopilots generally have two modes of

The typical hydraulic drive unit can be thought of as an additional helm pump (helm steering station). The autopilot drive unit serves the same function as the helm wheel but is turned by motor instead of a person. The maintenance and service of the drive unit is like the rest of the steering system when it comes to bleeding the system, checking for leaks and other maintenance. important feature that should be added when installing a hydraulic drive unit is to add isolation valves that will allow vou to close off the rest of the boats hydraulic steering system so that the autopilot drive unit can be removed and serviced without disrupting the rest of the steering system. Without these valves, the steering system will be unusable while the drive unit is removed and upon re-installation you will need to refill and bleed the system after service.

An autopilot system needs to be calibrated correctly for proper operation. Autopilots often have a calibration procedure that is partially completed at rest at the dock and a second portion conducted on open water on a

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Monkey's Trunk

August 30, 2023 Coastal Fisherman Page 49 calm day. The sea trail portion often calibrates the heading sensor and the course computer during the same sea trial. Once completed, the autopilot settings can be adjusted by the captain to fine tune the system's operation. This calibration, both at the dock and at sea should be repeated as often as needed after any work on the steering system is completed and if any component of the autopilot system has been worked on or replicated. Many captains re-calibrate their systems on a regular basis or after they move the boat a significant distance from the original calibration, since the earth magnetic field varies with latitude.

If your old system needs an upgrade, you may be able to re-use some of your good components, such as the hydraulic pump. Often the same brand or another brand of autopilot can be installed reusing the existing hydraulic pump, saving a significant cost portion of an autopilot system.

Keeping your autopilot system in top shape will allow you to concentrate on vessel navigation and operation functions instead of hanging on to the wheel for the entire trip. §



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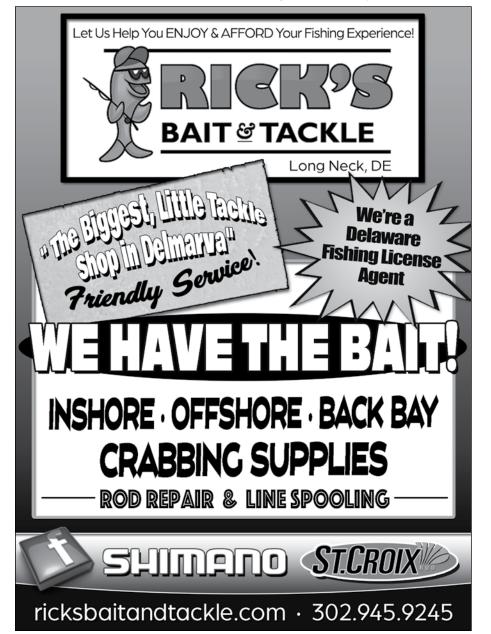
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Kami Banks Kane of Bank's Wine & Spirits in Bethany Beach, DE caught her first white marlin during this year's Capt. Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open! She caught the 65" billfish on the "Nauti Norwegian" with Capt. Mike Zorzi and mate Charlie Coates as part of team 'Angling for a Cure' with Emily Williams, Carrie Cosgrove, Brittany Johnson Krautheim, Catina Fair and Liz Hanick Galasso.







Leah Brown of Berlin, MD was fishing with Collins Brown when she caught this 18½" flounder while casting a bucktail behind Assateague Island



Chris Day from Timonium, MD found a pretty big sheepshead at the south Ocean City Jetty. He was fishing on the charter boat "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford when this 9 lb. convict hit on sand fleas.



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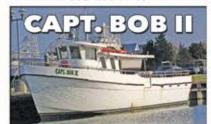
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FISHING REPORT by Capt. Matt Abell

School is not far off for the folks of the lower Eastern Shore, but till then we will focus our efforts on a different kind of "school". We will have to cram for an exam on ichthyology and hope to win a battle of tug of war that would make any PE teacher feel proud!

You know the best part of a song who's lyrics remind us of summer? It's not the vocals or even the guitar riff.... It's the Drum solo at the end that really gets my heart beating. The lower bay is the scene of a yearly gathering of spawning red drum. And when we talk about redfish we aren't talking about the small scrappy spot tails who inhabit the shallows of the region, but the bullish channel bass that reign supreme as the dominant trophy of the Chesapeake. The areas from Watts Island south to Cape Charles seem to provide the

majority of the relentless red action. However, the Tangier targets and the area around Marylands 72 buoy also hold rutting reds. The fish seem to be drawn to man made structures like the reef sites on the Virginia portion of the Chesapeake as well as the 15 to 30 foot sloughs and shoals that outline the bayside shoreline. Cut spot, kingfish or hard head presented on a 8/0 circle hook with a fishfinder have been all that is necessary to engage in a grueling battle with a golden trophy.

The seaside has continued a pretty good late season flounder bite during the last of the flood tide. Clean water is definitely the most important ingredient for a delicious flounder dinner. While the inshore action has been pretty good, the near shore areas of the Atlantic have been even a little bit better. Anglers

jigging 2-3 oz bucktails tipped with Gulp or cut bait over structure have helped fill the cooler with fantastic fillets.

The offshore waters have been fairly productive as blue water boats troll bally's for tuna, mahi and marlin. Along with the pelagic prey, sea bass has become a little more active and added a bonus bycatch to an offshore excursion.

The shallows of the Chesapeake have still been fairly quiet but soon will be the focus of our fall pursuits. Till then, spanish mackerels have kept our rods limber as we troll the channel edges for dinner and smiles. Clarkspoons, Drones and Spanky's spoons towed behind #1 planers have lured these toothy torpedos over the washboard.

This past week I had the opportunity to take two young

www.coastalfisherman.net men and their grandpa out to take part of our awesome red drum fishery. The oldest boy Nathan yielded to his younger brother Dan so that he could catch his first big red. Dan did a great job (with a little help from grandpa) and boated a 49" beast. Not long after that, Nathan was engaged in a battle with a golden prize that unfortunately ended with an unexpected release. So we stayed a little late because I really wanted my little buddy to boat a memory. After a couple of magnum sharks to get our adrenaline pumping, grandpa suggested that it was time to head back. As I then slowly started to clean up, stow the rods and hope for a last minute miracle, the last rod out bent double with a screaming drag. My buddy Nathan had another chance! Soon high fives were being given and pictures were taken, but my favorite part was a hug from my little buddy as he thanked me for staying a little longer. Experiences like this, that we all sometimes take for granted, are the very reason why we are so blessed to live in this wonderful place we call home! §





Capt. Bo Schultz of Berlin, MD had scheduled a trip for he and his son Doug with Capt. Matt Abell of "Sea Hawk Sportfishing". They wanted to get in on the red drum action in the lower Chesapeake Bay. Unfortunately for Doug, he had to cancel due to his work as a police officer. Bo did manage this monster 47" red using cut spot.







Wrightsville, PA angler Jeffrey Donnelly was very excited to share this 28" weakfish he caught at the Old Grounds using Gulp. The Maryland Citation sized fish weighed 3.8 lbs.

FIND WED WED High 07:38 am Low 01:39 am WED. AUGUST 30 High 08:25 pm Low 01:38 pm **Full Moon** High 08:35 am Low 02:25 am **THUR. AUGUST 31** Low 02:33 pm High 09:14 pm High 09:31 am Low 10:02 am FRI. SEPT. 1 Low 03:11 pm High 10:02 pm High 10:24 am Low 10:48 am SAT. SEPT. 2 Low 03:56 pm High 10:48 pm High 11:16 am Low 11:34 am SUN. SEPT. 3 High 11:34 pm Low 04:43 pm Low 12:09 am High ---MON. SEPT. 4 High 12:09 pm Low 05:31 pm High 12:21 am Low 06:22 am TUE. SEPT. 5 High 01:06 pm Low 07:24 pm High 01:12 am Low 07:15 am WED. SEPT. 6 High 02:14 pm Low 08:28 pm Third Qtr. Moon 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.



Capt. and boat owner Gene Arantowicz of the "Mrs. Crabs II" hosted a trip for the Fallen Outdoors Organization whose mission is to organize outdoor adventures for veterans past and present. This was an overnight trip to the Washington Canyon where Sgt. Madison Straka caught a 50 lb. tuna and released 2 sharks! She is pictured with mate Andy Camela and Rick Lumpkin.



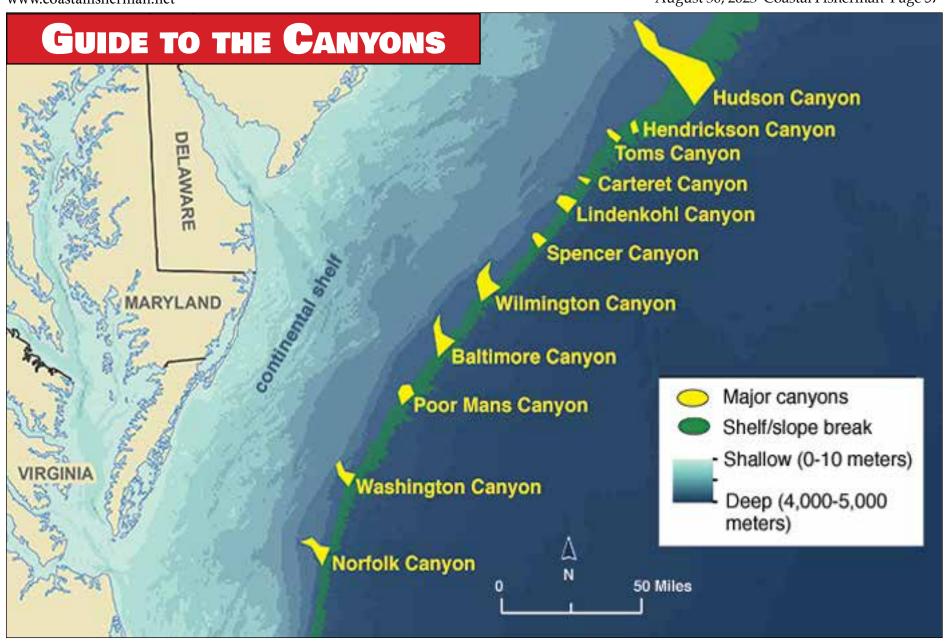
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1ST - "TOO MANY MARTINIS" 33LBS. • \$9,292

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"BOSS HOGG" 76 LBS. \$570,400

BLUE MARLIN PRO JACKPOT

"PIPE DREAMER" 889 LBS. \$369,840

TUNA PRO JACKPOT

"THE RIGHT PLACE" 234 LBS. \$317,400

ON THE BOARD REWARD

HEAVIEST WHITE MARLIN

"COMMON SENSE" 87 LBS.

HEAVIEST BLUE MARLIN

"PIPE DREAMER" 889 LBS. \$10,488

HEAVIEST TUNA

"TALKIN' TRASH" 253 LBS. \$10.488

181 BOATS ENTERED

OCEAN CITY, MD - 115 CAPE MAY, NJ - 66

For more information on the tournament go to www.themidatlantic.com

Day 3 of the 32nd Annual MidAtlantic Tournament was epic for the crew of the "Pipe Dreamer" from Oceanport, NJ. Despite dealing with rough weather on the way out and a broken sonar, Capt. Richard Fernandez headed far north between the Lindenkohl and Spencer Canyons. As the lines in time approached, they saw a bait ball and some big fish, so they waited. Once the gear was in the water, they made their first pass releasing a 67" white marlin. They made another pass and saw a big blue come up on the left long. They reeled it in looking to temp the big fish with a pitch bait, instead it hit the plug on the left short and the fight was on. Angler Andy Confortini from Farmdale, NJ was on the rod as the big fish thrashed behind the boat. It only took 20 minutes to land as the boat backed down hard bringing the big blue right to the door! Once to the scale the big blue measured 133 ½" and weighed 889 lbs. making it the 3rd heaviest blue marlin in tournament history. It remained unchallenged and finished in 1st Place for Blue Marlin earning \$1,180,342 in prize money, a tournament record for blue marlin. Rounding out the crew were owner Carmine Caruso and fellow anglers Jerry Imparato, Anthony Scardino, Jeremy Liedtka, Phil Vitillo and Robert Harling with mate Josh Smith. Pictured at Sunset Marina's tournament scale.

Andy Confortin

DATE AUGUST 23, 2023

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Anglers Matt Weaver, Jason Brown, Nate Pritchett, Dan Caiola, Matt Greer and Jim Frazetti on the "Talkin' Trash" with Capt. Chris Little and mates Jacob Bialk and Mike MacIntyre dominated the Tuna Division during the 32nd Annual MidAtlantic Tournament. On day 1, Dan Caiola raised a 195 lb. bigeye in the Washington Canyon that held 2nd Place at the end of the day. They also came tight on a blue marlin, but cut if off. It was on day 4 however that made the difference. Capt. Chris started the day in the Norfolk Canyon, but it was slow so he pulled the lines and headed back to the Washington. Matt Weaver had the only bite for the day landing this 73½" and 253 lb. bigeye tuna, only 1 pound short of the Tournament record set in 1993! It easily slid into 1st Place in the Tuna Category winning a combined payout of \$361,353.



The "Trashman" from Savanna, GA took home the top honors in both Most Point White Marlin and Most Points Overall during the 32nd Annual MidAtlantic Tournament. Over the week long event anglers Brian DeMille, Gene Sauers Sr., Joe Barrow, Ben Wall, Chris Cook and Les Claxton spent their fishing days offshore at Toms Canyon in deep water. They released 26 white marlin overall including 15 in a single day to earn 1,950 points for White Marlin and \$27,600 in prize monies. The two yellowfin tuna weighed added another 60 for a total of 2,010 points, setting a new tournament record! Capt. Gene Sauers Jr. was at the helm with mate Kyle Clark working the pit.

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The 32nd Annual MidAtlantic Tournament for the "Amarula Sun" is really a tale of two fish. The first was a 808 lb. blue marlin they caught in the Toms Canyon. Unfortunately as it got to the boat it slipped under and got hit by the propellers disqualifying it. Wednesday however saw redemption when they returned to the scales with another blue found offshore of the Lindenkohl Canyon in 1000 fathoms caught by boat owner Shon Craig. This one came up on the left teaser and took a pitch bait. At 114½" and 548 lbs. it took 2nd Place for the tournament in the Blue Marlin Category earning a combined prize of \$494,886. Shon was joined by Sharyn Craig, Amy Stewart, Jimmy Lewis, Capt. Danny Veid and mates Dustin McCabe & Ricky Testa.



The crew of the "Reel King" was pumped when they came to the scales on day 4 of the 32nd Annual MidAtlantic Tournament. Owner Justin King with Ronnie Diem, Zach McClemmants and Logan Davis with Capt. Jimmy Grant and mate Vinnie Benedict had spent the day 102 miles northeast, offshore at the Spencer Canyon in 500 fathoms. Angler Ronnie Diem reeled in a true white marlin that hit on a ballyhoo. It measured 69½" in the boat and at the scales. At 73 lbs. it jumped into 1st Place at the time. Day 4 would prove to be tough however and the "Reel King" finished the event in 4th Place for White Marlin. Picture at the Sunset Marina tournament scales.





Only 1 Ocean City based boat cracked the top 3 for Dolphin during the 32nd Annual MidAtlantic Tournament. The "Too Many Martinis" was only 1 of 11 boats that braved the weather on day 2 of the event and the only one to bring a fish to the scales that day. The crew of Capt. Chris Marchesani with mates Blair Branchesi & Austin Rowe along with anglers Jeff & Troy Kogok fished the Toms Canyon releasing 2 white marlin and catching a bunch of mahi. The biggest hit the scales at 33 lbs. and held on to take 3rd Place earning \$25,024.





Bigeye tuna dominated the Tuna Category during the 32nd Annual MidAtlantic Tournament. Of the 58 tuna weighed, nearly two dozen were bigeyes. Angler Tony Chieffo made his mark on the that list and the leaderboard with this 216 lb. eyeball he caught in the Carteret Canyon that secured 3rd Place in the Tuna Division earning a combined payout of \$159,547. The crew of Tony, Robert Wagner, Dave McKendrick and owner Ken Hager With Capt. Blaine Birch and mates Jarrett & Stephen Birch also released 2 white marlin that day. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



There were several speedsters brought to the Sunset Marina Tournament Scales during the 32nd Annual MidAtlantic Tournament including this 51 lb. wahoo caught on the "Water Damage" by owner Wayne Odachowski that took 3rd Place in the Wahoo Division. It was caught in the lip by a marlin rig around noon on day 3 while trolling in 350 feet in the Poor Man's Canyon. Fishing with Wayne were John Odachowski, Nick Odachowski, Robin Womack and Stephen Shaw with Capt. Zach Odachowski. Also pictured is Ben Odachowski.



Six blue marlin made it to the scales during the 32nd Annual MidAtlantic Tournament and the last came from "The Zipper"! Capt. Zip Zajdel was trolling in between the Lindenkohl and Spencer Canyons when angler Eddie Zajdel connected with this blue marlin. He spent just over an hour fighting the fish, getting it to the boat 4 times before he was done. At 114" and 470 lbs. the blue took 6th Place overall, but was 1st Place in the Boats 50' and Under Calcutta earning \$25,944. Filling out the team were anglers Chris Miller, Andy Green, Gregg Gummo, Myles Deppe and Todd Cantrell with mate Alfonso Baires.



The "Tighten Up" was first to the scales on Day 3 of the 32nd Annual MidAtlantic Tournament. They had a 112" and 528 lb. blue marlin caught by Jay Keller that ended up in 3rd Place in the Blue Marlin Division. Jay hooked the big blue on a plug in the Baltimore Canyon in 500 fathoms while fishing with Phillip Keller, Mike Murry, Capt. Jason Genthner and mates Clay Crocker & James Doerzbach. In addition to the blue marlin that put on quite a show for them, they also went 2 for 4 on white marlin. For their 3rd Place finish "Tighten Up" earned \$112,148 in award money. Pictured at the tournament scales at Sunset Marina.





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BIG STICK - 2010 63' WEAVER - Call Ronnie Fields



2018 61' Ritchie Howell



2023 39' HCB **Call Colton Cunninghman**

TWIN BILLS - 1970 36' Hatteras Call Jeff James

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

\$69,000



BARRATUNA - 2008 53' Sculley



2019 45' SeaHunter



\$550,000

Call Ronnie Fields





2003 35' Carolina Classic Call Chris Workmon





AGITATOR - 1996 65' Mark Willis Call Jimmy Fields



DONNA LUCY - 2022 58' F&S Boatworks **Call Jimmy Fields**



HADLOCK - 2002 61' Viking Convertible **Call Ronnie Fields**



CONSTELLATION- 1984 37' Sunny Briggs **Call Ronnie Fields**



2003 38' Fountain **Call Terry Layton**



2020 18' Key West Call Jimmy Fields



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



DRIFTWOOD - 2017 28' Harrison Boatworks Call Jeff James

2017 27' Cobia **Call Colton Cunningham**

