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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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The waters offshore are still a little too cold for tuna, but they are starting to get just right for sharking! Last Friday the first thresher shark for the 2022 season was caught by the crew of the "HotLine"! Captain Zach Brunner headed out to the Fingers and found water temps hovering in around 57° and set to trolling with mackerel. Anglers Mike Eid, Matt Cook, Dylan Rush and Colin Cook all shared in the two hour fight to get the fish to the boat. Once on the scale at the Ocean City Fishing Center, the tasty fish weighed in at 347 lbs. and measured 88". This puts it as not only this First Fish of the season, but also the current Heaviest that will be hard to beat.



It was nice to have sunny weather after the cool and stormy start to May so we can understand the smiles on the faces of Chris and Bill Curran from Medford, NJ and Dave Curran from Douglasville, PA. They were fishing the incoming tide in the south Ocean City Bay with Capt. Jason Mumford on the "Lucky Break" working Ottertails tipped with minnows. Catching 6 keeper flounder overall, one of Chris' fatties weighed in at 4 lbs. making it our new Heaviest for Maryland for the season.

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It felt like there was not a lot of fishing last week on private boats, but several charter boats had numerous trips like the "Get Sum" moored at the Ocean City Fishing Center. On this trip Capt. Nick Clemente put Middletown, MD anglers Mark Haupt, Rob Haupt, and Aaron Sears on some nice keeper flounders from the Ocean City Bay. His ammunition of choice was white Gulp to fool these fatties.

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This Week Last Year

- Shark fishing was in full swing. The first thresher shark at 267 lbs. was caught at the Twin Wrecks by the crew of the "MAKO me CRAZY". The "Fish Finder" caught and released 4 mako sharks up to 200 lbs. at the Fingers in 60 ° water and the "Ro Sham Bo" overnighted in the Washington Canyon releasing a blue shark and two duskys as well as boating a 72" male mako shark.
- The second bluefin tuna catch for the season were caught by the "Gringo Loco" in the Washington Canyon. The "Ro Sham Bo" made a 36 hour trip south to the Norfolk Canyon and hooked into a couple of blue marlin and white marlin.

Well Memorial Day is finally upon us and the weather is starting to feel like summer, or at least we got a couple of days of it before yet another cold front put the temps into the low 60's again! As of this writing the holiday weekend looks sunny and warm as does the first half of next week, so maybe summer is here to stay.

This issue does add many catches to our First Fish and Heaviest Fish charts for the season including first yellowfin tuna, bluefin tuna and thresher shark, more on those later in the offshore report. We have also included our Dock and Dine guides from issue #1 this year based on popular demand. We appreciate the feedback and are always looking for

more ways to enhance the Coastal Fisherman lifestyle on DelMarVa!

As for offshore fishing we did have some action last week. The excitement ran high last Tuesday when rumors of a tuna circulated. As the day progressed it was confirmed that the private boat "Take Em" was in fact returning to Harbor Island in Ocean City with a mix of 10 yellowfin and bluefin tuna giving the crew status for First Fish both fish. They ran 71 miles to a spit of warm water southeast of the Poor Man's Canyon, almost



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halfway to the Washington Canyon, to about 800 fathoms to snag these using a skirted ballyhoo. The report of tuna was short lived however as several boats like the "Ro Sham Bo" took a run back there on Wednesday to find colder waters and no bites at all! Even the trip the "Take Em" took had an element of luck. Owner Richard Osborne was originally planning to go out on Wednesday when a last minute schedule change moved the trip up a day! Capt. Skip Daisey had to hustle up from NC in time to get the cushions and gear ready to go!

We also saw the first thresher

shark of the season as the water temps are getting right for sharking. The big 88" and 347 lb. fish was caught on a whole mackerel in the Fingers in 57 DEGREE water. Capt. Zach Brunner and the crew of the "HotLine" fought the beast for two hours before they could get it in the boat.

As for the forecast, several of the captains I talked to this week are encouraged by the solid tuna bite that showed up the past couple of days at the Oregon Inlet in North Carolina. While tuna have been caught, the bite was slow. Not so for the past few days, so that is a good harbinger for us. Most captains like Mark Malamphy, Joey Drosey and Ronnie Fields feel that if we can get some south winds we could see action for the holiday weekend. Right now we are seeing 60 °water over 100 miles out and fluctuating. Registration and results from the Ocean City Marlin Club's Franky Pettolina Memorial Day Tournament should




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provide some more insight.

The good news is that when the action picks up, you can read all about it in the Coastal Fisherman and see the latest on our social media accounts. Another quick reminder that we have moved offices and are now a few yards west of our old offices at 12703 Sunset Avenue, Suite 8.

Until next time, I will see you at the docks! §

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Upcoming Tournaments

- The first offshore tournament of the season is the 13th Annual Franky Pettolina Memorial Day Tournament this coming weekend, May 28th & 29th. Weigh Ins are from 4:30-7:00 pm at Sunset Marina. More details at OCMarlinClub.com
- The 1st Annual Blues for DU Tournament is being held on June 3rd to 5th with weigh ins at Bahia Marina from 4:30-7:30 pm. This a new bluefish tournament to benefit Ducks Unlimited. More details at BahiaMarina.com
- The 2nd Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament returns on June 17th & 18th. Scales are open both days from 4PM to 7PM at the Ocean City Fishing Center. More at TunaandTiaras.com



Lindsey Hertrich of Rehoboth Beach, DE was lucky enough to venture down to Hypoluxo, FL just south of Palm Beach. She caught this 20-25 lb. mahi using a bonita strip, ballyhoo and mullet bait combo while fishing on the "Geno Five" with Capt. Geno Pratt and mate Zane Pratt.



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Jeff Eby from Chincoteague, VA shows off a nice fat sea bass he caught last week. That's a monster!



Jack Pence from Pocono Manor, PA found some nice action in the surf off of Assateague Island last Friday. He caught these two bluefish using mullet with the largest measuring 27".




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Hailie Kuczinski from Centreville, MD went trolling for stripers for the first time with Capt. Lenny Simmons on the "Simonizer" catching these keeper stripers.



There was plenty of action in the Rehoboth & Lewes Canal this past week with the Joe Morris Memorial Tournament and lots of recreational anglers. Lamar Meekins found this 21½" flatfish there using white Gulp.



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FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



The weather finally broke and the wind slowed down a lot this week. Other than massive beach erosion and storm clean up, the fishing community is returning to normal.

Sea Bass, Tog & Flounder

Sea bass season opened on the 15th and tog fishing is now closed.

Opening day of was a foggy one, but those who ventured out were rewarded with good catches and limits of nice size sea bass. The African Queen site and the Bass Grounds were the most crowded spots, and many anglers had to jockey for position to get a chance at the fish. Areas like the Great Eastern Reef and the Jack Spot were a little less crowded, and being deeper water, gave up some nicer fish. Fresh clam and jigs accounted for the best quality fish.

Mark Sydow and Mike O'Neil

had a nice limit of big knotheads. The duo fished with Capt. Mike on "Straycat" charters.

"Fish Bound" charters were out on the wrecks this week and Capt. Kane Bounds reports they managed everyone's limits so far. From a couple pictures Kane sent, he caught some real trophy fish. He's been fishing these waters all his life and was the former Capt. of the "Judith M" in Ocean City when I was still on the "Princess". He always excels at catching sea bass as well as flounder throughout the year. Capt. Monty Hawkins ran the "Morning Star" out, dropping more reef blocks adding structure to existing reefs, all while catching big sea bass for his anglers. Monty reports that the jig master managed some big sea bass. Jigs are a favorite at this time of year.

"No Limit Sportfishing" was also on the water closing out the tog season by getting anglers on some

nice big ones. Along with the tog they also caught some great big sea bass later in the week despite the bite slowing down a bit.

Pete Renzi also got in on opening day with a 5 man limit and what he called some real nice big ones!

Capt. Victor Bunting had boat limits for his clients despite the fog on many mornings.

"Ocean City Girl" charters went out this week and had some truly huge sea bass, making his customers very happy.

Randy Meyers fished with Rodney Hensley and his son. They ended up with sea bass limits up to 21" and 3.5 lbs.

"Wreck Dog" charters had a great week with many 5 man limits, sporting many fish between 3-5 lbs.

In the back bays flounder seems to be getting better and better. "OC

Guide Service" had a few great trips with some nice fat flounder. Squid and shiners remain the number one bait for catching fish in the bay with Gulp baits a close second. The area near the airport was reported to be holding some big fish. Find the holes along the east side of the bay and you will find the fish. The area near the Rt. 90 Bridge is also reported to be holding some nice fish. The Thorofare and Rt. 50 bridge were a little slower this week, maybe due to all the junk in the water from the past nor'easter.

Rockfish & Black Drum

Assateague Island was productive despite the eroded beach from the storm as some over slot rockfish came in as well as some big black drum. David Moore said it took a few days to find them, but when he did they were all big girls, the smallest being 44". The fish were caught on sand fleas bunker and peeler crab. A few fish had big battle scars. Shannon Ferguson reported two fish Thursday before 10 am. The fish measured 40" & 45". It's a shame we can no longer keep any of these larger fish, but I can't think of a better

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way to spend a morning. A cup of coffee, the sun rising over the ocean, tides pulling in and the sound of line stripping off your reel as a trophy striper slams your bait.

Assateague Island regulates the amount of vehicles on the beach in the federal park, so get there early unless you want to wait for someone to leave. The nice part of the vehicle limit is that you can always find a space away from other fishermen. Many of the anglers do not venture very far down the beach but for those who drive the long route to the Virginia line marked by a sign and fence, the fishing is usually much better. The fish are not pressured as much as those close to the drive on entrance.

Along the drive down Rt. 611 to Assateague, there are a couple tackle shops both of which are well stocked with everything you need to fish the beach. Both shops also have a very knowledgeable staff that will help even the most novice of anglers. CJ Poorbaugh was right on the Virginia line and took a nice slot rockfish last Sunday. Smaller stripers and blues are coming off both the Rt.

50 and Rt. 90 bridges in Ocean City. Craig Cropper reported a couple keeper rockfish as well as some nice bluefish off the Rt. 50 Bridge. Big Bird was of course using his Roy Rig. The south side jetty of the OC Inlet was also a good spot for both small stripers as well as blues this week. The south side or outside of the jetty is usually the most productive as many fish lay right up against the rocks awaiting bait to swim into the inlet with the tide. Don't be afraid to throw right up to the rock wall and expect to lose a few lures along the way. If you're not bumping the rocks and bottom you are not going to get bit.

Black drum are also still in the surf, however, it appears many have moved up to the Delaware Bay to begin their mating season. Many fish can still be caught, but a fresh bait changed every 30 minutes or so will make all the difference. Drum are now on a mission to get to the spawning grounds and won't stop to eat an old washed out bait.

Until next week...

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Kayak angler Rob Bukszar of Ellicott City, MD headed to the Rt. 50 Bridge last Friday for some striper fishing. Using a Geta Double Jig Rig from Atlantic Tackle and tipped with a Gulp 4" Mullet, he caught 40 schoolie rocks up to 26".



Bob Haltmeier is not only the webmaster for the Oceanic Fishing Pier at the Ocean City Inlet, he is also a frequent customer! He caught these 2 matching 23" bluefish in the fog using cut bunker.

2022 MARYLAND REGULATIONS

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



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4 per person/day



SPECKLED TROUT
14" minimum
4 per person/day



STRIPED BASS
28-35"
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
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Species	2022	2021	Species	2022	2021
Bluefish 	April 26 Morgan Moricle South OC Jetty	May 8 Gavin Murray Gulf Island	Thresher Shark ★ 	May 20 Mike Eid "HotLine" Fingers	May 22, 2021 Patrick Snell "MAKO me CRAZY" Twin Wrecks
Black Drum 	March 29 Jay Phillips Assateague Island	March 31 Allen Sklar Assateague Island	Bigeye Tuna 		May 28 Pete Gudatlis "Blood Money" Poor Man's
Cobia 		June 17 Shannon Pickens South OC Inlet	Bluefin Tuna ★ 	May 17 Andrew Dietz "Take Em" SE Poor Man's	May 7 James Hammond "Hot Lick" Norfolk
Flounder 	April 3 Scott Lenox Thorofare	April 18 Danny Cox Rt. 50 Bridge	Longfin Tuna 		July 17 Morgan Michael "Reel Fun" Baltimore Canyon
Sea Bass 	May 15 Jeremy Michalski Jack Spot	April 12 Camryn Baeder Inshore Wreck	Yellowfin Tuna ★ 	May 17 James Haren "Take Em" SE Poor Man's	May 28 Bill Pino "Blood Money" Poor Man's
Sheepshead 		June 17 Veronica Caswell Outside OC Inlet	Dolphin 		June 10 Michael Seicke "Second Chance" S. Poor Man's
Striped Bass 	April 20 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	May 8 Buddy Martin East Channel	Swordfish 		New Category for 2022
Tautog 	March 27 Michael Guigley Slinky Beach	January 1 Mike Sadowski "Tide Runner" Ocean Structure	Blue Marlin 		New Category for 2022
Wahoo 		June 17 Gary Welch Washington Canyon	White Marlin 		June 13 Brad Young "TUNAFOWL" Washington Canyon

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



Cayden from Leesburg, VA caught a beauty of a fish from the Oceanic Fishing Pier at the Ocean City Inlet last week. He tricked this 23" speckled trout using a Spec Rig.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Tracy Heltzinger was at it again, this time with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Rich and Steve on the headboat "Angler". This trip was to a natural reef using squid to trick the sea bass.



It's that time of year when charter boats are getting back to it. For charter Capts. Ken and Adam Thompson, their shake down cruise for the "Opport-Tuna-Ty" was to the Great Eastern Reef with anglers Scott Carstairs, Steve Thompson and Paul Pedone for sea bass!

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FISHING CHARTERS



Sea bass season has begun with good action when the weather permits heading out! Steve P. and his family hit the waves last Wednesday with Capt. Chris Ragni on the "Bill Slayer" and caught well over 150 fish, keeping these 32! Pictured at Indian River Marina.



The headboat "Bay Bee" moored at the Ocean City Fishing Center is back in action! Last weekend they found several keeper flounder and plenty of throwback action to keep the fun going, just look at that smile!

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FISHING CHARTERS



Looks like some anglers hit a Sunsations for new shades before heading out with Capt. Nick Clemente on the charter boat "Get Sum"! Keyshawn Dean, Chris Schaefer, Mitch Hess and Austin Hess worked the upper and southern Ocean City Bay using white Gulp to boat these 5 keeper flounder with the largest at 20". Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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- Weight and/or length of fish
- Bait/lure used
- Location of catch
- Name of boat, if any

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.

FISHING CHARTERS



The newly remodeled and first year charter boat "Pole Dancer" took the first trip of the season on sea bass opening day to the Del-Jersey Reef. Despite the fog, anglers Jimmy Mohn, Roxanne & Mike Schupp, Jeff McCoy, Kevin and Rob Burke with Capts. Wendy & Mike Martino quickly found the action, ending the trip with this pile of sea bass. Pictured at Indian River Marina.



Mike Brittingham of Ocean City put together this group for the first trip of the season on the charter boat "Turnin Fins". Capt. Jake Shaffer with mate Kevin Conrad took the crew in and around the Jack Spot, catching 65 sea bass before taking a shot at some sharking. No luck on the sharks however! Pictured at the OC Fishing Center.

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Spring Mix II

FISHING CHARTERS



The headboat "Judith M", moored at Bahia Marina in Ocean City, was one of the lucky ones to head out on the first couple days of sea bass season given the fog. Having an experienced captain like Eric Shoaff and radar lets them head out when others need to stay tied to the dock! This trip 18-20 miles offshore saw plenty of action including Seattle native Pete Seagrave's double hook up and Kevin Lee from Columbia, MD's big single.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Marylander John O'Rielly shows off a very nice sea bass he caught on Saturday fishing at a natural reef with Capt. Chris Mizurak on the deep sea vessel "Angler" based at the Talbot Street Pier.



Lehigh Vally, PA anglers Jerry Sult, Thom Malinowski, Ray Seidel and Troy Malinowski snagged some nice flounder using Ottortails and minnows. They were fishing with Capt. Jason Mumford on the "Lucky Break".

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FISHING CHARTERS



It was a great day on the Ocean City Bay for anglers Ed Cook, Vernon Frazier, Lou Morrison and Dave Wortman. They wrestled up these 8 flounder while fishing with Capt. Nick Clemente on the charter boat "Get Sum" using Capt. Nick's signature White Gulp Swimming Mulletts. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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FISHING CHARTERS



The gang from Creative Concepts Furniture and Design in Delaware headed out with Capt. Monty Hawkins on the headboat "Morning Star" catching a mess of sea bass and this cute baby tog who was released to swim another day!



James Kirby from Chambersburg, PA has a big smile showing off the two keeper flounder he caught on the incoming tide of the south OC Bay. He was using Ottertails with minnows and fishing on the "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford.

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The White family of Mount Airy, MD took one more tog trip on the last day of the season, fishing near Martha's Landing. Anglers Ryan, John, Scott and Mike caught 18 blackfish overall including one 17" keeper using frozen raw shrimp.



Some nice black drum are showing up at the Coral Beds off the Delaware coast. Capt. Jackie on the charter boat "Pirate King" out of Lewes, DE found two on a recent charter including this 55 pounder that Bryan Burrill caught on the trip.

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	MD	DE **
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"
Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size
Cobia	44"	45 Lbs. or 48"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"
Golden Tilefish	35"	35" or 40"
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"
Red Drum*	36"	45"
Sailfish*	Any Size	-
Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"
Speckled Trout	24"	-
Striped Bass	40"	44"
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"

	MD	DE **
Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"
Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"
White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size
SHARK:		
Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Mako*	Any Size	250 lbs. or 83"
Thresher*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size
TUNA:		
Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"
False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"
Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"
Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"
Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"

* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program

** DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release

*** Use curved-fork-length measurements

eregulations.com



Eric Church, Jr. was jacked to find this keeper flounder! He fooled this 17" flatfish using a live minnow while drifting in the Thorofare over the weekend.



Capt. Tommy Perry had his eyes set on some tuna fishing last Friday, but somewhere around the 30 mile line the fog changed the plans! He and angler Don Harris turned the "Just One More" toward the Rockpile and loaded up on sea bass and found a couple blueline tilefish.

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Dillon Hornberger from Middleburg, PA got in on the chopper bluefish action. He was fishing from the walk on beach north of the Indian River Inlet and caught this 11 lb. fish on a plug. He also found some shorty rockfish. Pictured at Old Inlet Bait & Tackle.



It was a big 65th birthday for Robin Saxon from Abbottstown, PA. She was fishing with Rick Saxon on their Tidewater 220 north of the Thorofare where she caught this 19³/₄" flounder that she did not want to touch!



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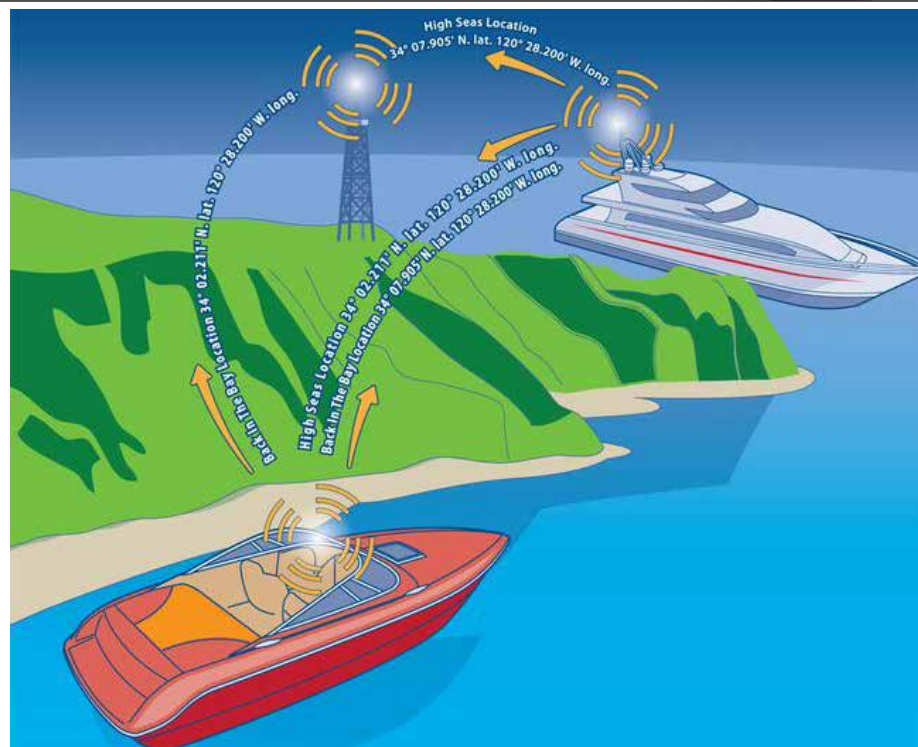
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by Steve Katz



AIS - See and Be Seen

The Memorial Day holiday weekend marks the beginning of the summer season, boaters will crowd the waterways and maintaining safe navigation awareness is even more important on busy waterways.

Automatic Identification System or more commonly referred to as AIS, is an electronic vessel tracking safety and collision avoidance system used by boats, land stations and some emergency rescue devices. The AIS system electronically exchanges information about each transmitting vessel with other receiving vessels in the nearby area -about a 20-mile range. With the proper hardware, AIS signals are automatically broadcast digitally on a frequency of 161.975 MHz and 162.025 MHz from the AIS transmitter to all nearby AIS receivers. While AIS systems are mandatory for most commercial vessels; many recreational vessels have chosen to add this hardware as a safety feature. When mariners refer to AIS, it is usually in a generic term, since there are many subsets of AIS depending on needs and requirements.



Types of AIS

The simplest and least expensive AIS device is an AIS receiver. This is electronic hardware installed on your boat that allows you to receive an AIS signal broadcast from a nearby vessel or transmitter. This receiver could be a specialized stand-alone hardware with or without a screen. The AIS data is often displayed in a visual format, either text or graphically overlaid on a navigation chart to inform the captain of the name, location, speed, heading etc. of nearby vessels transmitting

an AIS signal. Since the AIS system uses radio frequencies within the marine VHF radio spectrum, often an existing marine VHF antenna can be shared with an AIS receiver, though an AIS independent antenna is best. There are some VHF radios that can receive AIS signals and can also be integrated into a chartplotter to provide an enhanced graphical representation of nearby AIS vessels.

The more complex AIS device is a transmitter, a specialty standalone device that will

automatically transmit pre-programmed and variable data about your vessel to AIS receivers. There are many categories of AIS transmitters due to needs detailed in USA and international maritime regulations. Most, if not all AIS transmitters also receive AIS signals, therefore a boat's AIS transmitter can be the sole source of all AIS communications, in this case the AIS device is called an AIS transceiver, a transmitter and receiver all-in-one-unit. Some manufacturers refer to their AIS transceiver as an AIS transponder, like the terms used for aircraft. An AIS transmitter has special regulatory requirements, including that the hardware be programmed by a marine electronics technician and not the end user. Additionally, this setup requires 2 antennas; the AIS transmitter is required to have a dedicated GPS antenna and a VHF style antenna.

Features

Many recreational boaters receive AIS signals but do not broadcast. This allows them to "see" other vessels; similar to using radar, AIS can see around the corner and can also "see" in rain and fog. As a recreational boater, knowing where other vessels are is a helpful collision avoidance and safety feature. Reading other vessels AIS data, you can see the other



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vessels name, radio call sign, MMSI number, location, speed, heading and more information, depending on the type of AIS system used.

An often-unused feature of AIS is that an AIS receiver allows you to see the nearby vessels MMSI number. Using their MMSI number, you can make a DSC (Digital Selective Calling) direct call to their marine VHF

radio, if in fact their VHF is properly programed. This feature is great in a situation where you need to contact another ship's captain and let them know where you are located or ask about their navigational intentions. Using an AIS receiver is a little like spying; you can see and read about the boats around you, but they do not know you are listening.

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Costs

AIS standalone receivers are available at a reasonable cost and available as a built-in feature on some VHF radios. A standalone AIS receiver needs to be connected to your chart plotter using NMEA 0183 or NMEA 2000 to transfer the received data so it can be seen by the captain. Standalone AIS receivers, relying on an existing chart plotter and sharing your VHF antenna, begin around \$250. VHF radios with built-in AIS receivers and graphical displays start around \$500.

If you really want to be "seen" in the AIS environment, you will need to install an AIS transceiver

that can transmit your vessel's data. The hardware costs begin around \$700 for a class B transceiver. An AIS transceiver is required to have its own GPS antenna and its own AIS/VHF antenna for broadcasting and receiving. The processor box is programmed by a technician with the ship's static data, such as: vessel name, radio call sign, MMSI number, vessel type, vessel dimensions, GPS antenna location etc.

More details next week on the different classes of AIS transceivers and the new emergency AIS transmitters. §

Until then, as always...
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Capt. Minh Dang from Ocean City with Rob Overfield from West OC ventured out to the Marine Electric on the "Ronin" for sea bass opening day. They got their boat limit of sea bass including this citation size 20" and 3.25 lb. fish that is currently our Heaviest for Maryland!



Last Thursday, Vietnam War Veteran Dan Betz took to the water solo and worked the Thorofare with minnows in his boat "Rev-Er Up". He ended the day with his limit of 4 flounder ranging from 17" to 21". Nice Job!

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Four fish and a shell appears to the recipe for big smiles! Shawn, Rebecca and Jackson Pease from New York with Jeff and Beth Waterman from North Carolina fished the Ocean City Bay with Capt. Nick Clemente on the "Get Sum" using white Gulp to land these 4 keeper flounder and what appears to be a conch shell for Jeff! Pictured at the OC Fishing Center.



We received a few more tog catch reports this week from before the fishery's spring closure until July 1st. Active angler Alex Artese from Millsboro, DE slipped in one more catch and set a personal best catch for this one on a trip from Lewes, DE to the waters off of the Cape May, NJ area.

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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



Seared Tuna & Mango Kabobs

Ingredients:

¾ -1 lb. tuna steak cut into large chunks

¼ cup orange juice

2 Tablespoons soy sauce or Tamari for gluten-free

1 Tablespoon light olive oil

3 teaspoons fresh ginger grated

½ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes less if you don't like your dishes spicy

1-2 mangoes cut into large cubes
wooden skewers

Directions:

Place tuna chunks into a resealable, zippered plastic bag.

In a small bowl, mix orange juice, soy sauce, olive oil, ginger and red pepper flakes.

Set aside 2 Tablespoons of liquid mixture and pour remaining into



resealable bag with tuna.

Seal, place in refrigerator, and marinate for at least 30 minutes, turning often.

If using wooden skewers, place into a bowl of water and let soak for 30 minutes.

Preheat grill.

While grill is heating, thread a piece of tuna alternately with a chunk of mango onto skewers.

Place on hot grill and sear 2

minutes on each of 4 sides.

Remove from heat and place on serving platter and drizzle with reserved marinade. Your tuna should be reddish pink in the middle and a nice golden brown on the outside.

Notes:

This recipe becomes gluten-free when using Tamari instead of traditional soy sauce.

Spinach Stuffed Flounder

Ingredients:

6 flounder fillets

½ tsp. Old Bay Seasoning or to taste



1 tbsp. olive oil

For the Stuffing:

3 oz. cream cheese

½ cup mozzarella cheese

½ cup feta cheese

3 oz. baby spinach, roughly chopped

Directions:

Place the cream cheese, mozzarella, feta, and chopped baby spinach into a large mixing bowl. Massage the spinach and the cheeses with your hands until they are well combined (it should look like a thick paste). Set aside.

Place the flounder fillets onto a large board. Sprinkle the desired amount of Old Bay Seasoning onto each fillet.

Divide the stuffing into 6 equal portions. Working one at a time, shape the portion of the stuffing into an egg shape and place it close to the tail of the fish. Then starting from the tail, roll each fillet up jelly-roll style and place it seam

side down on the baking dish.

Sprinkle some more Old Bay seasoning on top, and using a pastry brush, spread some olive oil over the fillets.

Bake at 350°F for about 20 minutes, until the fish is cooked through.

Notes:

How to select flounder for this recipe:

For this dish, you'll want to choose flounder fillets that are about six ounces each, without skin, and of even thickness. Since you'll be filling and rolling them, it's important that they are sturdy enough not to tear during the prep or cooking.

Make sure to check each fillet for small pin bones just beneath the surface that may have been missed when the fish was filleted. Remove any before stuffing.

The spinach stuffing:

This spinach stuffing is delicious and goes great with lots of other dishes. Its creamy, gooey texture makes it perfect for different meats and fish, and the mild taste of the spinach complements many other ingredients. I like the slight saltiness of the feta, but if you prefer, you could substitute Parmesan cheese instead. This stuffing is really versatile.

Bacon Wrapped Bluefish

Ingredients:

4 (5-oz.) skinless, boneless bluefish fillets

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

8-12 slices bacon

8 sprigs thyme

3 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil



Directions:

Heat oven to 425°. Season bluefish lightly with salt and pepper. Wrap each bluefish fillet crosswise with 2-3 strips bacon and tuck two sprigs thyme in between the bacon and each fillet; set aside.

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Coat the bottom of a small baking dish with 1 tbsp. oil and place the fillets in the dish. Drizzle fish with remaining olive oil. Bake until fillets are cooked through and bacon is crispy, about 12 minutes. Set oven to broil to crisp bacon, if necessary.

Blackened Drum

Ingredients:

Sweet Potatoes:

2 tablespoons grapeseed oil

2 ½ pounds sweet potatoes, peeled and diced

1/4 cup molasses

1 teaspoon chili powder

1 pinch cayenne pepper

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

Green Beans:

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

2 ½ pounds green beans, ends trimmed

2 tablespoons unsalted butter

Juice of 1 lemon

Blackened Drum:

1 cup Cajun blackening spice

1 tablespoon kosher salt, if needed

6 skinless black drum fillets

1/4 cup grapeseed oil

Herb Butter, recipe follows, for serving

Herb Butter:

1 pound unsalted butter, at room temperature

1/4 cup lemon juice plus 2 tablespoons lemon zest

2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper



Directions:

For the sweet potatoes: Heat a large skillet over high heat until smoking hot. Add the grapeseed oil and then the sweet potatoes. Allow the potatoes to sear for 2 to 3 minutes and then turn the heat down to medium. Toss the sweet potatoes and cook until tender, 15

to 20 minutes. Add the molasses, chili powder and cayenne and toss to coat. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes more. Season with salt and pepper and keep warm.

For the green beans: Bring a large pot of water (seasoned with 2 tablespoons salt per gallon of water) to a rolling boil. Prepare an ice bath to shock the beans. Add about one-quarter of the beans to the boiling water (you don't want to add so many beans that the water loses the boil) and cook until crisp-tender, 2 to 3 minutes. Remove the beans from the water with a skimmer and shock in the ice bath. Repeat until all of the beans are cooked. Remove the beans from the ice bath and dry with a towel.

Heat a large skillet over high heat. Melt the butter and then add the green beans. Sauté the green beans until tender and slightly browned, 2 to 3 minutes. Add the lemon juice, season with salt and pepper and keep warm.

For the blackened drum: Combine the blackening spice and salt, reducing or omitting the salt as needed (taste the spice mix first as some brands already have salt added). Spread the spice mixture

on a plate and coat each side of the fish fillets.

Heat a large skillet over high heat. Add the grapeseed oil, gently lay the fish in the skillet and sear until the spices have blackened and formed a nice crust on the fish, 3 to 4 minutes. Gently flip the fish and sear on the second side for 3 to 4 minutes more. Remove from the pan and allow the fillets to rest for a few minutes before plating.

For serving: Mound some of the sweet potatoes in the center of 6 plates. Place the green beans on top of the sweet potatoes and then top each plate with a fillet of fish. Top the fish with some Herb Butter and serve while the butter is melting over the hot fish.

Herb Butter:

Combine the butter, lemon juice, lemon zest and parsley in a bowl and mix well. Season with salt and pepper. Cover and store in the refrigerator for up to 1 week.

Black Sea Bass with Garden Salsa

Ingredients:

1 ½ to 2 lbs. black sea bass fillets (check fillets carefully for pin bones), skin on, descaled

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1 teaspoon extra virgin olive oil
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
For the salsa
2 medium tomatoes diced (or about 2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved)
1 jalapeno seeded and finely diced

(if you prefer more heat, keep the seeds in)

1/4 medium red onion diced
1/2 cup loosely packed cilantro chopped
1 clove garlic finely minced
Juice of 1 lime
1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
For serving
1 lime cut into wedges
Sea salt

Directions:

Preheat grill to high heat. Clean and oil grates well (this will help prevent the fish from sticking). Pat fish dry with a paper towel. Brush with olive oil and sprinkle with salt, cumin, garlic and black pepper on both sides. Set aside.

In a large bowl, combine tomatoes, jalapeno, red onion, cilantro, garlic, lime juice, extra virgin olive oil, salt, cumin and pepper. Stir well. Add more salt to taste, if needed. Set aside.

Place black sea bass on the grill, skin side down. Grill until fish is

opaque and flakes easily with a fork. Flip halfway through cooking time. These fillets tend to be thin, so they will cook quickly. Remove from grill. Spoon salsa over fish. Sprinkle with sea salt.

Serve with lime wedges and additional salsa. You can also sprinkle with feta cheese, for a salty, briny twist.

Notes:

Black sea bass fillets tend to have quite a few pin bones. Prior to grilling check fillets carefully and pull out any pin bones with a tweezer or your fingers.

You can also score the skin prior to grilling to prevent the flesh and skin from curling up, but this is optional.

Sheet-Pan Mediterranean Shrimp

Ingredients:

1 1/2 lbs. large shrimp, peeled
1 bunch fresh asparagus
4 tbsp olive oil, divided
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 whole red onion, sliced
2 tsp. each, oregano and smoked paprika
1 pinch sea salt and ground black



pepper, to taste

1 whole lemon, juiced
1 cup black olives, pitted
1 cup feta cheese
1/3 cup fresh cilantro or parsley

Directions:

Pre-heat oven to 450F degrees.

In a large bowl season the shrimp with 2 tbsp. olive oil, garlic, salt, black pepper, paprika, oregano and juice from lemon.

Trim and wash the asparagus, then lay them flat on the baking sheet. Season with 1 tbsp olive oil. Place seasoned shrimp on top

of asparagus and top with sliced red onions. Bake for 10 minutes in the middle rack. Shrimp is cooked when the edges start to turn golden brown.

Remove shrimp from oven and top with feta, olives and fresh cilantro or parsley, drizzle with remaining olive oil and serve

Notes

Note: If your shrimp is looking pale after cooking for 10 minutes try broiling for 1-2 minutes until they start to turn golden.

Broiled Lobster Tail

Ingredients:

4 lobster tails (10 oz each)
1/4 cup salted butter melted
2 cloves garlic (crushed)
2 tsp lemon juice
1/2 tsp. smoked paprika
1 pinch cayenne pepper

Directions:

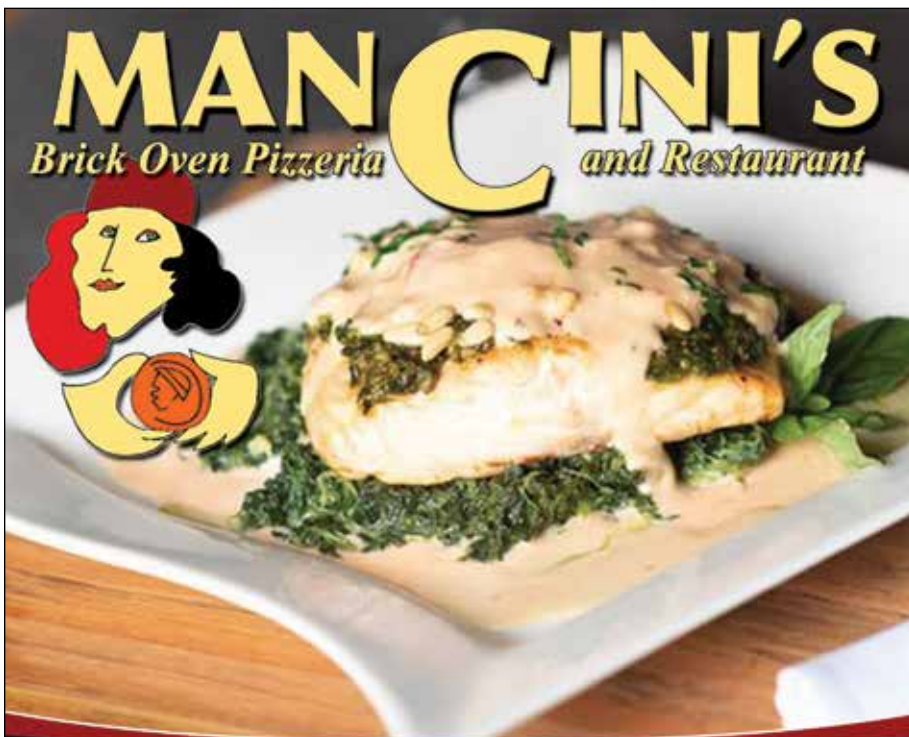
If tails are frozen, thaw them overnight in the fridge, or in a bag submerged in cold water on the counter for about 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to broil (500 degrees F). Rinse the defrosted lobster shells. Set the oven rack such that lobster tails placed on a baking sheet would be 4 to 5 inches away from the broiler.

Butterfly the lobster tails. Using kitchen shears, cut down the center of the shell lengthwise, starting from the end opposite the tail fins, continuing down until you reach the tail but without cutting the tail. You want to cut through the top of the shell, but don't cut through the bottom shell. Use your thumbs and fingers to spread open the shell on top, then gently pull the lobster meat upward, separating it away from the bottom shell, leaving the end attached to the tail fin intact. Slightly push together the empty shell underneath and place the row of meat on top. Place the butterflied lobster tail onto the baking sheet.

In a small bowl, whisk together the melted butter, garlic, lemon juice, smoked paprika, and cayenne. Brush the butter mixture over the lobster meat.

Broil the lobster tails until the meat is opaque and lightly browned, about 1 minute per ounce of individual tail. (For example, broil for 10-ounce lobster tails for 10 minutes.) §



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VIRGINIA

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



The lower Delmarva has been busy this week with lots of fun and tasty things to enjoy. As temperatures warm up the fishing action follows. The only problem facing us down here is what fish to pursue with so little time.

Flounder action is pretty hot on shallow flats in less than ten feet of water during ebb tide with water clarity being the most crucial component. I had two charters this past week with two very different outcomes. Tuesday it took a lot of effort fishing dirty, grassy, and most of all unproductive water to bring home 4 nice keepers. The very next day during the same tide and in the same



John Kriger and his son Star Kriger from Westover, MD boated a 3 man limit of nice flounder near Wachapreague, VA with the largest at 24"!

www.coastalfisherman.net area but with clear water we had a three man limit and threw back extra keepers sized flatties in a mere three hours. It's CLEAR to see what a difference a day can make. We did the best on chartreuse and pink teasers with gulp swimming mullet tipped with silversides.

The seaside inlets are still producing black drum action on clams while the surf has provided opportunities for anglers to beach some rock and kingfish as well as blacks. The trophy fish have been taking crab, clams and sand flea offerings tipped with a strip of Fishbites while the kingfish prefer bloodworms presented on small bottom rigs with colored floats on the hooks.

The grass flats of the Tangier and Pocomoke Sounds have been the scene of some great red drum, rock and spec action along with numerous

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 rays that not only test our tackle but our patience as well. Most of these shallow water trophies have taken chunks of crab soaked around grassy areas and stumps. For anglers trying to bypass some of these winged menaces, casting paddle tails on jig heads will tempt weary trout and rock into the net. The channel edges in deeper depths have provided big black drum on crabs and clams fished on hard shell bottom.

The Smith Island Fishing Tournament finished up today and was a great success. There were great catches for drum, specs and even oyster toads to make an impressive first year of the contest. The proceeds benefit the Smith Island Cultural Center.

In the lower Chesapeake the black drum have made an appearance from the CBBT to the waters off Cape Charles. My buddy Chad from "Earning Stripes Sportfishing" reports anglers are concentrating their efforts on these bottom dwelling giants using clams to tempt them into the net.

Kingfish have also shown up to improve bottom fishing on channel edges. Reds continue to hold on the surf line around Fisherman's Island. Flounder fishing this week has been tough with murky water abound. However, the fish pounds in the Kiptopeke area have had some nice flounder. Hopefully these reports of fish will move from the pound net to the end of our line next week!

We have a lot to be thankful for and look forward to offshore and cobia starting soon! With all these awesome things to do, why would you want to be anywhere else but the place we call home. §

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John Cacchio snagged this 20" flounder from the south Ocean City Bay near the old Castaway's campground (now called Sun Outdoors Ocean City). He was fishing on the "Lucky Seven" from the Ocean Pines Marina.



Sporto Gray on team One More Cast landed a nice 22" black drum off the Delaware beaches while fishing in the Cast for a Cure Tournament last weekend hosted by Old Inlet Bait & Tackle.



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Registration: June 24, 6:30-8:00pm
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 25 & 26
Weigh-Ins: June 25 & 26, 3:00-6:30pm at Sunset Marina

40th ANNUAL CANYON KICK OFF *
Registration: June 30, 6:30-8:00pm
FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS
Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 1, 2 & 3
Weigh-Ins: July 1-3, 5:00-7:30pm at Sunset Marina

18th ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC *
To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation
Registration: July 15, 6:00-8:00pm
Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 16 & 17
Weigh-Ins: July 16, 3:00-6:30pm and July 17, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina

7th ANNUAL OCMC vs OCLTC SHOOT-OUT
Angler Meeting: July 21, 7:00pm
Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 22, 23, 24
No Weigh-Ins

14th ANNUAL OCMC LADIES' TOURNAMENT "HEELS & REELS"*
To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund
Registration: August 4, 6:00-8:00pm
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 5 & 6
Weigh-Ins: August 5 & 6 5:30-7:30pm at Atlantic Tackle

64th ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT *
Registration: September 1, 6:30-8:00pm
Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 2, 3 & 4
Weigh-Ins: September 2, 3 & 4 6:00-8:00pm at Sunset Marina

44th ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP
Registration: Sept. 7, 6:00-8:00pm
Fishing Days: (2 or 3) Sept. 8, 9 & 10
No Weigh-Ins

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DELAWARE

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Well, this week we finally saw some temps that we normally see this time of year. The thermometer rose into the mid 70's early and shot up to the 90's by the weekend. With the warmth in the air, so did the water begin to warm. Of course this week also saw the opening of the sea bass season on Sunday.

Sea Bass, Tog & Flounder

The opening day of sea bass saw dense fog throughout the morning causing many anglers without radar to stay home. For those who ventured to the wrecks were rewarded with monster fish and many anglers hitting their limits. Ryan West and Bryan Wheatley fished with the family and were rewarded with a limit of big sea bass. John Coffey and friend ventured out and returned with a box full of big ones and even managed a few tog before the season came to a close. Brian reports they were a few short of their limit but only kept quality fish and returned many smaller keepers to be caught another day.

Capt. Beebee of the "Surface Tension" Sportfishing got an 8 man limit this week. They were using Ocean Arsenal sand

eel rigs. After trying these high low eel rigs a few years ago it's all that I use when fishing for sea bass. Capt. Austin had a group out for their first sea bass trip of the year and were lucky enough to bring home some quality fish for all the guys on the charter. "The Grizzly" also returned this week with a boat load of big sea bass. Hook'em and Cook'em tackle at Indian River reported they have been busy all week fileting fish brought in to the cutting stations. Old Inlet was also slammed this week with angler getting rigs bait and reports. The sea bass were caught everywhere with the NJ/DE reef being a hot spot with Site 11 close in second place. Even though these major wreck areas had the most catches, the coral grounds near A buoy also produced some nice fish as well as the site ten wrecks. Fresh clam was used by most with salted clam and squid coming in second. Jigs and metal spoons accounted for a lot of the trophy bass caught this week. As the week drew to the end the focus moved to flounder. Many anglers also took the opportunity to catch a few tog before the season closed earlier last week. In the

back bays many anglers found flounder much more willing to chase bait than in past weeks. In the far outback it was a bit windy but Jon Wittman was able to catch a few nice big flounder. Jon reports that one of the fish he caught coughed up his lunch on the deck of the boat to include a few juvenile flounder. This is a great sign and shows we have lots of young in the back bays which will grow over the summer into mature fish. Craig Beard caught a bucket list 5 lb Flounder this morning. They also caught a few not as big keepers to make a big dinner for all. Brandon Roberts caught a nice solid 18" from the back bays on gulp. Lewes Harbour Marina hosted the Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament on Friday and had tons of leader changes as the anglers poured in to weigh fish. Matt Moffa took first with a nice 4.15 lb flounder, Matt Michell took second with a 4.0 lbs, and 3rd was Jim Olonieski with 3.99 lbs, 4th was Jen Petkus at 3.99 and 5th was Kyle slayman at 3.83 and Tim West in 6th at 3.62 lbs

Rockfish, Black Drum & Bluefish

On the beach this week black drum were more eager to bite the hook. Fresh big clams or crabs were the ticket to catching these big ugly brutes. The fish were holding close to the beach and a short cast often worked better then a long one. Change baits frequently to allow the scent to attract the fish. On the bay side the shoals along the NJ side of Delaware Bay are holding some big breeding drum. The hour before and after a low tide produced the best results. Chumming the water with clam also seemed to really help. Back on the beach blue fish have shown up in larger numbers with a better quality fish. Dave checked in a couple slammer blues on Tuesday. Ryan Kaposcsi and Jessica Byrne also checked into Lewes Harbour Marina with some big blues. The fish were caught on mullett and top water lures. We have not seen a lot of big blues in the past years so it's good to know they are returning. Early morning bites or just as the sun is setting is the best time for catching the blues. Many anglers are starting to chum the bay areas for black drum and rockfish which may be why these blues have shown up. Rockfish in the surf have been slow compared to our southern areas in Maryland, however if you put the time in some nice fish can be caught. Connor checked in at Jim's Bait and Tackle with a nice picture of an

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over slot rockfish. The fish was chummed up in the Delaware Bay on clam. Old Inlet Tackle reports that good bluefish and a few rockfish were taken from the Cape Henlopen Pier with bluefish up to 30". The cast for a cure tournament was held on 21 May, however at the writing of this article I don't have any results and will post them next week. Old Inlet Tackle has a great selection of surf equipment as well as all the fishing supplies you need.

Crabs & Clams

Clamming is slow but beginning to pick up. Many of the clams are still deep in the mud so make sure you dig down with your rake. Crabs are on fire in the Indian River with the back bay areas producing the best. Fresh bunker in the pots are producing about 9-11 keepers per pot. We are also seeing females with egg sacks. Remember these must be returned to the water unharmed.

Until next week...

Tight lines and fins up



This week's "what did I catch?" picture comes from Sean Corzine. He found this northern stargazer on the beach in Rehoboth. This aggressive looking fish is common to coastal waters and likes to bury itself in the sand and pop up to catch prey. Their eyes are on the top of the head, hence the name stargazer and they can grow up to 22". This fish also has electrical organs which can generate an electric shock!



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JOE MORRIS Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament



Another early catch during the Joe Morris Memorial Flounder Tournament was this 3.99 lb. flounder that Jim Okoniewski landed that held on to take 3rd Place overall missing a tie for 2nd by 0.01 lbs!



Jen Petkus knocked a few anglers down a peg on the leaderboard during the Joe Morris Memorial Flounder Tournament last Friday. She slipped this 3.99 lb. fattie on the dock in the mid afternoon to take 4th Place overall.

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Tournament Results

MAY 20, 2022

	1st Place	
	Matt Moffa	4.15 lbs.
	2nd Place - Matt Mitchell	4.00 lbs.
	3rd Place - Jim Okoniewski	3.99 lbs.
	4th Place - Jen Petkus	3.99 lbs.
	5th Place - Kyle Slayman	3.83 lbs.
	6th Place - Tim West	3.62 lbs.

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The leaderboard filled up early during last Friday's Joe Morris Memorial Flounder Tournament! By a little after 10AM there was already a 4 pounder in the lead. That held throughout the morning until Matt Moffa slammed this 4.15 lb. fish from the Lewes Canal on the scale sliding into 1st place and holding off all subsequent challengers to win overall.

JOE MORRIS Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament



There were a lot of flounder brought to the scales last Friday during the Joe Morris Memorial Flounder Tournament, all caught in the Lewes/ Rehoboth Canal. Kyle Slayman took home 5th Place for this 3.83 lb. fattie.



Rounding out the top 6 finishers of the Joe Morris Memorial Flounder Tournament was Tim West. He brought his fish 3.63 lb. to the scales in the mid afternoon knocking some down and securing 6th Place overall!



Angler Matt Mitchell set the bar to beat around 10 am during the Joe Morris Memorial Flounder Tournament last Friday. He weighed in a 4 lb. flounder he caught in the Lewes/ Rehoboth Canal that hovered in 1st Place for most of the day, finishing the tourney 2nd Place overall.

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Catch your own bait and then catch your own fish! Roy Holmes of York, PA dug up some sand fleas and used them to entice this 9.6 lb and 22" black drum out of the surf off of the 3R's. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Inlet Marina.



A recently shaved Shaun Flaherty with Big Bird Cropper used their dredging method to land a 31" rockfish and used Bord's Roy Rigs to get their limit of bluefish. The biggest blue was 32½" and tipped the scales at All Tackle at 10.34 lbs. making it our new Heaviest for the season! Maybe Bird needs to be introduced to a razor?

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Rt. 90 Bridge



















Rt. 50 Bridge

HEAVIEST

Fish of the Year

2022

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

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
Bluefish 	New May 23 Doug Schultz Fish Bowl 10.50 lbs.		Thresher Shark 	New May 20 Mike Eid Fingers 347 lbs.	
Black Drum 	April 16 CW Wells Assateague Island 70 lbs.	New May 20 Roy Holmes 3 R's 9.6 lbs.	Bigeye Tuna 		
Cobia 			Bluefin Tuna 		
Flounder 	New May 21 Chris Curran South OC Bay 4.0 lbs.	New May 20 Matt Moffa Ocean Wreck 4.15 lbs.	Longfin Tuna 		
Sea Bass 	May 15 Minh Dang Marine Electric 3.25 lbs.	New May 20 Randy Meyers Ocean Structure 3.50 lbs.	Yellowfin Tuna 		
Sheepshead 			Dolphin 		
Striped Bass 	New May 20 Bud Martin Rt. 50 Bridge 17.19 lbs.		Swordfish 		
Tautog 	April 22 Kelly Langion-Milano Artificial Reef 18 lbs.	April 22 Billy Thornatore Ocean Wreck 7.5 lbs.	Blue Marlin 		
Wahoo 			White Marlin 		

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



Kyle and his team from Hilti Tools were certainly happy about their day with Capt. Chris Huk and mates Shane Noll & Tanner Virden on the charter boat "Restless Lady II" based at the Talbot Street Pier. Last Sunday they headed out to a local wreck about 20 miles from the Ocean City Inlet and filled their coolers with sea bass using clam and squid. It looks like the Aquatractor got quite the workout that day.



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The first boat I ever ran on my own offshore was a 19-foot Robalo center console with a single 140hp Mercury outboard. My father purchased it from a reputable dealer here in Ocean City and it came absolutely bare bones with the only accessories being a compass and two flush mount rod holders. He made the mistake of giving me the keys and allowing me to use it at my will and accessorize it as I saw fit. I couldn't afford much but within a year I did manage to get her rigged with a couple more rod holders, a CB radio, and a Lowrance flasher depth finder.

For the next seven years that CB radio and flasher depth finder (that would only read down to about 100-feet) were the only electronics on the boat, but somehow we still managed to find our way out and back each day and actually caught fish including marlin, tuna, dolphin, mackerel, bluefish, sharks, flounder, seatrout, and just about every other species available offshore and

inshore.

Back then that was about as sophisticated as a small boat would usually be rigged. Some of the big boats (with "well-off" owners) would be equipped with VHF radios (that were the size of a toaster) and LORAN-A's (which were the size of a microwave) but that was about it. GPS, video depth finders, plotters, sonars, satellite phones, color radar, AIS, night vision, and all the other electronic gadgets and gizmos available to boaters these days were nothing any of us could have imagined would ever be invented, let alone installed, on our boats to help us safely navigate and catch fish. Today we have more and better navigation capabilities in our cell phones than we ever had screwed to our consoles back then.

These days it's almost hard to imagine that despite the "primitive" electronics back then that every season anglers were still able to board their boats in the morning, leave the dock, head off to distant waters, find fish, catch fish,

and return home. It certainly didn't happen with the efficiency or even the safety it does now, but everyday - it did happen.

Of course, through the years electronics just got better, better, better-better-better and even BETTER! When LORAN-C came out everyone was amazed because not only did it tell you where you were (which was all LORAN-A would do) but also store waypoints, and give you a course to steer, distance to go, and ETA. The new device also came in a small and affordable enough package that they were practicable on even small boats. At the time we all thought "we've reached the pinnacle - it can't get any better than this!" Well, of course it did get better, a lot better! Like everything these days, technology in the boating and fishing industries is constantly moving ahead. These days many vessels are packed with so much state of the art fish finding, communication, entertainment, navigation,

and situation awareness electronics that you'd think they could fly off to the Moon and back!

There's no doubt that all these advances in technology have continually allowed anglers to become more efficient at locating and catching fish. And it's not just the electronics, boats these days are faster and more seaworthy and loaded with all kinds of innovative equipment from Sea-Keepers to trolling motors to ice-makes to underwater lights. And then there's the tackle! Precision reels that can be so dialed in and tweaked out for a specific type of fish and fishing that anglers can catch fish in locations while using techniques never thought of before.

Since it's getting tougher and tougher for a fish not to end its life in the bottom of a cooler these days, I'm thinking that they probably aren't so keen on most of this new technology as the game of hide-and-seek they've always played with us is tipping the competition more and more in the favor of the "fisherman" rather than the "fish". "Not fair!" I can almost hear them say as they dart left and right with a boat tracking their every move from above

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or as they slink down into a hole or pile of debris they didn't think anyone on the surface could find.

But now it seems that fish aren't the only creatures calling "foul" on technological advancements. Recently some fishermen have begun to debate among themselves the use of certain technology to help them make a catch. To some degree the concern is about the ethics involved in using high-tech gadgets to find and catch a fish instead of the traditional way where fishermen use their own experience, skill, intuition, and a dose of luck to get it done. For instance, in some places they're using drones to locate fish and in some cases using them to actually deliver the bait.

To most of us the thought of using a drone to catch a fish is probably more laughable than something to be worried about becoming a big deal - let the geeks have their fun. But there's another segment of the fishing community that is beginning to raise some interesting and possibly legitimate concerns about when to say "when" to new technology.

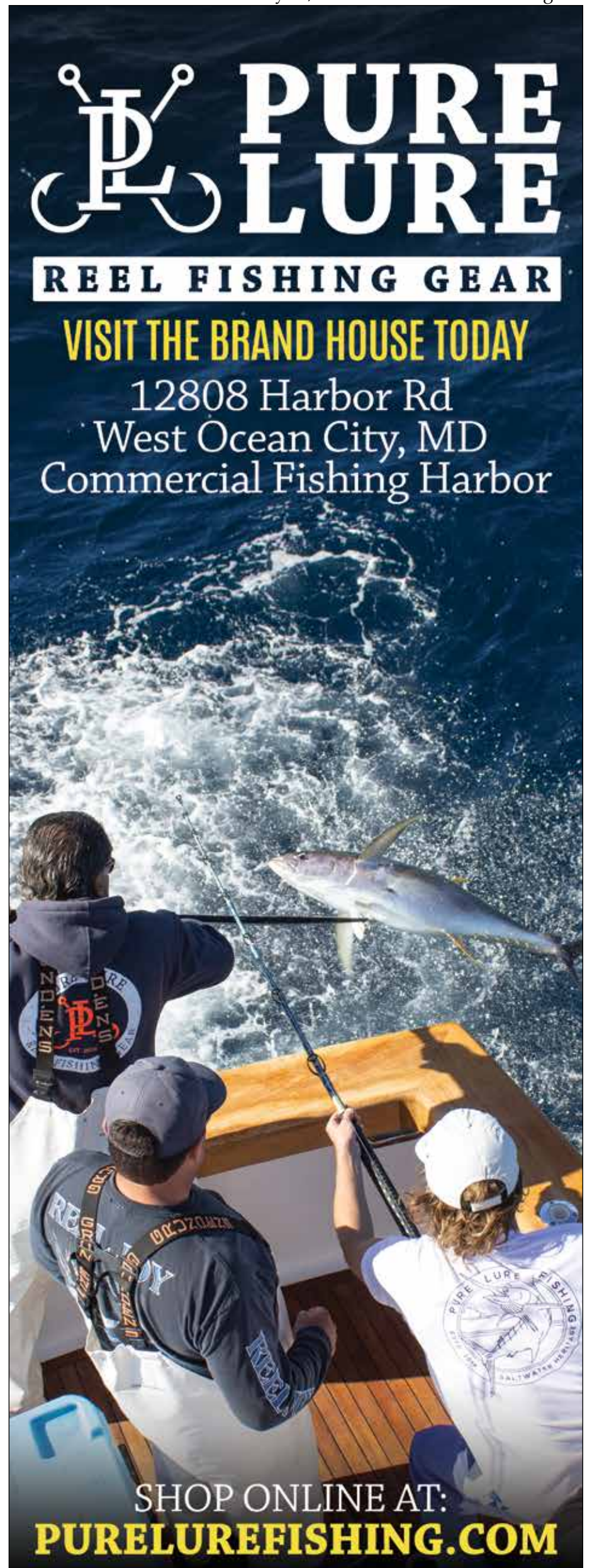
Very few fishing tournament winners these days end up with just a handshake, a pat on the back, and a trophy for the mantle. Now participants might find themselves competing for thousands if not millions of dollars in prize money, and with those kinds of bucks on the line you can bet that everyone involved wants to know that they are competing on an even playing field.

Enter technology into the picture. Technology that maybe, up till now, was just frowned upon by the scaly creatures it was designed to help catch, but is now looked upon by some of the "have-nots" as giving the

"haves" an unfair advantage at capturing not just a fish, but a "winning" fish and all the cash that goes with it. Back when a tournament win meant your name in the paper and a plaque for the wall, folks wouldn't have worried so much about who has what gadget screwed to their console. But big money tournaments have quite literally become big business for some anglers, many of whom take very seriously anything that might affect their chances of winning or losing what could be life changing amounts of money.

Of course tournaments have always had rules to help keep everyone honest and make the competition as fair as possible. Traditionally these rules have applied to fishing times and locations, as well as bait, tackle, and techniques that can be used - pretty basic stuff. But now that at least a few folks have raised questions about whether or not some of the latest and greatest technology might offer an unfair advantage to competitors, I'm guessing that a few tournament organizers will at least kick the idea around a little even if they aren't inclined to work it into their rules.

I have no opinion one way or the other on the subject, but I've heard arguments from both sides. Those who don't have the technology (some of it is VERY expensive) say that it just makes it too easy to find and catch fish. From the other side, those who do have it claim that advances in boats, equipment, navigation and fish finding electronics is simply a continuation of the ongoing evolution of the marine industry. If it continues, this will be an interesting debate to follow - but one I'm glad not to be involved with. §



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The tuna arrived and then promptly left! Last Tuesday anglers Richard Osborne, Andrew Dietz, James Haren and Pete Roskovich on the "Take Em" out of Harbor Island took a chance and headed to southeast of the Poor Man's Canyon. Capt. Skip Daisy with mate Thad Bittner headed out to around the 660 & 880 in about 800 fathoms. Trolling skirted ballyhoo they boated 10 tuna overall including the first yellowfin (Andrew) and bluefin (James) tunas for the 2022 season! Several boats tried the next day, but not even a bite and as of this writing no other tunas reported!

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ACME - Rt. 1 Rehoboth
Fisherman's Wharf - Lewes
Wawa - Rehoboth (near Fresh Market)
Wawa - Rehoboth (Northside near Walmart)

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G&E Supermarket
G&E Hardware - Cedar Neck Rd.
Hocker's Deli - Rt. 26
Gull's Way Campground
Tuckahoe Campground
Hocker's Supermarket - Rt. 26
Wawa - Rt. 26
Bethany Auto & Marine - Rt. 26
Downtown Bethany by Bandstand
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Surf angler Jim Thompson was up to his usual ways, catching fish! He landed this 32 striper in the suds at the Fenwick Island drive on beach using sand fleas. The bluefish were also biting on fresh bunker and finger mullet. Photo from Fenwick Tackle.



The drum are up in Delaware! Jesse Lerch from Bernville, PA went fishing with friends Sue & Charlie Keller and Lauren Gravatt on the charter boat "Strike Zone" with Capt. Christopher Keller. They used clams (from Lewes Harbour) to trick this 20 lb. black drum.



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The stripers were running off the beaches last week. Maurizio Lenzi from Alexandria, VA found this 32" keeper 'in the slot' rockfish during the early evening at 100th Street in Ocean City using sand fleas last Friday.



There is always good natured competition on the headboat "Angler" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. This trip saw a mix of corporate customers and some regulars like Hurricane Murray with some of the young anglers taking the reel raffle! This one shows off a double hookup.

2022 DELAWARE REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - December 11	 BLUEFISH No minimum size 3 per day / 5 per day Charter	 BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 3 per person/day	 COBIA 37" Minimum • 1 per person or vessel
 CROAKER 8" Minimum • No Limit	 RED DRUM 20-27" minimum 5 per person/day	 SHEEPSHEAD No limit	 SPECKLED TROUT 12" minimum No creel limit
 STRIPED BASS 28-35" except 20-25" only from 7/1 - 8/31 in DE Bay 1 per person/day <u>Catch & Release only from</u> 4/1 - 5/31 on Spawning Grounds	 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	 WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day

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Bud Martin and his son Cody continue to put the hurt on the stripers at the Rt. 50 Bridge at night. Last Friday they were fishing the incoming tide and Cody reeled in 5 shorties, while Bud only caught 2, but caught one that counts! A 33.5" keeper that tipped the scales at 17.19 lbs. setting our new Heaviest Fish for the season in Maryland. The rig used was a 1½ jig head with 6" paddle tail baits. You need big bait for big fish!



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JUNE

1st Annual Blues for D.U.
June 3 - 5 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

2nd Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament
June 17 - 18 • Ocean City, MD • 410-212-7159

South Jersey MidAtlantic Tuna Tournament
June 22 - 26 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

7th Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament
June 24-26 • Indian River Marina • 302-227-3071

43rd Annual Small Boat Tournament
June 25-26 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

4th Annual Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam
Kayak Fishing Tournament
June 25-26 • Ocean City, MD • 410-868-5488

JULY

40th Annual Canyon Kick Off
July 1-3 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

MidAtlantic Cup
July 4 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown
July 6-9 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

35th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament
July 8-10 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1613

Jimmy Johnson's Quest for the Ring
July 10-16 • Atlantic City • www.FishHardEvents.com

18th Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic
July 16-17 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

Paradise Bay Flounder Tournament
July 16-17 • Long Neck, DE • www.BayTournament.com

7th Annual OCMC vs. OCLTC Shoot-Out
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This is just a really nice picture of a large sea bass that this angler caught from the rail on the headboat "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins at an nearshore structure. Look at those colors.

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- 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 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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BARRATUNA - 53' 2008 Sculley
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SLOB KING - 57' Island Boatworks
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WOODCUTTER - 38' 1983 Buddy Davis
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SALVATION - 1977 Omie Tillet Sportsman 50'
Custom Carolina - Call Jeff James

HONKY TONK - 61' 1989 Buddy Davis
Call Jeff James

TOBASCO - 1979 48' Whiticar
Call Jimmy Fields

DARK HORSE - 34' 1979 Glenn Bradley
Call Jeff James

PRODUCER TOO - 2008 41' Bahama
Call Colton Cunningham

CONSTELLATION - 37' 1984 Sunny Briggs
Call Ronnie Fields

DOUBLE NICKEL - 1997 42' Buddy Harris
Call Ronnie Fields

2021 24' St. James Custom Boatworks
Call Jimmy Fields

25' 2018 Regulator
Call Mark Barton

28' 1986 Ocean Master
Call Glenn Cameron

2018 25' Custom Blackfin
Call Jimmy Fields

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

29' 1996 Luhrs
Call Ronnie Fields

30' 1984 Blackfin
Call Chris Workmon

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