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HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

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VOLUME 48 • • • ISSUE 21 • • • SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

JULY 26



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

JUNE 21



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

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2024 WINTER ISSUE!



Another Maryland swordfish record fell last fall when the crew of the "Ro Sham Bo" sauntered into the Ocean City Fishery. This 393 lb. swordfish! Capt. Willie Zimmerman and the crew of Albert DeCesaris, Lisa Williams, Lindsey Stamp, Bob Carrino, Kelly Carrino, Jeff Jacobs, boat owner Nick Shriver and mate Daniel Ames spent a successful day trolling Washington Canyon and were preparing to head back to shore when they got a hit, a hard one. The big fish was on an eel white skirt. Angler Jeff Jacobs grabbed the rod with a Shimano Tymo 50 reel and got to work. Despite having a hard fight, he fought the fish for five and a half hours before they could get it to the boat. This new Maryland Swordfish Record is larger than the previous one set in 2021.



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MAY 3



Gary Harmison and Gene Brite had a great couple of days in the surf of Assateague Island. They caught several nice drum and stripers including this monster. All were tricked with sand fleas tipped with orange crab Fishbites. Congrats to Gene who will be turning 80 on May 7th!

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This Week Last Year

It looked like Hurricane Earl blew some fish into the Washington Canyon!

- The “Cabana” fished there and returned with 5 swordfish on board.
- The “Boss Hogg” scored a bigeye along with a wahoo, mahi and tilefish.
- The “Instigator” returned to Sunset Marina from an epic overnight trip to the Washington with 6 bigeyes, the largest at 243 lbs. They also landed 2 swordfish!
- There were marlin there as well. Both the “Showtime” and the “Seven” released 5 white marlin on single trips.

Hurricane Lee and it being late September conspired to limit the number of anglers heading to the canyons over the past week. The few we heard from had decent reports, mainly on marlin and mahi. As tuna remain elusive, we are seeing more tilefish hitting the docks as well.

Several boats had successful marlin trips recently. The “Fish On” went out early last week and anglers Joseph Freeberry and Jay Freeberry released 5 whites. Wes Veater released his first white marlin while trolling at the 800 square. Before Lee took over the waves, the charter boat “C-Boys” made a run out to the Wilmington Canyon and went 3 for 5 on whites as well as snagging a few dolphin. The

charter boat “Boss Hogg” got a few trips in and did very well working 350 - 450 fathoms in the Wilmington Canyon. One trip saw 2 whites released and over 30 mahi hit the cleaning table at Sunset Marina. Another had 7 releases while a third reported 5 whites released and a blue marlin. A great week of fishing for them.

The “Turnin Fins” out of the Ocean City Fishing Center caught a keep swordfish on one of their day trips. They



were deep dropping in 1500 feet at the 800 Square. A real treat since most are caught on overnight trips.

We have very limited reports of tuna over the past week. Perhaps because many were marlin fishing, or because they are not here! Early last week the charter boat “Fish On” caught a couple of yellowfin tuna. The “Boss Hogg” returned to Sunset Marina with most of a good size yellowfin tuna from one of their marlin trips. Sharks are still an issue. They were trolling in 350 to 450 fathoms in the Wilmington Canyon. Capt. Dave Midgett on the charter boat “All In” put a nice bigeye on the scales at the Ocean City Fishing Center last Saturday. They got

a late start and stayed out late. Good thing, as they got hit by 2 eyeballs in the Washington Canyon just at sunset. One came tight and weighed 165 lbs.

While the dolphin bite has been strong this season and the trend continued last week. We are just not seeing the gaffers and big ones of last year. I could probably count the number of 25+ lbs. ones on both hands. Still lots of peanuts made their way in from the canyons and bass pots. The “Aboat Time 2” out of the Cedar Creek Marina hopped around the pots at the DelJersey, getting over a dozen in the box. Lilly Phillips and Kylee Forester were there too and they with their crew got 21 aboard as well as a atlantic tripletail and an almaco jack.

James and Julie Trickey reported a 33 lb. wahoo they caught while fishing on their boat the “Reel Trickey”. They fooled the speedster with a candy apple red Joe Shute they trolled at the Hot Dog.

There is still a lot of good fishing in the fall, especially for swordfish. The Rena Bishop Broadbill Bash has updated the tournament format from a 3 day event to a fish 2 of 10 days from October 5th through the 14th. This is a great move, as October weather can be unpredictable. Check out the other events in our Upcoming Tournament listing after this article.

Since this is the last issue of the Coastal Fisherman for the season, I just want to take a moment to thank a few folks.

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First, thank you to all of our faithful readers. The paper continues to fly off the rack each week and we always appreciate all the nice comments we receive. It definitely makes it worthwhile knowing that readers are enjoying the paper each week. I also appreciate all of the pictures that readers submit. This year, we ran over 1,400 pictures in the Coastal Fisherman, with many of them emailed to us each week. These are the fuel for our publication, so we appreciate all of those who take the time to share what they are catching with us at CoastalFisherman@comcast.net.

Thank you to our advertisers. Many have been with us for many years, and we appreciate their loyalty. Since the Coastal Fisherman is still a free publication, advertisers make it possible to keep the doors open. That is why it is so important to give our advertisers as much business as possible. Nowadays, it is too easy to just sit at our desks and order online. Local businesses are the backbone of our community and especially our fishing community. Please let them know how valuable they are and how much they are appreciated by giving them your business.

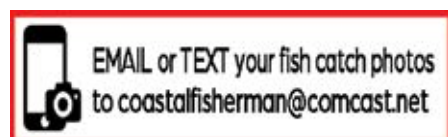
Thanks also go out to our columnists. Capt. Mark Sampson, Steve Katz, Capt. BJ Pietryak, Capt. Matt Abell and my wife Chef Christine, all did a great job this season writing entertaining and informative columns each week. Trust me, it's not easy coming up with an interesting topic every week. It is much harder than you can imagine, but our columnists continue to do it every year and their work is appreciated.

Thanks also to the many tournament directors and staff that allow us to be part of the crew at the scales to provide such great images and stories of the events.

Finally, thanks to my staff. We are a small business with a

limited staff. Tom Jock works tirelessly with our advertisers to create and update most of the ads you see every week. My man Ray Wells helps us keep the racks full so that everyone who wants a copy, gets one! Special thanks to the South Bethany Crew that works with Christine weekly to process and mail the paper weekly to our subscribers.

Well, that's it! Hopefully, we will have a nice fall. I wish everyone a safe and happy fall season and hopefully I may see you on the water. Look for the next Coastal Fisherman on January 1st. §



Upcoming Tournaments

- Old Inlet Bait & Tackle hosts the **26th Annual Delaware Seashore Fall Surf Fishing Classic** on September 23rd & 24th. This event offers over \$15,000 in cash and prizes as well as the coveted bronze trophies! More at OldInlet.com.
- The last offshore tournament of the season is the **Rena Bishop Broadbill Bash** to benefit the Burbage Regional Cancer Care Center. This year the format is fish 2 of 10 days from October 5th - 14th to allow more flexibility with the weather. The primary focus is swordfish, however there will be calcuttas for heaviest tuna and stringer. More at OCBroadbillBash.com.
- The **Lewes Harbour Marina** will be hosting two tournaments this fall. The first will be their annual month long **Tautog Tournament** starting in late October. The second will be another month long event, a **Striper Tournament**. That one will start late November. Exact dates will be finalized soon. For more info call (302) 645-6227 or check their social media sites.



We have not had many reports of golden tilefish being caught this season. Rod Taylor raised this one on the boat "Playmaker" with Pam, Jeff, Michelle and Brett Taylor with Max Newnam. They were in the Poor Man's Canyon in 600 feet using tuna belly for bait.

JULY 12



The Brown boys from Ocean View, DE with Walt Gazdzik of Ocean View, DE and Bob Keller from Hayden, CO found a calm day to head off to the Washington Canyon on the "Miss Darlene". After putting 2 yellowfin in the box, Rick Brown saw a whole tree floating in 100 fathoms of blue water and got his gear on to shoot this bull mahi with his Koah Speargun.

MAY 31



Capt. Justin Marshall with Coastal Guide Service on the charter boat "Mover Money" had a nice surprise for this couple on a trip to celebrate their 11th anniversary. After snagging a few sea bass for dinner, they switched up to sharking. Fishing only 4 to 5 miles of the beach they hooked up with a spinner shark and then this 6' juvenile great white!

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This year's first white marlin release was on June 2nd from angler Joe Huk on board the "Restless Lady II", whose captain happens to be Joe's son Chris! The crew was actually trolling for tuna on the west wall of the Baltimore Canyon. Capt. Chris saw the white charging in from 40 yards from the starboard quarter and it started bouncing between two Sterling spreader bars! It finally bit on the spreader on the flat line, a unique way to catch billfish! Joe did not have to fight the fish long as it ran right up to the boat. It was estimated at 72" or 73" and around 70 lbs.



Angler Christina Puglisi has had an epic spring! She went surf fishing in early April at the 3 R's in the Delaware Seashore State Park and tricked this 34" and 28 lb. black drum with sand fleas. It is our current Heaviest black drum for DE to date!



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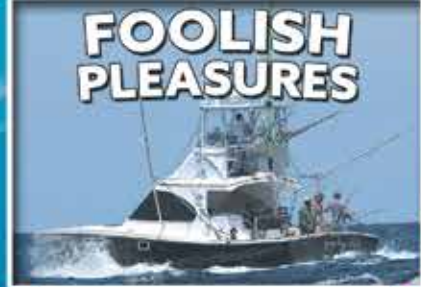
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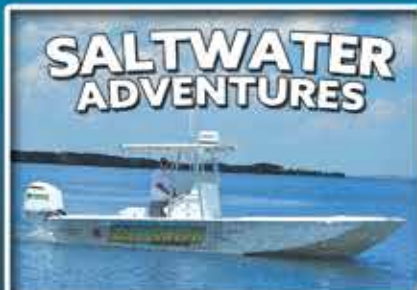
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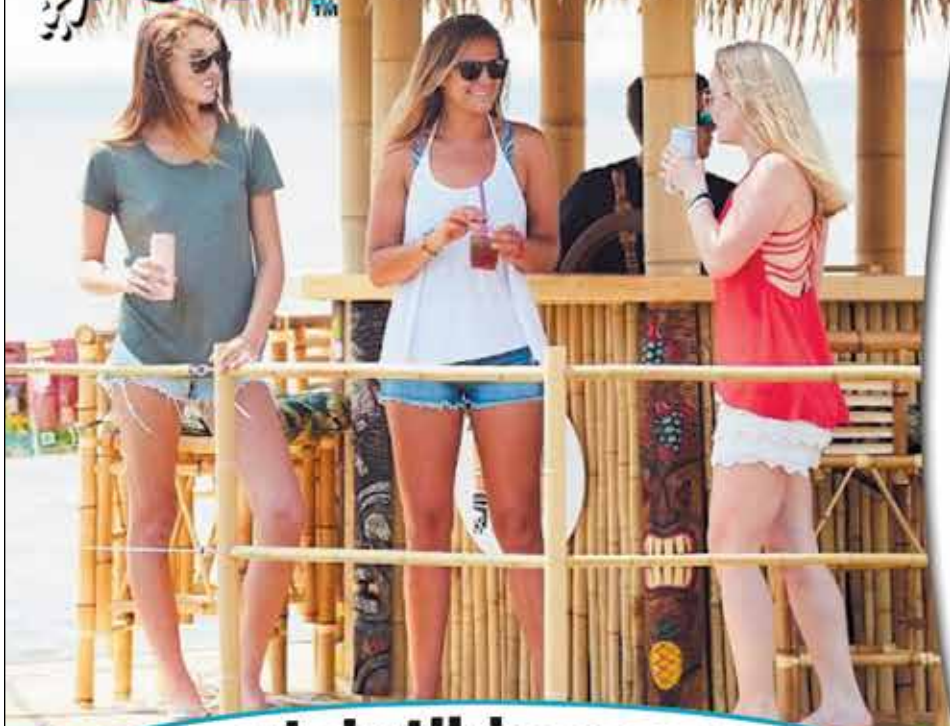
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Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
 Bluefish	May 19 Rich Daiker OC Jetty 14.5 lbs.	June 8 Dexter Long Indian River Inlet 12 lbs.	 Thresher Shark		
 Black Drum	April 4 Tom Berry Assateague 19 lbs.	May 19 Eric Feinauer Delaware Bay 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	August 19 Danny Cox Rt. 50 Bridge 9 lbs. 6 ozs.	June 26 Mike Lewis Old Grounds 9.6 lbs.	 Longfin Tuna		
 Sea Bass	May 20 Wayne Small Ocean Structure 5 lbs.	May 22 Richard Krauss Ocean Structure 4.3 lbs.	 Yellowfin Tuna	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.	August 22 Ralph Redden Inshore Lump 43 lbs.
 Striped Bass	June 1 Buddy Martin Rt. 50 Bridge 12 lbs.	May 22 Chic Stearrett Bethany Beach 18.7 lbs.	 Swordfish	July 11 Crew "Marli" Poor Man's Canyon 284 lbs.	
 Tautog		May 6 James Milano Ocean Structure 22.9 lbs.	 Blue Marlin	August 23 Andy Confortini Linden Kohl Canyon 889 lbs.	
 Wahoo	August 22 Auston Burnley Poorman's Canyon 80 lbs.		 White Marlin	August 24 Mike Dahl Linden Kohl Canyon 76 lbs.	

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

MAY 17



Son of the Coastal Fisherman publisher Derek Budd hooked up at the University of Maryland in 2018 and after a 5 year fight, landed a Bachelors Degree in Astrophysics at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. He can be seen here with his first mate Marlin celebrating.

SEPT 20



Jordan Schoenberger of Rising Dun, MD, Jim Beirnes from Dover, DE and Tim Gola of Newark, DE went hopping around the Bass Pots near the DelJersey reef site and pulled some nice mahi and sea bass in the boat. The were fishing on the "Aboat Time 2" out of the Cedar Creek Marina.

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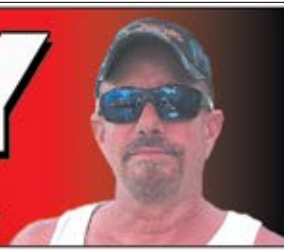


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OCEAN CITY FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This past week brought more rough seas due to Hurricane Lee off to our east. For those that did get out and got set up on the reefs, the fishing was as good as it's been all year. Big sea bass, flounder and mahi are still cruising our waters and ready to bite a line. Inshore pots have mahi and small jacks on them along with an occasional redfish. The wrecks are teeming with life and baitfish bringing the sea bass back inshore with abundance. Fluke in the back bays as well as near shore wrecks remain strong, and many wrecks are holding big triggerfish.

Nearshore Wrecks & Reefs

The reefs off the coast of Ocean City are giving up some quality fish. The Marine Electric is your current hotspot

with limits of sea bass and even a few big fluke coming out of that area. Russ Garufi of Titan Yachts had a productive day with his crew when it was too rough to head offshore for deep dropping. Hitting several areas of the Marine Electric zone, they managed a limit of sea bass for the 6 man crew as well as a few doormat fluke thrown in. Chuck Sharpe was also on the water and reported several big knobhead sea bass after picking through the small ones. The crew came home with plenty of big fish for dinner. Even after returning, many keeper fish that were just not up to their standards. The groups also returned several mahi to the water that were too juvenile. Great job protecting the future of our fishery. The "Ocean

Princess" wanted everyone to know the sea bass have returned to the inshore wrecks with several big knobheads to delight anglers. Their anglers journeyed home with a few limits of fluke and a few triggerfish.

The "Angler" also had a good week catching their clients several coolers full of the black bass along with a few mahi and flounder. As the water continues to cool the bass fishing should really turn on. Many target the tasty bass in the fall as this is the time to load the freezers up for the winter to enjoy the fish when the weather is too cold to venture into the Atlantic.

The "Judith M" also reports that fishing has really turned on and now is a great time to fish. With the children back at school and our coasts clear, the rails are light and the fishing is hot!

The almost month-long Mid Atlantic Flounder Tournament concluded. The final standings were Dave Tribbitt capturing first place, sporting a big 8.70 lb. flounder. Paulla Gallager was second with a 7.81 lb. fish, Jim Tolson was 3rd with 7.62 lbs. and Rick Payne in 4th with a 6.10 lb. flatfish. That's a heavy leader board for sure!

Jake Bergey hit the Jack Spot at 8 am and was finished at 9 am. He stated all the mahi were congregated on one pot and continued to chew until they reached their limit. Jake said the ride out was a bit gnarly but well worth it, and even returned several smaller fish to get a little bigger. Jeff Rayner also hit the Jack Spot and 15 minutes after the lines were in the water had caught 3 false albacore and several mahi. Feathers and blue cedar plugs were the ticket to tricking the fish into biting.

"Last Call" had a good trip with big fluke as well as mahi being hooked. Captain Matt says there is still time to book a fall trip and the bass fishing should get even better as the weather cools. Chris Strain

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SUNOCO



JUNE 28

Hunters Helping Heros (helping those who serve) booked the charter boat "Bay Bee" to take some veterans, firefighters and police officers out for the day flounder fishing in the Ocean City Bay. The fish cooperated and many keeper flounder made their way into coolers.

had tried catching the elusive OC sheepshead without luck. Last week however he finally got dialed in and brought home two big sheepies. Sand fleas and the right wreck were the ticket to his success.

Back Bays & Inlet Fishing

The back bays are still producing several good catches of fluke along with smaller redfish that are moving into the water as it begins to cool. Small as well as a few keeper stripers and blues are coming off the Rt. 50 Bridge.

“Miss OC Fishing” was on the water last week and reports several trips produced big fluke up to 5 pounds.

The “Bay Bee” reported good trips with anglers bringing back big fish. The back bays are alive with spot and small croaker to keep anglers constantly catching during these trips. The “Bay Bee” also had the distinction of booking the Hunter’s Helping Heroes in which veterans, firefighters and police get to go out for the day and fish. They shared it was a great day with a great group and the fish cooperated, making everyone happy.

“Get Sum Charters” had a few good trips this past week putting their anglers on big flounder from the Ocean City Bay.

The back bays behind Assateague Island have been very productive recently and it’s the hot spot of the week. The surf off of Assateague Island has been producing some big black drum as well as a few red drum. Fresh bunker and sand fleas are the bait of choice for these fish. Hopefully the big rockfish will return this fall to delight anglers as they did last year. Despite the new smaller slot of keepers these giant fish are still a blast to catch on light tackle.

Until next year,
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We know when we get a call from the "Boss Hogg" mid morning that they must have had an epic catch, and they certainly did last week! OC anglers Fritz Eisenbradt, Pat James and Connor Braniff with Taylor Barnes of Salisbury, MD, Matt Hargrove from St. Michaels, MD and Matt Taylor down from Wilmington, DE trolled the Baltimore Canyon in 70 fathoms with Capt. Alex Beane and mates Jack Hanna, Matt Lames & Steven Stallings. They found water temps in the low 70's and hooked up early, boating 6 bigeye tuna in the 120-130 lb. range as well as 13 yellowfins and 2 gaffer mahi. Having caught enough meat fish, they even had time to try some marlin fishing! Pictured at Sunset Marina.



Sunset Marina's social media and marketing czar Mariah Sterrett was doing some *applied research* with her fiance' Forrest Bleinberger on the Maryland side of Assateague Island. While the pair had to deal with a lot of shorts, their top and bottom rigs with a combo of Gulp shrimp on top with a swimming mullet on the bottom got them 3 keepers up to 18".

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Black Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	5 lbs.	White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"	16 lbs. or 36"	SHARK:			
Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size	Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Cobia	44"	45 lbs. or 48"	55 lbs. or 50"	Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	3 lbs. or 20"	Thresher*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	25 lbs.	Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	6 lbs. or 26"	Swordfish	47"	Any Size	100 lbs.
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	30 lbs.	TUNA:			
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	1.5 lb. or 16"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"	40 lbs.
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	20 lbs.	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"	32"
Red Drum*	36"	45"	-	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Sailfish*	Any Size	-	-	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"	100 lbs. or 60"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	10 lbs. or 24"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	4 lbs. or 26"				
Speckled Trout	24"	-	5 lbs. or 24"				
Striped Bass	40"	44"	44"				
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	9 lbs. or 23"				

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

MAY 10



Records are made to be broken, and that is just what James Milano of North Babylon, NY did last week. He was fishing with Capt. Jon Azato on the charter boat "No Limit" out of the Indian River Marina at an ocean structure when this tog hit on white crab legs. The beast tipped the scales at 22.9 lbs. and measured 34" in length with a girth of 24"! This blackfish is now a pending Delaware state record besting the previous one set last year by over a pound. Sharing the adventure with James were Gary Yearwood, Norman Katrobos, Rodney Miller, Jason Larson and mate Terry Hartlaub. James' Wife Kelly was also aboard and she holds the Womens IGFA record for tautog for the 18 lb. fish she caught last year! Pictured at the Indian River Marina.

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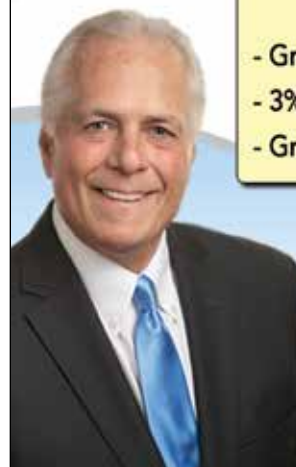
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Crabs to Go co-owner John Wittmyer got on the water with Big Bird Cropper on his boat "Lost Time". The pair managed an inshore grand slam catching a keeper bluefish, flounder and striper, this one was 30". They also caught 2 other rocks at 35" and 31" just southeast of the Rt. 50 Bridge on Roy Rigs.



Brian Bokulic from Salisbury, MD headed over to the Oceanic Fishing Pier at the Inlet in Ocean City to try his luck. He set a tandem rig with 3/8 oz. jig heads and white Gulp and was rewarded with this 21" keeper flounder.

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. SEPT. 20	High 11:59 am High -----	Low 05:22 am Low 06:20 pm
THUR. SEPT. 21	High 12:08 am High 12:50 pm	Low 06:10 am Low 07:18 pm
FRI. SEPT. 22 First Qtr. Moon	High 12:58 am High 01:54 pm	Low 07:05 am Low 08:21 pm
SAT. SEPT. 23	High 02:01 am High 03:09 pm	Low 08:06 am Low 09:26 pm
SUN. SEPT. 24	High 03:15 am High 04:21 pm	Low 09:12 am Low 10:31 pm
MON. SEPT. 25	High 04:26 am High 05:24 pm	Low 10:21 am Low 11:31 pm
TUE. SEPT. 26	High 05:31 am High 06:19 pm	Low 11:29 am Low -----
WED. SEPT. 27	High 06:30 am High 07:11 pm	Low 12:24 am Low 12:31 pm

source: usharbors.com

Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge.
 Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high tide
 Delaware Bay Entrance - subtract 1 hour 25 minutes to high tide
 - subtract 45 minutes to low tide
 Wachapreague, VA - add 4 minutes for high tide - 21 minutes for low tide
 Quinby Inlet, VA - subtract 6 minutes for high tide

These tides are only meant to be a guide, as tides can be affected by storms and weather fronts.

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FISHING CHARTERS



AUGUST 2



JUNE 14

Capt. Rick Shoaff and Walt Hammond got their crew on the headboat "Judith M" onto some unique fish last week. On this trip they saw spadefish around the boat, but typically they don't take the bait, but they did that day! They also caught some flounder and nice sized sea bass.

As if shark fishing is not hard enough, angler James Andrew of Annapolis, MD decided to fly fish for them! He went out on the "Fish Finder" with local shark expert Capt. Mark Sampson and mate Jake Konka where Jake landed this smooth hammerhead shark. After some research info was gathered, back in the sea he went.

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JUDITH M



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FISHING CHARTERS



JULY 12



These boys are gonna be eating tuna for days! They went out with Capt. Chris Watkowski and mate Chase Porter to the Poor Man's Canyon and put together a great catch with a 197 lb. bigeye tuna and 4 yellowfins. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



AUGUST 16

The team from Susquehanna Fishing Tackle took their annual flounder trip with Shimano North America Fishing last week on the headboats "Judy V" & Capt. Bob II" out of the Indian River Inlet. They had an amazing day putting 30 keeper flounder on ice from some ocean structures off the Delaware coast!

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FISHING CHARTERS

SEPT 6



The Pugh Family and their friends got a real taste of the marlin fishing we have seen recently. They were fishing with Capt. Mike Burt on the charter boat "Pumpin' Hard" offshore of the Baltimore Canyon where Capt. Mike reported the boats first blue marlin release of the season as well as the crew going 3 for 5 on whites. Pictured in their slip at the Sunset Marina.



JULY 12

The "Bay Bee" out of the Ocean City Fishing Center has been finding some nice flounder in the Ocean City Bays on their 4 hour trips. This smiling girl shows off her nice keeper and its teeth!

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FISHING CHARTERS



JULY 12

Capt. Alex Beane with mate Jack Hannum on the charter boat "Boss Hogg" based at Sunset Marina had another glorious day on the rip! This trip started with a white marlin release that hit on a naked ballyhoo in the Washington Canyon. While it was the only billfish bite of the day, other types of bites were to follow and the crew slammed 8 yellowfin tuna into the box! They had a ninth to the boat, but the tax man took his half.



AUGUST 9

Chris Mizurak on the headboat "Angler" reports the weather has improved, however the warmer weather is making the sea bass more picky. While less are caught, he shared the quality seems better like this big knothead. Keeper flounder are also in the mix as well as triggers.

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FISHING CHARTERS



AUGUST 9



Summer heat and storms can sometimes offer smaller crowds on the headboat "Thelma Dale IV" offering more room for anglers. Capt. Brin Parsons reported an awesome day until the tide changed, but it did not matter as they caught a monster 26" and 9 lb. flounder.



JUNE 14

Capt. JD Eddy of the charter boat "Green Reaper" got this crew onto a mess of sea bass! He had anglers Jacob & Mary Eddy from Ellicott City, MD, Ken Zucknick of Gambrills, MD and Malynnda Eddy of Dover, DE fishing at the Jack Spot. Malynnda also caught a 5 lb. pollock!

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(AS REPORTED TO THE COASTAL FISHERMAN - MUST BE OF LEGAL LIMIT AND REPORTED WITH PHOTO)

Species	2023	2022	Species	2023	2022
Bluefish 	April 19 Dave Moore Assateague Island	April 26 Morgan Mericle South OC Jetty	Thresher Shark 		May 20 Mike Eid "HotLine" Fingers
Black Drum 	April 3 Jeremy Zinn 145th Street, OC	March 29 Jay Phillips Assateague Island	Bigeye Tuna 	May 5 Jeff Rosenkilde "Full Service" Baltimore Canyon	June 12 Richie Widmayer "HotLine" Baltimore Canyon
Cobia 	July 4 Gabriella Kendus Faithful Steward	June 11 Numen Bilal Fenwick Island Beach	Bluefin Tuna 	May 29 The Crew "Marli" Baltimore Canyon	May 17 Andrew Dietz "Take Em" SE Poor Man's
Summer Flounder 	March 27 Dakota Bittner Thorofare	April 3 Scott Lenox Thorofare	Longfin Tuna 		June 5 Chad Tingle "Sea Bear" Wilmington Canyon
Sea Bass 	May 15 Mike DePalma Sr. Great Eastern Reef	May 15 Jeremy Michalski Jack Spot	Yellowfin Tuna 	May 6 Chris Kroh "Kilroy" Poorman's Canyon	May 17 James Haren "Take Em" SE Poor Man's
Sheepshead 	May 5 Anthony Carrieri Ocean City Jetty	June 4 Blake Gunther OC Inlet	Dolphin 	May 6 Brad Hubbard "Talkin' Trash" Poorman's Canyon	May 29 Adam Davidson "HotLine" East of Poor Man's
Striped Bass 	April 15 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	April 20 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	Swordfish 	June 16 Crew "Wrecker" Poorman's Canyon	June 4 The Crew "Espadon" Poor Man's Canyon
Tautog 	January 31 Josh Schwemiein Ocean Structure	March 27 Michael Guigley Stinky Beach	Blue Marlin 	June 1 Steve Sylvester "Talkin' Trash" Norfolk Canyon	June 13 The Crew "Rhonda's Osprey" Poor Man's Canyon
Wahoo 	June 9 Josh Short Poorman's Canyon	June 30 Tim McCartney "Chasin Tides" Hot Dog	White Marlin 	June 2 Joe Huk "RESTLESS LADY II" Baltimore Canyon	June 6 Kevin Gibb "WRECKER" Baltimore Canyon

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

JULY 26



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

JUNE 28



On this full day trip, Capt. Chris Adams of the headboat "Capt. Bob II" reported the ride was a little tough going! Still, Fenwick Island, DE anglers Kevin and Cheryl Szymanski got 4 keeper flounder in the cooler. The heaviest was 4.7 lbs! Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.

GUIDE TO THE CANYONS



DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



As summer draws to a close and I sit down to write the season's final report, I reflect on the fish reports from this past summer. It has been a remarkable season, one that brought us some of the best sea bass and flounder fishing we've seen in years. Despite the challenges posed by Hurricane Lee lingering off our east coast, this past week remained productive for anglers who ventured out. The rough seas, with swells reaching up to 10 feet, did however lead to more beach erosion and coastal flooding.

For those brave enough to head into the Atlantic, dolphin were as close as 5 miles out, and although flounder were a bit elusive, they were still ready to bite. Sea bass remained abundant, with many fish congregating near the wrecks due to the increased bait in the area. Juvenile fish were also prevalent, requiring anglers to sort through the smaller ones to reach their catch and limits.

Nearshore Wrecks and Coral Reefs

Despite another hurricane lurking just off our coast, the

nearshore waters teemed with life. Mahi were inshore, easily caught near most bass pots and wrecks. Sea bass continued to thrive, despite the warm water temperatures for this time of year. Anglers like Jim Osborne, Alex Osborne, and Bruce Carlton fished the Old Grounds and returned with limits of sea bass, flounder, and mahi—a true "Smorgasbord Catch."

Madelyne Motsko and Lil had their first ocean fishing experience, which turned out to be rewarding with catches of triggerfish and dolphin, proudly displayed upon their return to Indian River Marina's Hook'em and Cook'em Tackle. John Massey and his Sunbelt Electric crew enjoyed a day of team building on the "Jay Sea 2," returning with an impressive haul of flounder and sea bass. The crew must have worked well and hard together because the filet table at Lewes Harbour Marina was loaded with flounder and sea bass. The anglers praised Captain Jamar for putting them on the fish.

The "Judy V" was out a few times and targeted the flounder with great results bringing

home several trophy size flat fish for the anglers. Captain Cris even had a 27 inch, 7.4 pound one himself. The "Capt. Ike II" reported proactive trips for mahi both inshore and offshore, with plenty of tilefish in the deep waters. John Coffey joined the annual Pipe Fitters fishing trip and the crew yielded over 140 sea bass, with Marty's 3-pounder winning the big fish pool. The crew switched to flounder in the afternoon, adding some decent flatfish to their black sea bass dinner.

The "Port-a-bella" stood out with a big gaffer mahi caught on a piece of floating debris while heading offshore for blueline tiles. It's notable to see these big mahi close inshore this year, unlike previous years.

Captain Mike Faust on the "Chasin Tail" charter boat managed to get his group their limit of flounder in challenging sea conditions. Nick Sampson and the "MobSquad" had a solid fishing day, catching sea bass and chicken mahi, even landing a big gaffer. Jonathan Green returned with a cooler of mahi, despite not enticing the big boys to bite. "Skipjack Sportfishing" had

DJ's Landscaping on board, returning with a nice catch of flounder and sea bass.

John Gudknecht had a fantastic day aboard the "Katydid," where he caught a citation fluke measuring 27.5 inches and weighing 7.48 pounds with a 23-inch girth—a remarkable flounder, indeed. Kyle Falgowski also made an impressive catch at Lewes Harbour Marina with a 7.5-pounder that initially looked like a ten-pounder. Great job! Lewes Harbour Marina has seen numerous citation fish this year, with anglers boasting both lengthy and unique names.

Scott Stapleford and Donald Downes had a fun day on the Atlantic, catching sea bass and chicken mahi. "Last Call" charters with Captain Matt hooked nice bass, fluke, and mahi for their group. Virginia Smith received a citation for a 9.41-pound, 24-inch sheepshead she caught while fishing with her husband near the w\Wall. Susan Haddaway fished on the "Grizzly" and caught a substantial 25-inch, 5.9-pound fluke with Captain Carey at an ocean structure.

Back Bays and Inlet Fishing Shazmin Stearn, displaying some girl power, hooked and landed a beautiful 5-pound, 25-inch fluke from the Lewes

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Canal off the family dock using an LHM rig. Eloyce also showcased girl power by catching a keeper flounder in the canal. Despite rain and wind, Ryan Saunders managed to bring in two 18-inch flounder while fishing at the Inlet before seeking shelter from the rain.

Horace Hockenstien had a productive day fishing just north of the Delaware Wall, reeling in some big fluke. The Delaware Ice Breaker walls have been yielding significant catches, including fluke and sheephead. Larry Hall even landed a nice 11.3-pound black drum on sand fleas, which he weighed in at Breakwater Tackle.

As you look forward to the winter edition, remember to keep an eye out for the next season's adventures.

Until then,

Tight Lines and Fins Up! \$



Josh Mercer of South Bethany, DE caught a doormat of a flounder at the Fenwick Shoals. The 8 lb. and 11 oz. fish hit on a 6" Nuclear Chicken Gulp Swimming Mullet and qualifies for a Delaware Citation. Pictured at Fenwick Bait & Tackle.

AUGUST 16

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CAPT. AUSTIN ENSOR
#443-392-4926



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MAY 17



Opening day for sea bass this past Monday offered sporty conditions and some tough fishing! One of the first boats to the dock was the "Bet Sea" with Capt. Eric Mihaly with mates Dave Nornes and Zoe Hargrove. They took the Ocean City based father & son duo of Michael DePalma Sr. and Michael DePalma Jr. out to the Great Eastern Reef and was the first to arrive at 6AM. It was a slow start with no fish marking at first and finding only 6 keepers in the first 2 hours. A move 7 miles east to inside the fingers however did the trick. They caught their limit of 30 in 21 fathoms using several baits of salted clams, squid and fresh bunker. Michael Sr. also snagged the spot for First Fish for sea bass!



AUGUST 16

The group from Susquehanna Fishing Tackle got more than flounder and sea bass on their recent trip aboard the headboat "Judith M" out of the Indian River Marina. This angler caught a beautiful sea robin, nice pic!

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MAY 31



Jacob Raber of Harrisburg, PA has a plan and sticks to the plan! He always cuts his mullet in 1" pieces when fishing the surf at the Delaware Seashore State Park. The mullet pieces did the trick on this trip with Erika Houser with both landing some nice chopper bluefish at high tide.



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With the editor of this paper kindly (or maybe foolishly) giving me free reign over what I want to write about each week, anyone who has had the stomach to read this column more than just a couple times knows that I take full advantage of my liberties by hashing out a mishmash of topics in no particular order. One week the discussion might be how to anchor your boat and the next it could be about keeping bait alive, local sea birds, making bottom rigs, or how to net a fish. And while I don't profess to remember much from my years of formal education, I do recall from writing class something about the last paragraph should pretty much be a summary or a conclusion of what the story or article was all about.

So with this being the last issue of The Coastal Fisherman for the 2023 season, I thought I'd try and drive my messages home by grabbing the last few lines from this year's columns and just put them out there one last time. I guess you might call it a "review" of some of the points I was trying to get across all summer. Dates indicate the issue, see if you can guess (or remember) the rest of the story...

May 10

Fog is nothing for boaters to take lightly, often it unexpectedly descends upon us and we have no choice but to deal with it, other times we can make a simple and safe decision not to venture out in it. Even the best captain in the world, doing all the right things, can end up in trouble if some ding-dong plows into them while running too fast in zero visibility. The best a boater can do to avoid catastrophe is to have at least some understanding of fog, follow the rules, slow down, and always err on the side of caution.

May 17

Don't get lazy! When the bite is a little slow it's all the more important to ensure that you're fishing with good bait by changing it frequently. Too long in the water and any bait is going to get washed out and lose much of its appeal, and it's when the fish aren't biting that it's most important to do what you can to make sure that your bait is the best it can be. But then again, if you actually don't want to catch fish...

May 24

My friend Bobby and I caught a lot of fish together, and though I don't remember a single one of them I sure remember the good

(and the bad) times we spent on the water, now that he's gone, memories and a few old photos are all I have left of him. As this new season unfolds and we fishermen can finally get back to doing what we've been looking so forward to all winter, I wish everyone the best of luck at catching a few pounds of fish for dinner and tons of memories for the future.

May 31

Local store owners recognize repeat customers and make the extra effort to help ensure that their fishing and boating experience is safe and enjoyable. They're genuinely concerned about the wants and needs of local fishermen and boaters because in the long run it helps their business too. So if they can point you in the direction to catch some fish, show you how to rig a lure or bait, or explain how to properly apply a particular paint on the deck of your boat they're happy to do it. It's good for you and good for them. Try to get any of that kind of service from "operator-29" when you place your online order.

June 7

So anyone who has a powerboat should have a "fuel" discussion with whoever does their engine

service and ask about what kind of fuel they should be using and what additives (if any) are recommended to be used, and then still be ready for potential problems if they chose to fill their boat up at the convenience store.

June 14

With fuel prices hitting all-time highs, charter prices have risen to levels where, for most folks, it's probably more important than ever to milk every bit of enjoyment possible from charter or guided fishing trips. A little research and a few phone calls can be the difference between fishing-fun and fishing-flop!

June 21

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

June 28

There's no excuse for any captain ever to be rude to other fishermen, but I just hope that folks will understand that, if they get the impression that a charter captain is being a bit too selfish or evasive, it might just be that he's putting his livelihood before his concerns for being sociable, and I'm pretty sure that no one

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should fault a fellow for doing that!

July 5

But since the Geographic Range Table takes into account only the curvature of the earth, the ranges given assume perfect viewing conditions without allowances for the hazy kind of weather we so often encounter on a typical hot summer day. Humidity alone can reduce visibility by more than half, add to that, illusions created by heat waves as well as each person's unique vision impairments and it should be easy to see that there's no stock answer to the question "how far can you see land?"

July 12

Finally, just like taking notes in school, anglers who keep a fishing log which includes such details as time and location of catch, weather and tide conditions, water temperatures, baits or lures used, and any other details they think might have contributed to their success or failure that day will have a wonderful asset to refer back to days, weeks, or even years later. Logs not only serve to remind fishermen of where and how they caught fish on a particular day, over time they can also show trends in a fishery and help anglers predict what to expect as a season unfolds. So if you want this to be a grade "A", first class fishing season - don't forget to do your homework!

July 19

Every new season provides Delmarva anglers with a lot to look forward to, good reasons to have high expectations, and maybe even the chance to set and pursue some challenging goals. But those fishermen who also take the time and make the effort to share some of their experiences on the water with those who do not have the opportunity to do so on their own are sure to end their season with so much more than just a freezer full of fish.

July 26

The coastal waters are a dynamic and complicated ecosystem, and knowing the surface seawater temperature in any given place won't always tell you where you will or will not find fish, but add that information to whatever else

you might know about what's going on under and around your hull, and you might just be able to figure it out.

August 2

By the way, as I noted, the fellows in the stricken boat were in the water but not wearing life-jackets. I imagine that things happened so fast that they didn't have time to don their PFD's before finding themselves in the water and swimming for the safety of the inlet jetty. Obviously if they were wearing their life-jackets before the trouble ensued there would not have been as much risk of tragedy.

August 9

It would be comforting to think that most folks who operate boats on our local waterways have even the slightest knowledge of what the Navigation Rules or "Rules of the Road" are But since most don't - my only advice is to "be careful out there!"

August 16

There are 73 species of sharks known to live in the Atlantic coastal waters and since 1962, volunteer recreational and commercial fishermen, scientists, and fisheries observers have tagged over 128,000 sharks representing 40 different species.

August 23

Whether you're a little kid catching spot from a dock, or big kid catching them from the stern of your million dollar sport fisherman, a fish on the line is a fish on the line, and someone who is really crazy about fishing should be able to savor a little pleasure out of whatever is that's "jerking" at the other end!

August 30

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!

September 6

Whether walking down the beach, or in a boat miles from shore, at any moment Delmarva residents could suddenly be blessed with a view of one of the most incredible, beautiful, and largest creatures on earth! §

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MAY 24



Eric Feinauer and Tristan Ament from Morgantown, PA had an epic day on the Delaware Bay! They were fishing with Capt. Christopher Kelly on the charter boat "Action Jackson" where they caught 3 big black drum, releasing one. The largest caught by Eric was 53 lbs. and they all fell for clams that the crew got from Lewes Harbour Marina.

2023 MARYLAND REGULATIONS

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



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 28-31"
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 16" minimum
 4 per person/day



TAUTOG
 16" minimum
 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15
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 4 per person/day 11/1 - 12/31



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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine

1/2 lb asparagus, trimmed and sliced diagonally into 2" pcs.

1 cup shiitake mushrooms, cleaned and thinly sliced

1 cup cremini mushrooms, cleaned and thinly sliced

2 small yellow onions, peeled and julienned

3 tbsp olive oil

5 tbsp butter

1/2 cup chicken stock

1 bunch chives, chopped

Directions:

Heat one tablespoon of olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the mushrooms and cook for one minute, stirring constantly. Stir in one tablespoon of butter, reduce the heat to low and cook until the mushrooms are lightly browned and the pan is dry, about 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper, transfer to a medium saucepan and set on



low heat to keep warm.

Melt 2 tablespoons of butter in the skillet. Add the onions and cook over medium-low heat, stirring a few times until lightly browned for about 8 minutes. Season lightly with salt and pepper then add to the mushrooms. In the same skillet, quickly sauté the asparagus spears over high heat for two minutes. Then add to the mushrooms with the new potatoes together with the chicken stock. Simmer for 3-5 minutes, or until the vegetables are warmed through, seasoning with salt and pepper.

Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in the skillet over medium-high



Blackfish Beignets with Spicy Sauce

Ingredients:

Sauce:

1/2 cup mayonnaise

1/4 cup sour cream

2 tablespoons ketchup

1 tablespoon Sriracha or other hot chili sauce

2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

Batter:

3/4 cup all-purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon baking powder

1 large egg yolk

1 cup soda water

2 tablespoons minced fresh chives

2/3 cup canola oil

1 pound blackfish (tautog) or other firm white fish fillets, cut into 1/2-inch slices (about 12)

Salt

Directions:

For the Sauce:

Mix all the ingredients thoroughly in a bowl. Cover

and refrigerate until needed.

For the Batter:

Put the flour, baking powder, egg yolk, and half the soda water in a bowl and mix until smooth with a whisk. Add the rest of the soda water and the chives and mix well. (The batter can be made up to a few hours ahead and refrigerated.)

For the Beignets:

Preheat the oven to 175 degrees. Heat half the oil in a large skillet, preferably nonstick, until hot. Dip 4 pieces of the fish into the batter until coated on all sides and place in the hot oil. Cook for 2 1/2 to 3 minutes on each side. Transfer to a wire rack set over a baking sheet, sprinkle with salt, and keep warm in the oven. Repeat with the remaining fish, adding more oil to the skillet as needed. Serve with the sauce.

Note: If making the beignets ahead, reheat them under a hot broiler for a couple of minutes on each side before serving.

Pan Seared Tilefish with Asparagus, Onions & Wild Mushrooms

Ingredients:

2 6 oz fresh tilefish fillets, scaled with skin on

4 small new potatoes, boiled and cut in half

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heat. Season the fillets with salt and pepper and sear, skin side down, until the skin is browned and crisp, about 3 minutes. Turn the fillets over, and cook another minute until the fish is just cooked through.

Stir in half of the chopped chives into the vegetables and stir to combine. To serve, divide the vegetable mixture among 2 pre-warmed plates and set a fillet on top. Garnish with the remaining chives and serve at once.



Easy Clambake

Ingredients:

- 1/2 stick unsalted butter (melted and cooled)
 - 6 cloves garlic
 - 1/2 lb. shell-on and deveined shrimp
 - 1/2 lb. clams
 - 1/2 lb. mussels, scrubbed and breaded
 - 8 oz. small red potatoes
 - 1 ear fresh corn (shucked and cut into 4 pieces)
 - 1/4 cup beer or white wine
 - 1 tablespoon Cajun seasoning
 - 3 dashes ground black pepper
 - 1 teaspoon chopped parsley
 - Melted butter for dipping
 - Lemon wedges
- Directions:
- Par-boil the potatoes and corns

until they are cooked. Drained and set aside.

Heat up a cast-iron skillet on stovetop. Add the melted butter and saute the garlic. Add the shrimp, clams, mussels, red potatoes and corns.

Add the beer or white wine, Cajun seasoning and ground black pepper. Turn the heat to low, cover the skillet and cook for about 10 minutes, or until all the shellfish are cooked.

Add the parsley, stir to combine well. Serve the clambake immediately with melted butter and lemon wedges.

Garlic Parmesan Crusted Sheepshead

Ingredients:

- Fish:
- 4 sheepshead fillets - skinless

and boneless

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

Garlic Parmesan Crumble:

- 1/2 cup panko breadcrumbs
- 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- Salt and cracked black pepper, to season

Squeeze of lemon juice

Directions:

Turn your oven on to 400 degrees. Combine parmesan crumble ingredients, set aside.

Place the fillets onto a parchment paper lined baking sheet and brush evenly with mayo, sprinkle on mayo with salt, pepper and garlic powder.

Add the parmesan crumble right before you put the fish in the oven. Bake fish for about 12-



15 minutes and then BROIL for about 1 minute or so to really crisp up the parmesan crumble. Your fish is done when it flakes apart in the thickest part.

Black Sea Bass with Shrimp in Lemon Scampi Sauce

Ingredients:

- 12-14 ounces black sea bass fillets
- 6 16-20 count shrimp peeled

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and deveined

1 tablespoon capers

1 clove garlic, finely chopped

1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice, more or less depending upon your likes

Splash of white wine

2 ounces vegetable stock

1 tablespoon of butter rolled in flour

1/2 teaspoon Italian parsley, finely chopped

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350° F.

Place sea bass fillets in a baking pan and drizzle with extra virgin olive oil, then sprinkle with sea salt and black pepper. add a little water to the pan to help keep the sea bass moist.

Roast fillets for 15-20 minutes.

In a sauté pan add olive oil and chopped garlic, when the garlic starts to cook add the shrimp.

Turn the shrimp over and add the capers.

When shrimp are almost fully

cooked add a splash of white wine.

Add stock, lemon juice and butter rolled in flour.

As the sauce begins to thicken up add chopped parsley, remove from heat and serve over plated Black Sea Bass fillets.

Garnish with sliced lemon and serve with your favorite sides.

Foil Packet Grilled Mahi

Ingredients:

4 pieces Mahi Mahi thawed

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 pound asparagus

1 cup chopped potatoes

1 lime

1 teaspoon Cajun Seasoning or Old Bay

Salt to taste

Directions:

Microwave the cut potatoes for 5 minutes to soften.

Preheat your grill or oven to 375° F.



Tear four pieces of tin foil.

Add a piece of mahi to each.

Add the potatoes and some asparagus (or any other vegetable you like).

Sprinkle the seasoning along with salt & pepper over the fish and vegetables. Top with fresh lime slices.

Drizzle olive oil over each and then fold up the foil. Fold up the foil packets and put onto the grill.

Grill about 10 minutes and check. The potatoes should be soft and the fish firm.

Remove the foil packets from the grill or oven and enjoy! §

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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
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by Steve Katz



Second Season

While the traditional calendar has four seasons, for many there are only two seasons, fishing season and not-fishing season.

When the fall weather turns colder and the fishing slows down, many people turn to other activities, in the Maryland area hunting is a popular activity for many anglers. Meanwhile, before it gets too cold, many boat owners and crew use this time to accomplish boat projects. Some of these projects, maybe just a weekend or two and some take this non-fishing time to get started on major projects, such as re-powering, painting, or other large scale projects, usually out of the watery on a trailer or in the boat yard.

At Sunset Marina in Ocean City, the boat yard is filling up with fall projects for some of the larger boats. These boats are undertaking projects, such as sonar installations, engine re-powers, new generators, traditional bottom jobs, running gear, woodwork, and paint projects. A new Titan



New SeaKeeper 4.5

sportfish boat was trucked in the other night for final construction before it's first launching . Many of these projects need to be finished by Thanksgiving, when many boats head south for the winter, or even travel on a ship to far-flung destinations, such as Costa Rica.

This is also a great time of the year for traditional preventive maintenance projects. It's a good idea to get started on these things now, since sometimes a little issue is bigger or more time-consuming than you thought. Don't don't want to wait till spring to get started. If you have an outboard engine, changing the engine oil and the lower unit oil in the fall is a recommended practice so that way the engine sits with

clean lubricants during the off-season. Just the opposite when it comes to batteries, if you think your batteries are at the end of their life, or have a problem, it's best to wait until spring to buy new batteries so that way you don't have new batteries sitting in storage during the cold winter.

For many of us, the off-season brings the excitement of boat shows and new products. Two new products were recently by Garmin: the xHD3 radar and the 9000 series chartplotter. With the popularity of Garmin products, these two new offerings will certainly entice those who have been waiting for the next new thing.

Garmin's new GMR xHD3 series dome and open-array radars New xHD3 radars are

Garmin's first magnetron models to offer scan averaging, along with enhanced target-size processing and improved true echo trails.

Garmin this week unveiled its flagship GPSMAP® 9000 chartplotter series. Available with 19", 22", 24" or 27" touchscreen displays, these all-in-one chartplotters offer stunning 4K resolution with edge-to-edge clarity, powered by a processor that's seven-times faster than previous generations. Thanks to the new Garmin BlueNet™ gigabit network, these premium multi-function displays (MFDs) provide comprehensive connectivity throughout the vessel with faster network speeds than ever before.

Earlier this year, Furuno expanded its line of the newest NavNet TZtouch3 by adding two new, extra-large 22" and 24" models. Aptly named TZtouchXL, these super-wide, full-HD (1920x1080 FHD



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The charter boat "All In" was one of the first to head offshore after Hurricane Lee came through. Capt. Dave Midgett took this crew out and dealt with big swells until the 50 fathoms line. The water was too green so they pushed further out to the Washington Canyon. They found it to a washing machine, but fishable. Good thing as they caught this 165 lb. bigeye tuna. It was one of two knockdowns at the same time and the only one that came tight.

resolution) MFDs include all of the features that make NavNet TZtouch3 the easiest yet most powerful system on the market.

Another company that has been introducing new products recently is Seakeeper. The Seakeeper 4 gyro stabilizer

for boats ~38-44 ft., and the Seakeeper 4.5, for boats ~40-46 ft., were designed to maximize angular momentum, or gyroscopic power, per cubic inch. These filled a gap in the lineup between the DC powered Seakeeper 3 and the much larger AC powered Seakeeper 6. If you have a

larger boat, the Seakeeper 18 and Seakeeper 40 are also new product offerings in their lineup. As we have written about earlier this season in this column, Seakeeper started a new division called Ride, that offers a unique interceptor style trim tab that adjusts up to 100 times a second to provide

optimal control of role in pitch of the boat.

The upcoming second season is a great time to catch up on projects on your boat, prepare for winter fishing in warmer climates or explore new boats and products at the fall and winter boat shows. §

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Capt. Dave Caffrey and mate Anthony Sousa have been on a tear. On this trip to the Thorofare with Anthony's wife Brittany and Paul Daisey, the group kept a total of 9 flounder including this 23¼" and 5¼ lb. fattie using Gulp.



The early bird gets the worm, or in this case the fish! Mallory McGlannan and her dad hit the beach early on Assateague Island where she caught and released this 37" striper on an incoming tide just after sunrise. A fish finder with sand fleas did the trick to catch this one.





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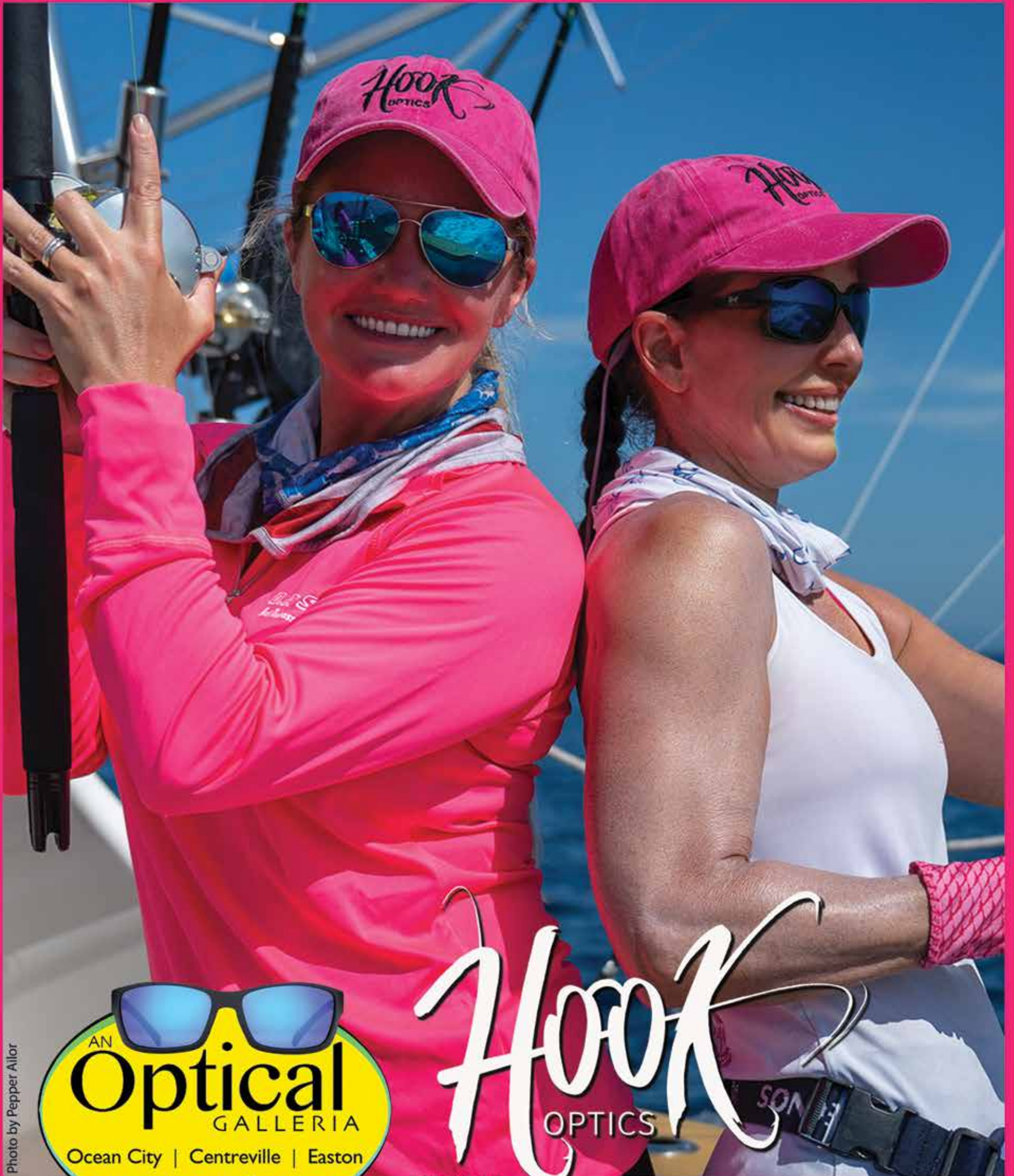


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JULY 26

As some captains change to chunking for tuna at the inshore lumps, we don't think they are expecting to catch billfish! Angler and Capt. Kyle Sisofo from Townsend, DE took his "Salty Reel" out of the Indian River Marina to the Hot Dog and set up for chunking butterfish for tuna. Instead he caught and released this 53 lb. sailfish while fishing with Gabe Kirk, Mike Sisofo and John Tompkins!

2023 DELAWARE REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

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

eregulations.com



SEPT 20

James and Julie Trickey from Wilmington, DE celebrate James' birthday with an annual fishing trip on their boat "Reel Trickey". This year they fished at the Hot Dog and caught this 33 lb. wahoo that hit on a candy apple red Joe Shute. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.

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SEPT 20

Capt. Luke Blume on the charter boat "C-Boys" slipped in one last trip before Hurricane Lee passed by. He took anglers Bruce Neale, Jason Neale, Michael Neale, Ron Hogle, Harry Johnson and Harry Johnson, Jr. from Stone Shooters, Modern Foundations and MFI Concrete out to the Wilmington Canyon where they went 3 for 5 on white marlin and boxed a few mahi. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



MAY 10

The tuna are here and early! Perhaps it was the mild winter we had or lack of big spring storms, either way lots of captains have been watching the water temps itching to get out. Owner of the "Full Service" Brendan Barbey saw an eddy forming in the Baltimore Canyon and decided to make a run last Friday. The crew of Capt. Jim Barbey, Jim Bugg, Yanni Harris, Jordan Ayers and Jeff Rosenkilde ran 60 miles out into 300 fathoms. They were just setting the spread when Jeff connected with this 95 lb. bigeye that hit a good old cedar plug with a blue & white Ilander at 5:27 AM! While they did find some nice temperature breaks in the low to mid 60's, this was the only bite for the day. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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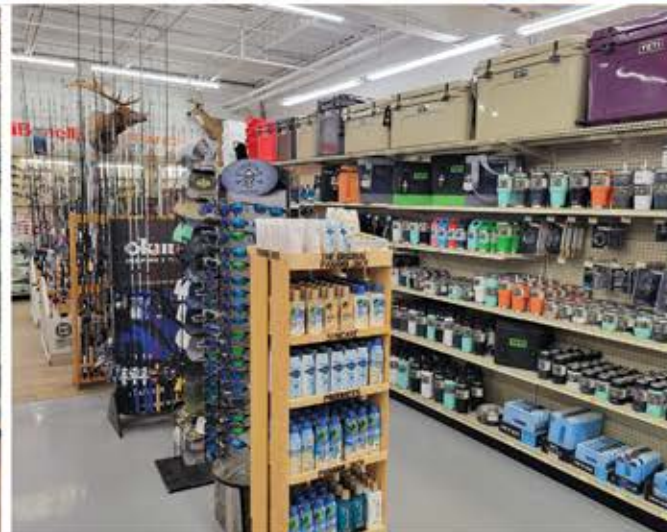


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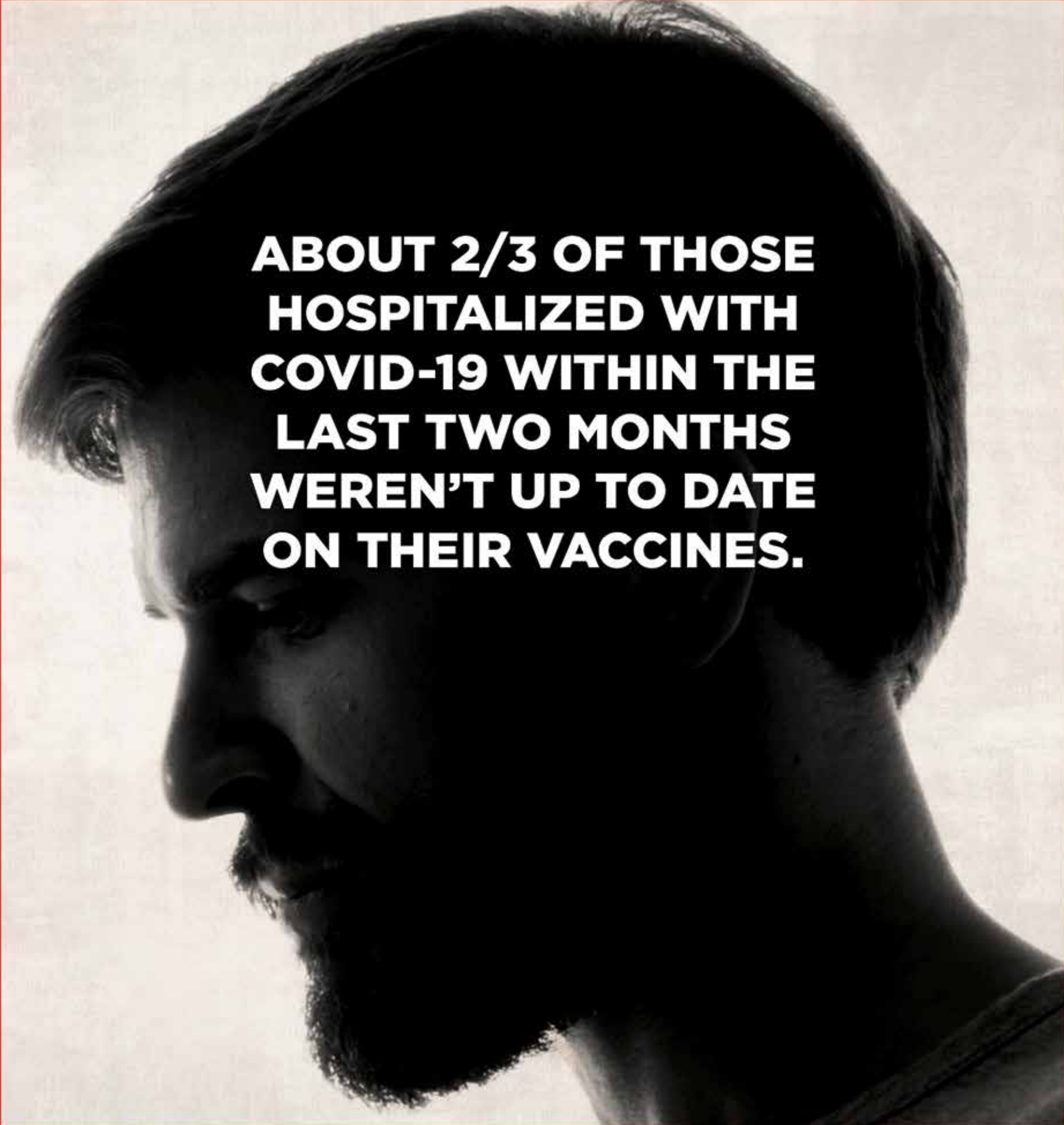
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JULY 12



JULY 12



Abbey Martin and Nicole Heba found a beautiful day and some beautiful fish on this trip to the Great Eastern Reef on their Tidewater boat. They fooled these two flounder and others using Gulp.

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MAY 24



Nadine Porman from Millsboro, DE may think this is a dream, but she and Scott actually did sail on the headboat "Judith M" on opening day of the sea bass season! Capt. Eric Shoaff put the couple 20 miles off the OC coast finding knotheads using a buffet of squid, clams, crab and sand fleas.



SEPT 20

Anglers Jamie Persels, Ed Fleming, Tony Gay and Wes Veater had a good day on the "Rush Job" with Capt. Greg White and mate Bobbie Euller. They were trolling at the 800 Square where they landed this yellowfin tuna and Wes released a white marlin, his first. Pictured at Fisherman's Marina.

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This crew on the "MARLI" fished the Baltimore Canyon last week to celebrate the 60th birthday of Capt. Mark Hoos and the 53rd birthday of angler Brian Eder. They both share July 11th birthdays. They and fellow anglers Teresa Eder, Bill Penn, Luke Penn, Larry Cadenhead and Steve Pipino got two respectable yellowfins in the box early, then the bite shut down until the last hour of the day when they hooked another two yellowfin. They were drifting to fight the tuna when a swordfish took a tuna bait still in the water! Brian was strapped in and the fight was on. After a 2.5 hour fight the 284 lb. sword was brought aboard and the trip finished on an amazing high.

2023 FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles

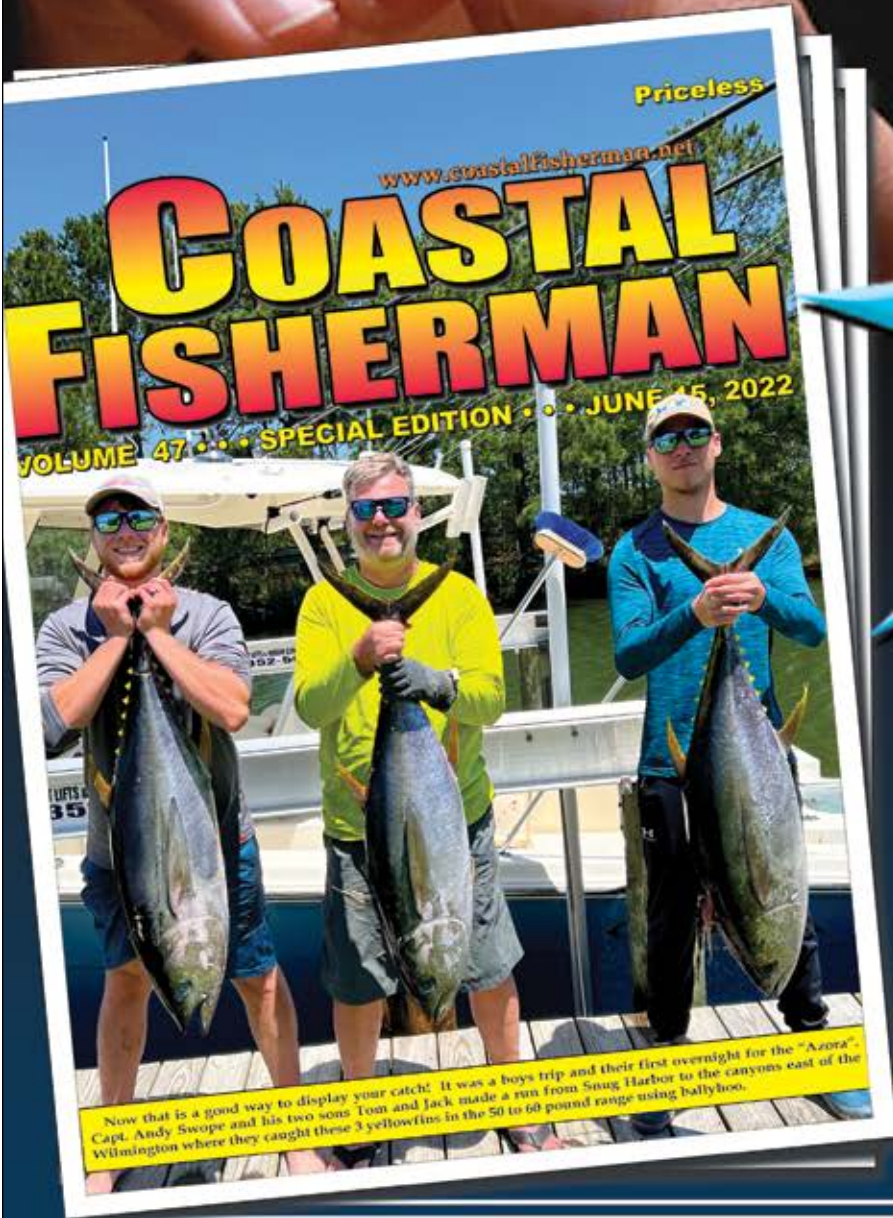
 <p>BLUE MARLIN 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>YELLOWFIN TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day</p>	 <p>BIGEYE TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>GOLDEN TILEFISH No minimum • 8 per person/day</p>
 <p>WHITE MARLIN 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit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

<h3>SHARKS</h3> <h2>AUTHORIZED SPECIES</h2>	<p>No Minimum Fork Length Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead</p> <p>54" Minimum Fork Length Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose</p> <p>78" Minimum Fork Length Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead</p>	<p>NOTE: Only 1 shark from the lists above may be retained per vessel per trip. In addition, 1 Atlantic Sharpnose, 1 Bonnethead and 1 Oceanic Whitetip may be retained per person per trip. If a hammerhead shark is retained, no tunas, billfish or swordfish may be retained.</p>	<h3>PROHIBITED SHARKS</h3> <p>Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Shortfin Mako, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White</p>
	<p>Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov</p>		



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We got reports of 2 Atlantic sailfish releases over the past week. It is unusual to see these beautiful billfish this far north, however, we are fortunate to see a few released most years in our canyons. This one was even more special for angler Kirk Taylor. Not only was it a sailfish, it was his first billfish ever. He was trolling east of the Norfolk Canyon on the 1000 fathom line with Capt. Pat Svehla and mate Ryan Freese on the private boat "Grande' Pez".



Angler Susan Haddaway from Easton, MD reeled in a beauty while fishing on the charter boat "Grizzly". She was drifting over an ocean structure using a Gulp & squid combo when she hooked this 25" and 6 lb. flounder.



"The private boat "Full Service" is having a great tuna season already! Having caught the first bigeye tuna of the season in early May, they finished the month with an amazing 23 yellowfins, 1 short of their limit! Capt. Jim Barbey put anglers Brenan Barbey, Jeremy Scott, Jeff Rosenkilde, Yanni Harris with Mike and Tony Freiji at the tip of the Washington Canyon in 100 fathoms. The fish hit all day from the minute they put in their Ilanders and tried and true cedar plugs!"



89 year old John Lawrence from Hanover, PA still knows how to get it done! He caught this 19" flounder in the East Channel on a Gulp/Minnow combo while fishing with his sons Greg & Dave and grandson Dylan.

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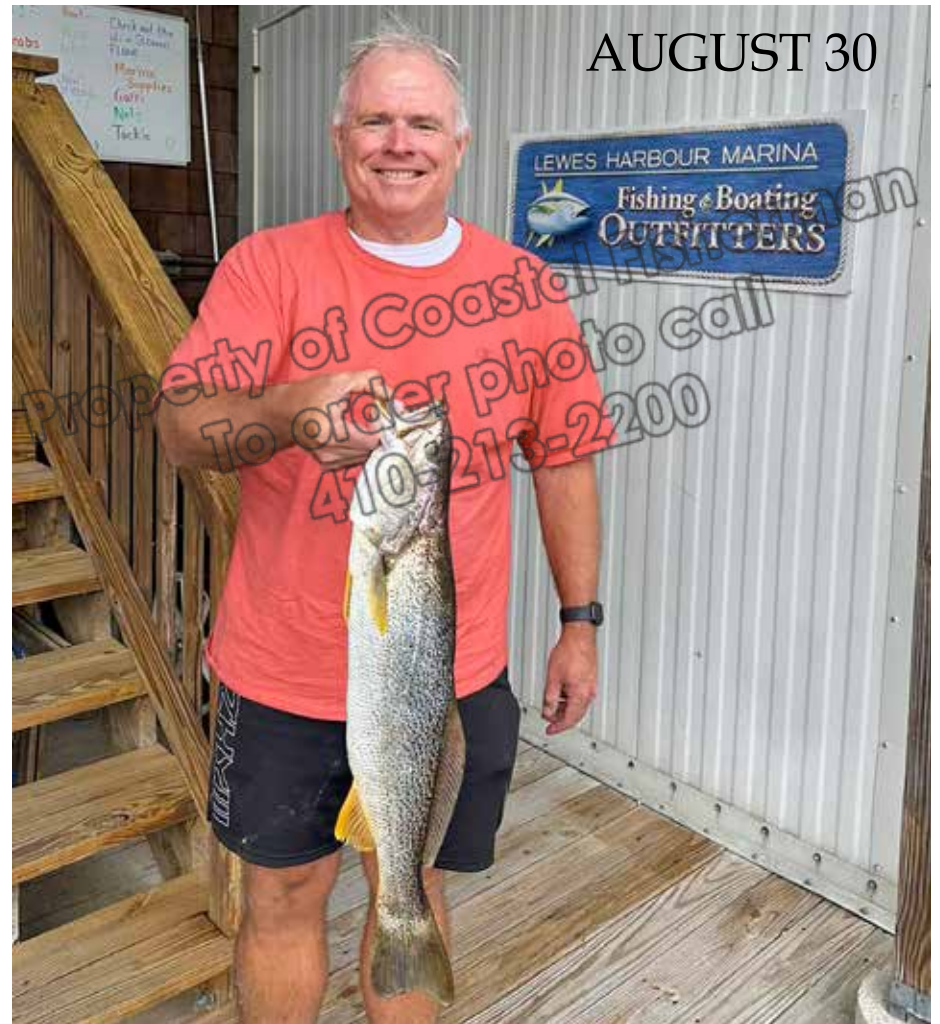
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AUGUST 2



Deep dropping has certainly picked up the past few years with many anglers targeting inshore spots for golden and blueline tilefish as well as swordfish. This type of fishing can be intense as the lines are sent deep with heavy weights requiring anglers without electric reels to earn their keep raising these deep water fish. A nice surprise for some are black belly rosefish or 'rosies' like these caught by Bluewater Advisory's Mark Debinski. He was fishing with Capt. DJ Churchill about 40 miles out on the charter boat "Double Trouble" based at the Talbot Street Pier.

AUGUST 30



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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AUGUST 9



Capt. Brian Porter & Alex Beane with mate Jack Hannum on the charter boat "Boss Hogg" have been on a tear this summer. They put another notch in their proverbial fish belt last week with this stunning 65 lb. dolphin that Jack caught in the Poor Man's Canyon. That easily sets the record for Heaviest Dolphin so far this year, besting the last one by over 30 lbs.



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The first time was in fact a charm for young Destiny Hastings! She caught this 19" flounder on her first ever fishing trip using live minnows from Lewes Harbour Marina. We think fishing may have hooked her too!



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AUGUST 23



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.

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VIRGINIA

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



The leaves are starting to drop, the temperature has started to fall and the door is closing on another Eastern Shore summer. As the hot stagnant summertime sun sets in the west and is replaced by a cool crisp casting climate blown in from the sea, that will definitely kick-start the awesome ESVA autumn!

The shallows of the Chesapeake have stirred up the most interest as anglers search the grass flats for spotted and striped trophies of the sweet water. A combination of popping corks and twitch baits like the suspending mirrodine have seduced spotted prey from their weedy lairs. Most of the action has come from juvenile reds from 14"-30" in length. The tide has not mattered as much as the time of day with a running current at first or last light being

the most sought after scenario. The water has been surprisingly clear so light colors like salt and pepper or opening night have been the most enticing offerings in trade for a tight line. Some anglers in the creeks and structure of Maryland's portion of the Tangier sound have earned their stripes with some nice rock on topwater plugs like the Heddon chug' spook as well suspending Rap-10's. Some other deeper structure has still produced a few sheepshead with chunks of crab on sweeper style tog jigs. If bait is a part of your autumn arsenal then big reds are still available from the Pocomoke sound south on cut spot fished on fish finder with 8/0 circle hooks. A little further south the CBBT has been the scene of some of the largest schools of cobia that have

been seen all year. Anglers are targeting these fish by sight and offering them live baits as well as brightly colored jigs.

The Atlantic has been a bit less impressive, with choppy seas and turbid water plaguing the areas around the inlets and barrier islands of the ESVA. The best news came from wrecks and reefs in the 100' range as anglers bent their rods on prize knot head sea bass fished on an assortment of jigs and bait rigs alike. The mahi are still being found around floating structures like fish pot floats. Most of these delicious delicacies have been bailed in the boat by offering chunk baits on hooks with fluorocarbon leaders. Some cobia have also been spotted around some of the same buoys and flotsam. A live eel tossed near the man in the brown suit

is all that is needed for a dinner invitation.

I spend a lot of time reminding my friends and myself not to take the Eastern Shore for granted. This coming weekend a great bunch of shoreman are working extra hard for an awesome cause. The 5th annual Tangier Classic will be held out of Crisfield Md. This tournament helps a local family every year that is facing adversity that will bring a tear to your eye. This year the family of a little girl named Emerson Thomas, who has had multiple brain surgeries and will require more surgeries to come, will be the recipient of the proceeds. Please keep their family in your prayers as they definitely need Gods help. So the next time you are tempted to complain about things that may seem trivial or superfluous, don't forget that we are blessed to have the health of our family, to be a part of a great caring community and most of all to live in this wonderful place we call home. §



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AUGUST 9



Our Virginia Fishing Report writer Capt. Matt Abell was able to get on the water with his daughter Belle. She caught this colorful spade fish off of Chincoteague, VA.



SEPT 20

Capt. Adison Browne with mate Ashton Browne and anglers Lilly Phillips & Kylee Forester had an action packed day of firsts at the DelJersey catching 21 mahi and an almaco jack, triggerfish and an atlantic triple tail. It was Lilly's first fishing trip, a first mahi for Kylee and it was their first time boating! Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em.

2023

VIRGINIA REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY



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



BLUEFISH
No minimum
3 per person/day or
5 per person/day headboat All Year



BLACK DRUM
16" minimum
1 per person/day All Year



COBIA
40" minimum / Only 1 > 50"
1 per person/day • 2 per boat/day
6/15 - 9/15



CROAKER
No minimum
20 per person/day All Year



RED DRUM
18-26" minimum
3 per person/day All Year



SHEEPSHEAD
No minimum
4 per person/day All Year



SPECKLED TROUT
14" minimum
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7th Annual Ocean City Inshore Classic

Oct 7-8 • Atlantic Tackle
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4th Annual Bishop Broadbill Bash

TBD • Sunset Marina
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DMS Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament

Oct 8-10 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle
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Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament

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302-645-6227

NOV - DEC

Lewes Harbour Marina Striper Tournament

Late November - Late December • 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

MAY 24



The crew of the "Myra HT" slipped out to their 'secret spot' on opening day of the sea bass season. Unfortunately for them the Marine Electric was not such a secret! Regardless of the crowd, J.L. Cropper reeled in this fat knobhead while fishing with her husband Hugh and son Hugh Thomas.



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JUNE 21



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

SEPT 6



Jamie Crosby of Berlin, MD snagged a nice sheepshead from the Rt. 50 Bridge on evening using a 5" soft plastic swimbait. The keeper convict measured 20".

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