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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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Another new Heaviest Fish for the year was set by Paul Matthews of Lewes, DE. He pulled this Delaware Citation sized fish from the rocks at the Outer Wall using sand fleas. At 13.78 lbs., it is the Heaviest Sheepshead reported this year! Weighed at Lewes Harbor Marina.



It was a Maryland Fish Citation Award for Ocean City angler Jeff Weeks! He caught this 21" and 6.25 lb. sheephead using sand fleas at the south Ocean City Jetty.



Charlie Donohue finally got out to do some fishing on the "Lucky 1"! His fishing partner Frank Levins from Philadelphia, PA caught this plump knothead and Charlie snared a 21 flounder. They ended the day with 3 flatfish and 8 sea bass from an ocean wreck.



TOURNAMENT SERIES 2023 SCHEDULE

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

UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!

19th ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC *
To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation
Registration: July 21, 6:00-8:00pm
Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 22 & 23
Weigh-Ins: July 22, 3:00-6:30pm and July 23, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina

8th ANNUAL OCMC vs OCLTC SHOOT-OUT
TBD

65th ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT *
Registration: August 30, 6:30-8:00pm
Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 1, 2, & 3
Weigh-Ins: September 1, 2, & 3 6:00-8:00pm at Sunset Marina

15th ANNUAL OCMC LADIES' TOURNAMENT "HEELS & REELS"*
To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund
Registration: August 3, 6:00-8:00pm
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 4 & 5
Weigh-Ins: August 4 & 5 5:30-7:30pm at Atlantic Tackle

45th ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP
Registration: Sept. 13, 6:00-8:00pm
Fishing Days: (2 or 3) Sept. 14, 15 & 16
No Weigh-Ins

Check for Updates on our **WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA**

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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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THE Offshore Report

by Larry Budd

It was a good time on the rip last week! The weather played nice most of the time with more calm seas than we have seen in a while. Captains did have to maneuver through some seriously foggy mornings and navigate pop up squalls, but they did find a consistent bite and a good mix of fish. Some days anglers had to work a little harder to find the bite, and of course deal with some hot, hot days with low winds. While the tuna bite was not as hot as in weeks past, yellowfins were still hitting the dock and several nice bigeye tuna were found, including a new Heaviest for the season. Marlin were being released across the central canyons as were a couple of swordfish. And of course, lots of tilefish found their way to the cleaners as anglers switched to deep dropping after the morning tuna bite cooled. So, let's do the rundown.

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The week started off with most of the action in the Washington Canyon. The charter boat "Ro Sham Bo" returned to the Ocean City Fishing Center from an overnight trip there with their first swordfish catch of the year. The crew also found one yellowfin tuna and a whole bunch of tilefish and sea bass. 69 year old Gary Rexrode of Long Neck, DE released his first blue marlin in the Washington. He was fishing on the "Hell on Reels" (extra credit for the name!) when the estimated 450 lb. blue hit on a purple & black Joe Shute with a horse ballyhoo. We got an exciting report from Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina after the "Reel Passion" showed up at their dock with a large bigeye. They were trolling the Washington when the big eyeball hit on a naked ballyhoo. At 234 lbs. it is the Heaviest Bigeye caught in Delmarva so far this year. That will probably be a hard number to beat for Delaware boats as it is 14 lbs. heavier than last year's. Capt. Alex Beane on the charter boat "Boss Hogg" bucked the trend and trolled the Poor Man's Canyon where his crew released 2 white marlin and put a load of tilefish in the box.

As more boats got out toward the weekend and shared their reports, it looked like the bite expanded a little north into the southern Poor Man's. Thursday saw another great trip on the "Boss Hogg" who reported a white marlin caught on a ballyhoo from the Washington. They also got 8 chunky yellowfins. They had a 9th, but the taxman took half. The charter boat "Spring Mix II" slid into the OC Fishing Center the same day with a 197 lb. bigeye and 4 yellowfins from their make-up charter.

Friday through Sunday saw tuna catches mainly in the 1 to 3 range, however, anglers were finding other fish like bailer mahi and golden and blueline tilefish. Capt. Howard Lynch ran the private boat "Kilo Charlie" up to the Spencer Canyon last Friday and was rewarded with 2 white marlin releases, 3 yellowfin tuna and a few nice dolphins. The 94 lb. yellowfin that Chris Nolt caught on that trip is now the Heaviest Yellowfin of the season! 9-year-old Sean Dieter released his first white marlin while trolling in the Washington Canyon on the "Restless Lady. Saturday saw several marlin releases. Andy Drip spent an hour and fifty minutes fighting a blue marlin in the Wilmington. The marlin, estimated at 450-500 lbs. first toyed with a tuna dredge before hitting on a ballyhoo with a dark blue sea witch. The "Roll Grove" released 3 blues and a white on the same day.

The Indian River Marina held its 7th Annual Tuna Blast Tournament for slip holders. The charter boat "Bill Slayer" took top honors with a 86 lb. & 2 oz. bluefin tuna caught by Bri Stevenson. That fish, caught 12 miles of the southern New Jersey coast, is another Heaviest for the season and the first bluefin caught by a Delaware based boat!

Finally, Sunday saw a few notable catches. The "Spring Mix II" caught a hefty 91 lb. yellowfin, the "Ro Sham Bo" boated a 100 lb. bigeye and the "Old Hatt" reeled in a 173 lb. eyeball while trolling outside to the Rockpile.

The action above is not all that has been going on offshore.



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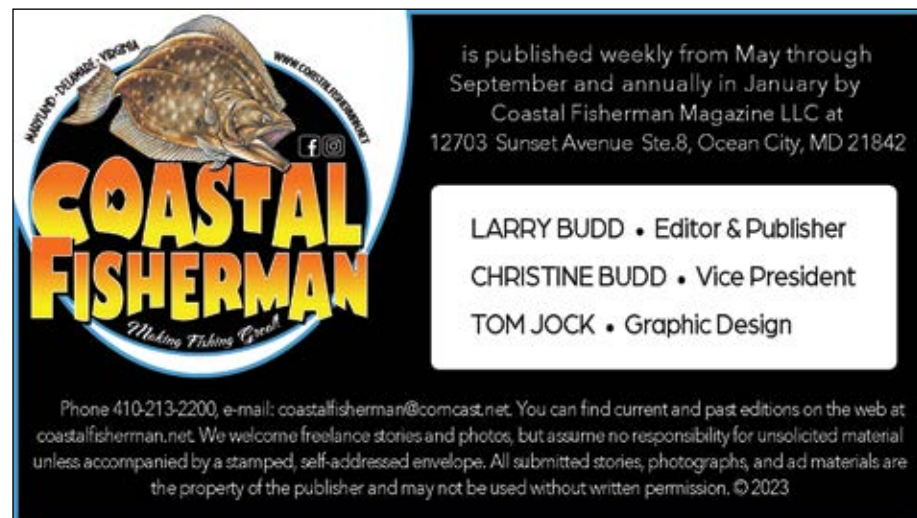
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There have been some nice mahi making their way to the cleaners. Also, those deep dropping for tilefish and swords are reeling in some pretty rosies as well. We also had our first two reports of keeper cobia from the MD/DE area. Gabriella Kendus pulled in the first man in the brown suit of the season from the surf off of the beach by the Faithful Steward crossover in the Delaware Seashore State Park. She was fishing the outgoing tide using cut bunker. That report was followed a few days later by one from Nick Smallwood who speared a 39 lb. cobia at the Little Gull Shoal. He is part of the crew that speared the rare cubera snapper last year. Steve Balliet shared he felt like he won the lottery when he and his daughter both caught red drum white bottom fishing at the Bass Grounds. Both were over 40 pounds.

The water is warm in the canyons and the big Ocean City Tuna Tournament starts next Friday so there will be a lot to share next time!

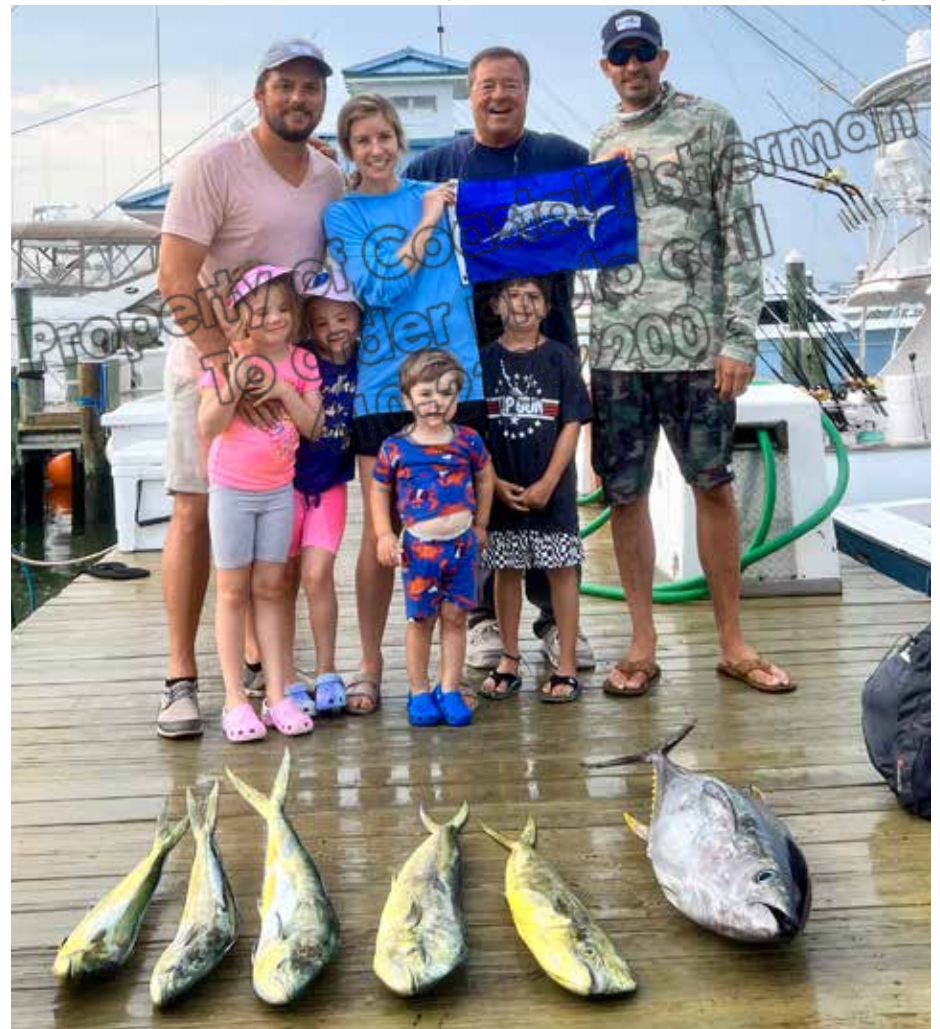
So until next time I will see you at the scales! \$

Upcoming Tournaments

- The world's largest tuna tournament returns to the Ocean City Fishing Center on July 14-16. The **36th Ocean City Tuna Tournament** promises more action and big money payouts. Purses over the past 2 years have exceeded \$1M. Scales will be open from 4-8PM on Friday & Saturday and 4-7:30 PM on Sunday.

- The **19th Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic** will be held on July 22-23. This event benefits the Wish-a-Fish Foundation and is always a blast for the kids. You do not have to be a member to participate. More at OCMarlinClub.com.

- Marina madness is headed to the Talbot Street Pier as they host the **10th Annual Big Fish Classic** on July 28-30. Always a fun event with of course, big fish! More at BigFishClassic.com



The charter boat "Grande' Pez" reported their first few trips of the season were slow. That changed last Friday when Capt. Pat Svehia made a few moves while trolling in the Washington Canyon and the crew landed the boat's first mahi as well as had the first white marlin release of 2023. Ali Rich took the honors for the marlin, her first! Rounding out the crew were Blake Smith, mate Ryan Freese, Mark Rich and his and Ali's young anglers.



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Sean Dieter is only 9 years old and is already in the *marlin club*! He was fishing on the "Restless Lady" in the Washington Canyon with Pat Dieter, Dianna Eldeman, Mike Tenuto, Sean Welsh and Kristin Quinn when he released his first white marlin. The crew also managed a yellowfin tuna and a mess of blueline tilefish. Pictured at the Talbot Street Pier.



The end of last week saw some seriously toasted weather on shore and off. Capt. Chris Mizurak and the headboat "Angler" however reported the sea bass didn't mind! On this trip his anglers had double hookups on knotheads as well as some flounder and a lot of triggerfish come over the rail.



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The bigeye tuna just keep getting bigger! The crew of the "Reel Passion" based at the Indian River Marina trolled the Washington Canyon last week and boated this eyeball that hit on a naked ballyhoo. At 234 lbs. it is the Heaviest Bigeye caught this season and heavier than the biggest one caught on a DE boat last year! The group also brought in a yellowfin tuna and a few sea bass. Pictured at the scales at Hook'em & Cook'em.

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>
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OCEAN CITY

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Summer Season Heats Up

In Ocean City, the past week brought hot weather and calmer winds, setting the stage for excellent fishing opportunities both nearshore and in the back bays. Flounder are plentiful around wrecks and inshore structures, while croaker have made an early appearance for this time of year.

Nearshore Structure & Reefs

The wrecks in the area are teeming with big flounder and beefy sea bass. After a slower start to the season, the sea bass have now turned on, with many fish measuring between 15 and 17 inches. These hungry fish have even

been known to snatch large 4" Gulp baits intended for flatfish. Anglers like Kevin McNelis have enjoyed successful days on the ocean, catching limits of flounder well above the size limit and providing a delicious dinner. The headboat "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak has reported good catches of sea bass, flounder and many triggerfish. Carlos Neves and his group returned with a limit of fluke and several big sea bass after their trip. At the Old Grounds, Kelly Clark had a rewarding day catching some impressive sea bass for dinner. "Bad Wind Charters" ventured out with Alex and his twin brother on the "Orange Crush" and

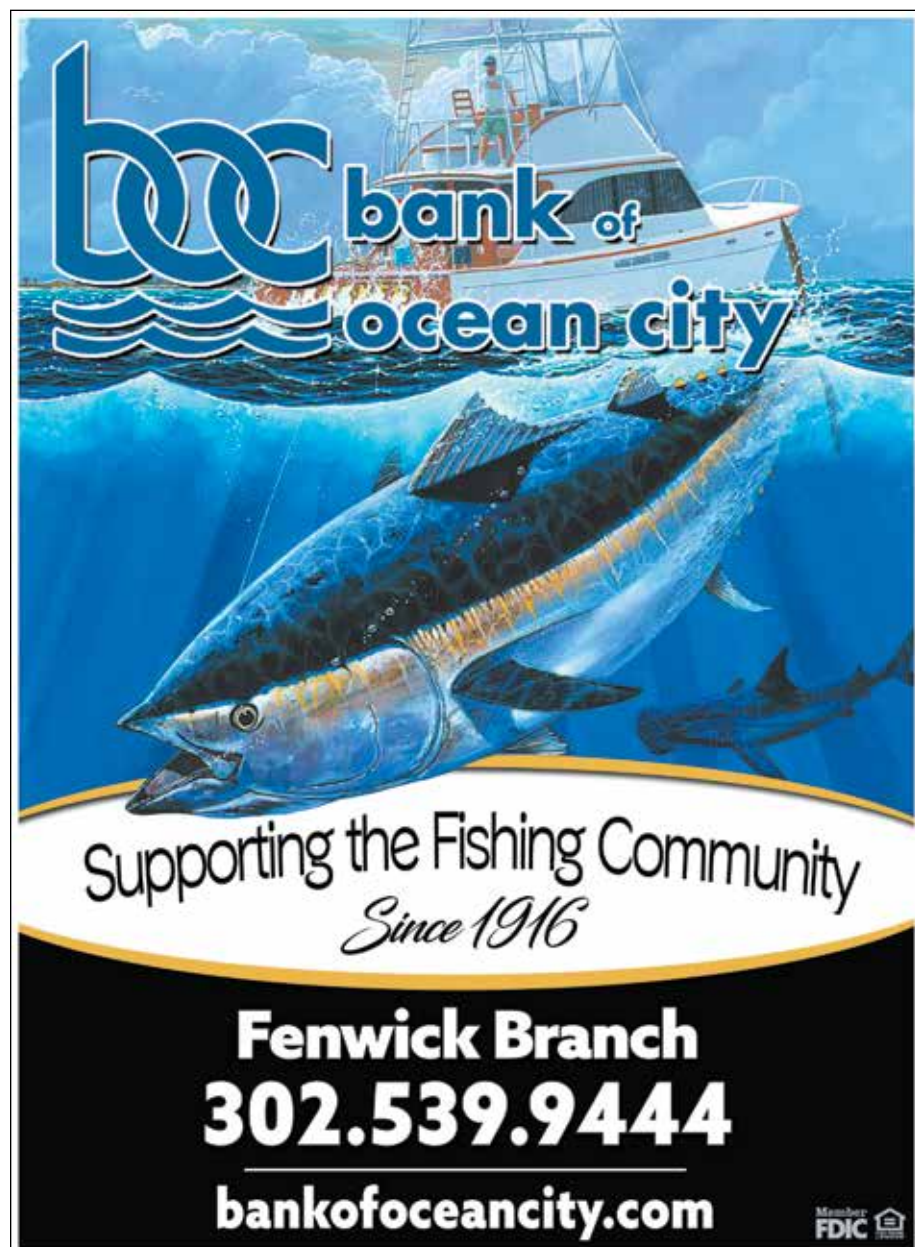
managed to put together a nice catch, including a 6 lb. doormat flounder caught on a pink shine clacker tipped with white Gulp. Tianna Marie didn't find many sea bass but did land two sheepshead. Personally I'd rather have the sheepies than sea bass anyway. The headboat "Judith M" based at the Bahia Marina had action-packed trips with big fluke, sea bass, and triggerfish being reeled in, making them some of the best trips of the year so far. The "Ocean Princess" also reported good catches of sea bass along with some sizable flatfish. As the head boats fill up quickly, it's advisable to book early to secure a spot. Page Mowday and Kevin Knotts had a successful outing on Tuesday with Capt. Wayne Anderson on "Just A Toy Sportfishing Charter". The crew braved rough seas, but it paid off when they hit the dock with their limits of big fluke and plenty of smiles. Gerry Rosales experienced some rough conditions too, but found good action at the Great Eastern Reef catching plenty of sea bass. Fresh clam and squid were effective baits. Steve Balliet and Taylor Good had an unusually late start to the season, only getting out for the first time early July. At least they found calm seas and cooperative fish, returning with a ton of bass and a few triggerfish. Amanda Kay Meister, on her boat the "Amanda Kay," caught her first two keeper flounder on ocean structures using large Gulp baits. Eight-year-old Emanuel Hawkins, the son of Washington Mystics basketball player

Tianna Hawkins, also had a memorable first fishing experience on the ocean.

Back Bay & Surf Fishing

The back bays are bustling with fish, with drop-offs and rises offering abundant opportunities. Back bay boats have been targeting less-fished areas behind Assateague Island, north of the Rt. 50 Bridge, and the Rt. 90 Bridge area, where croaker and flatfish action has been heating up. Long squid strips, mullet, or shiners have proven successful in enticing these heavily pressured fish to bite. Live shiners and mullet can be easily obtained in dock areas of local marinas and can make a significant difference in fishing success. Finn McCabe was out fishing for white perch and was shocked when he pulled in a 23.5 inch 4.76 pound fluke. That's a nice surprise to have. "Miss OC Fishing" had several very successful trips, landing trophy-sized fluke. The headboats "Bay Bee" and "Tortuga" also had productive trips last week, catching fluke and a few croaker. Jeff Weeks pulled in a citation-worthy 6.25-pound sheepshead off the rocks at the south jetty using sand fleas as bait. Craig Cropper and Patricia Cropper enjoyed a great father-daughter day on the water, catching numerous rockfish and flounder, including one keeper. "Get Sum" charters had several successful outings, capturing flatfish and various other species. Cameron and Ryan also had a fun day on the "Get Sum," catching crabs in the back bays of Ocean City.

Surf fishing along the beaches on the south side of Assateague Island has provided the best chances of landing keeper fish. Bluefish



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and red drum continue to be caught, with fresh crab and sand fleas proving effective bait. Smaller kingfish have been biting on Fishbites and small floating hooks.

Clams & Crabs

Clamming behind the island has been fruitful, with clams found close to the surface and easily raked up. Clams closer to the beach tend to be larger, as smaller ones have already been collected. Deeper waters offer the best chance of finding smaller clams, perfect for clams casino and steamed clams. Carl Littleton reports that crabbing in Assawoman Bay has been excellent, yielding 8-10 keepers per pot. Fresh bunker has proven more effective than chicken for attracting larger crabs.

Until the next report, tight lines and fins up! §

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The Indian River Marina held it's 7th Annual Tuna Blast Tournament for slip holders on July 4th. Bri Stevenson took 1st Place with this 86 lb. & 2 oz. bluefin tuna she caught trolling about 12 miles off the southern New Jersey coast. She was fishing with Capt. Chris Ragni on the charter boat "Bill Slayer".



Travis Kerr had all the right gear for near shore flounder fishing. Bright shirt - check; camo shorts - check; crooked Pit Vipers - check! The combo did the trick as he caught this 26" and 8 lb. flounder while fishing with his dad on the "Gotto Go" out of Banks Harbor Marina in DE.

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HEAVIEST

Fish of the Year

2023



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

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
 Bluefish	May 19 Rich Daiker OC Jetty 14.5 lbs.	June 8 Dexter Long Indian River Inlet 12 lbs.	 Thresher Shark		
 Black Drum	April 4 Tom Berry Assateague 19 lbs.	May 19 Eric Feinauer Delaware Bay 53 lbs.	 Bigeye Tuna	June 20 Bren Mayhew 800/800 225 lbs.	 July 1 Crew "Reel Passion" Washington Canyon 234 lbs.
 Cobia			 Bluefin Tuna	May 29 Crew "Marli" Baltimore Canyon 216 lbs.	 July 4 Bri Stevenson 12 miles of S. Jersey 88 lbs. 2 oz.
 Summer Flounder	June 21 Haleigh Davis Ocean Structure 7 lbs.	June 6 John Wilkins Lewes Canal 8 lb. 10 oz.	 Longfin Tuna		
 Sea Bass	May 20 Wayne Small Ocean Structure 5 lbs.	May 22 Richard Krauss Ocean Structure 4.3 lbs.	 Yellowfin Tuna	 July 7 Chris Nolt Spencer Ccanyon 94 lbs.	
 Sheepshead	June 11 JC Dennis Ocean City Inlet 9 lbs. 8 oz.	 June 5 Paul Mathews Outer Wall 13.78 lbs.	 Dolphin	July 1 Bill Doherty Washington Canyon 19 lbs.	
 Striped Bass	June 1 Buddy Martin Rt. 50 Bridge 12 lbs.	May 22 Chic Stearrett Bethany Beach 18.7 lbs.	 Swordfish	June 16 Crew "Wrecker" Poor Man's Canyon 100 lbs.	
 Tautog		May 6 James Milano Ocean Structure 22.9 lbs.	 Blue Marlin		
 Wahoo			 White Marlin		

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



Allison and Emily Steuernagle share a big smile showing off the 4 keeper flounder they caught at the African Queen wreck site. They were fishing on the "Anger Management" with Eric Steuernagle and Steve Lukiewski and boated 9 flounder total as well as 2 sea bass. Nice day on the water!

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FISHING CHARTERS



Last week saw a number of white marlin releases from our canyons. This group chartered the "Pumpin' Hard" out of Sunset Marina to take their shot. Capt. Mike Burt with mate David Burt put them in the Poor Man's Canyon where they raised 2 whites on the troll, the boat's first of the season. They then set up for deep dropping and put 12 blueline tilefish in the box.

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BOAT: Pumpin' Hard
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FISHING CHARTERS



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.



Capt. Brin Parsons on the headboat "Thelma Dale V" based at Fisherman's Wharf in Lewes reported the weather was gorgeous on several trips last week. Anglers caught sea bass, flounder and triggers, mostly in the early morning and just before heading in.

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FISHING CHARTERS



This trip on the headboat "Morning Star" looked like it would be facing some heavy weather, but once offshore they found some calm. In addition to sea bass and flounder, some anglers reeled in cutlass fish.



Capt. Chris Adams on the headboat "Judy V" had to deal with some seasick anglers on this trip. Fortunately for Amy Burns, she was not one of them! She and the boat saw a good mix of keeper sea bass and flounder.

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FISHING CHARTERS



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.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Walt Hammond & Rick Shoaff have had to deal with some seriously foggy mornings of late on the headboat "Judith M" as they left Bahia Marina. The good news was the fog burned off quickly leaving smooth conditions with steady sea bass action and a few flounder in the mix. With 5, 8 & 10 hour trips offered there are lots of options!



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



JD, May, Jacob and Justin Eddy on the charter boat "Green Reaper" caught just about every fish you could want! They worked the Baltimore Canyon and returned with a smorgasbord of flounder, sea bass golden tilefish, hake, mahi and rosies!



There have been several really nice strings of beautiful weather days recently as we can see in this picture from the headboat "Angler" based at the Talbot Street Pier. Capt. Chris Mizurak reports good action on sea bass, flounder and triggers.

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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



While sea bass are still the primary catch on headboats locally, many like the "Morning Star" are seeing keeper flounder flipping over the rail.

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Gary Rexrode of Long Neck, DE was pretty happy last week after releasing his first blue marlin at age 69! He was fishing on the "Hell on Reels" out of the Indian River with Capt. Damien Rexrode and mate Matt Schneider in the Washington Canyon when the big blue hit on a purple & black Joe Shute with a horse ballyhoo. The big marlin was estimated at 125" long and ~450 lbs. Fellow anglers Derek Fagen and Kyle Boyer got some action as well boating a yellowfin tuna.

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Boats, tackle, equipment and bait, there's so much to prep and attend to before our lines can (or should) be dropped into the water if we hope to be effective at catching whatever we plan to pursue. But as much time and effort as anglers put into getting their "stuff" ready for their fishing crusades, I'm often surprised how little time that some will spend preparing their "minds" to be able to make the most out of their time on the water.

I seldom notice a lack of enthusiasm by anglers, so when I say that they need to "prepare their minds" I'm not suggesting that they need to work on getting "psyched-up," what I'm talking about is "education," actually doing their homework by putting in some study time so that when they are out there on the water they'll be better armed with the kind of knowledge that will make them better fishermen.

Hop aboard most any fishing boat and it's likely the skipper will be very well versed on the operation of not only the vessel but also all of the

onboard systems, tackle, equipment, as well as the many features of whatever electronics are installed. That kind of knowledge usually starts when someone takes the time to read and learn from the instruction manuals. Then, as the boater is able to go out on the water and put to practical use what they learned in print, they eventually become more confident in their abilities and better boaters.

When it comes to fishing, anglers seldom falter on acquiring the right bait and tackle, maybe that's because it's usually as simple as walking into a tackle shop and asking the person behind the counter "what do I need?" But having all the right stuff will only take an angler up the ladder of success so far. For someone to really make the transition from being just a "lucky" angler to a "skilled" fisherman they must have some level of knowledge of all that has to happen in nature before a particular fish will find its way onto a hook. As with most things in life - knowledge is power, and those who have it will always have

an edge over their counterparts who rely mostly on dumb-luck. The three topics anglers should at least have a general understanding of is "biology, food, and habitat."

Learning about the biology of the fish they pursue is often a real eye-opening experience for a lot of anglers. Some folks are just dumbfounded when they discover that the particular fish they've been catching in their home waters each summer migrate many thousands of miles each year (tuna), start life as one sex and then turn to another as they age (sea bass), are some of the fastest growing fish in the sea (dolphin), or have a dramatic transformation of body shape during their early stages of life (flounder).

Learning about the physical biology, migrations, feeding habits, and anything else one can about a particular species provides fishermen with a great understanding of "why, when, and where" fish might be found. This kind of information is readily available in books and online resources. But keep in mind that the most

accurate information about the biology of fish tends to come from actual biologists who study the fish rather than from fishermen who often misinterpret what they observe from the decks of their boats.

One of the greatest assets a fisherman can have is the knowledge of what the fish they're trying to catch are naturally feeding on. Biology books will usually tell what a particular species usually preys upon, but nothing beats the firsthand-up-to-the-minute report one gets by cutting open the stomach of a freshly caught fish. From seahorses to sand dollars - it's amazing sometimes to see what the fish we thought we knew so much about have been eating. Knowing what our quarry has been munching on gives insight to locations and depths where the fish can be found. Of course it might also prompt the need for additional study to learn where certain species of natural bait might be coming from.

Though some might contend that the way to find fish is to go out and look for other fishermen, the fact is, only by knowing the locations of shoals, bumps, channels, ledges, slews, cuts, inlets and everything else that appears

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on a chart will a fisherman be able to make reasonable predictions of where to locate fish. I've fished Delmarva's waters since I was a child but still spend lots of time staring at local charts just to keep that information fresh in my mind. Both offshore and inshore fishermen must have a very good understanding of the environment and certainly the topography of the bottom in the area they fish. Which way do the prevailing currents flow? Is the bottom sand, mud, clay, grassy, shells, rocky? There's so much beneath the waves that we'll never know about - it really helps fishermen to at least be up on the information that is available. By the way, nothing is more telling than slowly cruising around the inshore waters in the spring when the tide is low and the water clear. Being able to look down and see the bottom, the fish, the crabs, the rocks, the mussel banks, and so forth is a great educational experience

that will pay off later in the year when trying to fish the same water when conditions aren't so clear.

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! §



JR Landis from Warrington, PA took advantage of the nice offshore weather recently to get offshore in the canyon. He caught this 49 lb. golden tilefish using cut bait.

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Steve Balliet felt like he hit the fishing lottery last week. He went bottom fishing at the Bass Grounds with his family. He began to mark large fish on the sonar and both his reel and his daughters started screaming. They both landed red drums, with his daughter Peyton's at 42" and over 40 lbs.



Andy Dripps came over from Baltimore, MD to try his luck marlin fishing! He was trolling on the "Sea Hunt" in the Wilmington Canyon in 79° water when a big blue came up into a tuna dredge before hitting on a ballyhoo with a dark blue sea witch. It took almost 2 hours to get the estimated 450-500 lb. blue to the boat before it was released by mate Cake Christy.

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DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Summer has arrived, and with it, the fish have made their presence known. As the tourist season kicks into full swing, fishing spots are bustling with boats. The high level of activity in these popular areas has put increased pressure on the fish populations. Anglers are now seeking out less frequented spots, venturing further out or into deeper waters, to increase their chances of landing quality catches. Areas at depths of 100 feet or more have proven to be particularly fruitful, yielding impressive flounder and some of the finest sea bass of the year.

Nearshore Coral & Reefs

At Site 11, Todd Herman from PA guided a successful fishing trip for sea bass and flounder with Greg, Dylan and David

Lawrence. The group had an outstanding day, reeling in over 20 sea bass, 8 flounder, and even a remarkable six-foot shark. Dylan claimed the title for the largest catch, a 23-inch, 4.75-pound fish. Brian Marine had the pleasure of taking 6-year-old Liam Kane out fishing and young Liam proudly caught a fine 16.5-inch flounder—an impressive achievement for such a young angler. Travis Kerr experienced his own moment of triumph aboard the "Gotta Go" from Banks Harbor Marina in Delaware, hooking an impressive 26-inch, 8-pound fluke on an ocean structure.

Darryl, Danielle, and Grace Barthelmess explored the coral structure just outside of A

Buoy, where they encountered an abundance of flounder and knobhead sea bass. The group managed to reach their limit of flounder, with sizes up to 23" and weighing up to 6 pounds. Grace, the youngest angler among them, played a significant role in reeling in most of the keeper fish. Ellan O'Rear embarked on her first-ever saltwater fishing adventure and quickly demonstrated her skills by landing an impressive total of 7 flounder. The fish were checked in at Hook'Em and Cook'Em Tackle.

Ellan O'Rear went saltwater fishing for her first time and took everyone on the boat to school, landing a total of 7 flatties. The group fished on the boat "Adlee K", and used Gulp on a double trouble rig. Meanwhile, Dennis and Matt Hamm, accompanied by Tom Springle, secured a three-man limit of flatfish using Gulp baits while fishing at the Old Grounds aboard the "Kortlyn Jade".

During the Indian River Marina Tuna Blast tournament for slip holders, "No Limit Sportfishing" may not have claimed the top prize, but they certainly found themselves amidst a plethora of biting fish. With over 50 flounder caught throughout the day, the crew skillfully kept their limit and released the rest for another angler's delight. The anglers aboard the "Bad Wind Charters" ventured to the Delaware Bay and targeted flatties weighing over 5 pounds on the coral beds. Steve, Bill, and Cody utilized clackers and 4 oz. jiggers to entice the fish, resulting in an impressive haul. The fish were weighed in at Rick's Bait and Tackle. Meanwhile, Nate Spencer embarked on an

www.coastalfisherman.net adventure with "Fish Bound" charters, venturing to the DE/MD line. The group had an astonishing day, reeling in an impressive 45 fish. Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin led the way, ensuring multiple catches measuring over 20", including a few surpassing 23". The largest catch reached 24", weighing just over 5 pounds.

John Spence had a great day out on the grounds catching 5 flounder up to 19.5" and his partner also got a limit. 3 hrs from dock to his return with quick limits. William Krug hit the Old Grounds again this past week returning to the docks with a 3 man limit. The largest fish caught was 24". He reported that the drift was slow and the group had to power drift in order to get the fish to bite the baits. They reported the highlight of the day was watching tuna airing it out not far away from the boat. This time of year we often see blackfin tuna chasing bait out of the water nearshore. This is a great sign because this usually means the yellowfin and mahi will begin to move inshore.

David Book ventured out and returned with a delightful haul of fluke, providing a feast for dinner. David was fortunate to encounter a calm, lake-like ocean on his fishing day. Ricky Rothenberger enjoyed two productive days, catching 6 fluke and 32 sea bass on the first day, followed by an even more impressive haul of 15 fluke and 11 bass on the second day. Such productivity is a testament to their angling skills. David Quigley enjoyed a successful outing at the Old Grounds, reeling in fish ranging from 13.5" to 18". That's an abundance of black bass, perfect for indulging in delicious fish tacos. Eric Miller chose to troll #1 planer and 00 clarkspoons at the Fenwick Shoals, resulting in a cooler brimming with spanish mackerel. Ocean Arsenal Tackle has also



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reported excellent catches of spanish mackerel at the shoals, primarily using clark spoons. The Fenwick Shoals have proven to be a haven for bluefish and spanish mackerel, with the best bite occurring during the early hours just after sunrise, typically lasting until around 9 am.

Charles Corrar enjoyed a productive 4-hour round trip from IR, returning to the docks with a limit of sea bass, one keeper flounder, and one triggerfish. The "Hunt Fish Life" crew experienced a delightful day on the water, catching 14 flatfish and selecting 3 to bring home for a satisfying dinner. The remaining fish were released, allowing for future memorable catches.

Back Bay & Inlet Fishing

Despite forgetting his lures at home, Brett McKune skillfully adapted, making the most of his trip and managing a quick two-man limit for flounder with gear he had onboard! Bud Watkins invited his wife to join him on a fluke fishing excursion, only to be outshone as she proudly caught the trophy fish of the day—a magnificent 25" doormat flounder. The catch was made at the inlet. Dan Maguire's persistence at the inlet paid off with his largest flounder

yet, measuring 22.5", caught near the rocks. Despite foggy conditions, Ron Nattle and his son managed to secure a keeper rockfish from the inlet, measuring 29" and boasting an impressive girth. Ron joyfully reported that his son is still smiling from the memorable catch.

Wayne Whitby and his nephew Scott relied on minnows and Gulp on Nickrigs to land their 5 keepers from the Lewes Canal. Scott Whitby alone managed to catch 5 fish from the canal, with the largest measuring around 23". Kenneth Rearick, Matt Wall, and Wayne Wall timed their skiff outing with the incoming tide at the inlet, successfully landing keepers ranging from 18.5" to 19.5". Ben Dove had an awesome day catching a 23" sheepshead off the rocks at the inlet on sand fleas. Lastly, Augie Stern took his six grandkids out for a clamming adventure in IR Bay, and within a mere two hours, they managed to rake an impressive haul of 178 clams. Such a bountiful harvest in such a short period of time is truly noteworthy.

Until next week...

Tight lines and fins up!



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.

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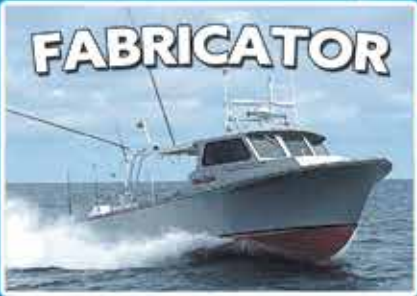
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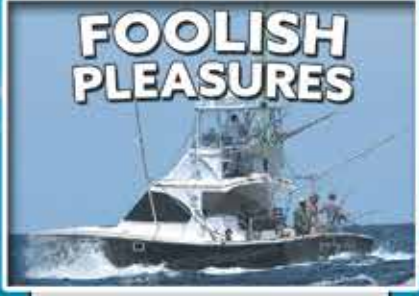
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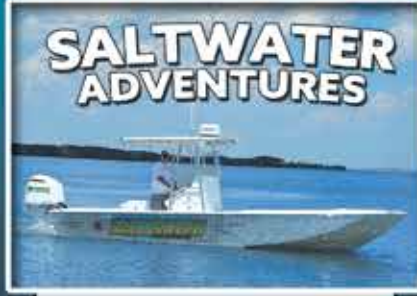
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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



Poke Bowl with Seared Ahi Tuna & Spicy Sauce

Ingredients:

- 1 6-8 oz. ahi tuna steak, 3/4" thick *sashimi-grade, see notes
- 2 tablespoon black sesame seeds
- 2 tablespoon white sesame seeds include more for garnish
- 2 tablespoon sesame oil

For Bowl:

- Jasmine rice (cook according to package directions)
- Sliced avocado
- Sliced cucumber
- Sliced radish
- Shredded carrots
- Edamame
- Prepared seaweed salad
- Sprouts and sesame seeds for



garnish (optional)

For Spicy Sauce:

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
 - 1-2 tablespoon sriracha sauce
- Directions:
- Slice and prepare ingredients for the bowl.
- Combine white and black sesame seeds.
- Firmly press the ahi tuna steak

into the seeds to coat.

Turn burner on medium-high heat. When pan is hot, add sesame oil and begin searing the tuna steak.

Cook for 1-2 minutes on each side. The center should remain pink (unless you prefer your fish well done). *See notes.

Let rest for 3-5 minutes, then cut into 1/2 inch cubes.

While tuna is resting, mix together sriracha and mayonnaise for the spicy sauce.

Arrange all ingredients in bowl. Drizzle spicy sauce over the top.

Notes:

Many people eat *sashimi-grade or *sushi-grade tuna raw. Please do your research and if you are uncomfortable with this, the fish may be cooked more thoroughly by adding additional time to the cooking process until center is no longer pink.

Flounder Cakes with Herb Yogurt Sauce

Ingredients:

- 1 lb frozen flounder fillet
- 1 whole yellow onion caramelized
- 2 cloves of garlic minced
- 3 tbsp. of thin sliced green onions
- 4 tbsp. mayonnaise



- 1/2 tsp. Kosher salt
- Pinch of black pepper
- 1 cup of Panko bread crumbs

Herb Yogurt Sauce:

- 10 ounces plain Greek yogurt (2 small packs)
- 1 tbsp finely chopped flat leaf parsley
- 1 whole red chili pepper (seeded and membrane removed)
- 1 large shallot fine diced
- 2 tsp honey
- Pinch of salt

Directions:

Steam the fish for 5 minutes, let cool then flake by hand. Be sure to leave bigger chunks for texture.

Mix the rest of the ingredients for the fish and carefully fold in the mayo so as to not mash the fish.

Form in to desired size and lightly roll in the bread crumbs and fry on medium high fire until golden brown.

Blackened Rockfish Tacos with Cilantro Lime Tartar Sauce

Ingredients:

- Cilantro Lime Tartar Sauce:**
- 3/4 cup tartar sauce, use your favorite brand
- 1/4 cup minced cilantro
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- Rockfish Tacos:**
- 1 1/2 lbs. rockfish
- 2 tablespoons blackening spice, see notes
- 1 tablespoon cooking oil
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 cups shredded cabbage
- 12 4-inch tortillas, warmed
- Minced red onion, cilantro, and avocado slices, and lime wedges, for serving

Directions:

In a small bowl, mix the tartar sauce, cilantro, and lime juice.

Dry the fish with paper towels then season both sides with blackening spice.

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with the shredded cabbage.

To serve the tacos, pile some slaw on a warm tortilla, top with a few pieces of blackened rockfish, any or all of the toppings, and a spoonful of the cilantro lime tartar sauce.

Notes:

If you don't have blackening spice, cajun seasoning makes a great (and spicy!) substitute. Or taco seasoning and fajita seasoning also work well and only have a little heat.

Triggerfish with Toasted Pecan Butter

Ingredients:

- 8 oz. triggerfish, cut into 2 portions
- 2 Tbsp. milk
- 1 Tbsp. flour
- 1 Tbsp. peanut oil
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans
- Cayenne pepper, salt, pepper
- Lemon

Heat the oil and butter in a large frying pan over medium-high heat. Once the pan is hot, add the fish. Let it cook undisturbed for 4 minutes then give the pan a shake so the fish releases from the pan. Flip the fish over and let it cook for 2 more minutes then take the pan off of the heat and break the fish into many smaller pieces.

While the fish is cooking, make the slaw by mixing 1/4 cup of the cilantro lime tartar sauce

Directions:

Heat your oven to 350. Layer your chopped pecans on a baking sheet and bake for about 5 minutes. Remove and set aside.

In a shallow dish, mix together flour, a dash of cayenne, a dash of salt, and a dash of pepper.

In another shallow dish, add milk. Dip fish fillet in the milk and then dredge in flour mixture.



Heat oil in a medium skillet over medium heat. Add fish and saute 4-5 minutes on each

side until cooked through.

While fish is cooking, melt butter in a small skillet. Add pecans and a pinch of salt and a pinch of cayenne. Stir and pour over fillets. It's a super easy and delicious meal in under 30 minutes!

Note:

Just a reminder that the skin on triggerfish can be pretty tough, so I score it before cooking to keep the fish from curling too much.

Crispy Rice with Spicy Shrimp Salad

Ingredients:

For the Crispy Rice:

- 1 1/2 cups short grain sushi rice
- 2 teaspoons mirin
- 1 cup Vegetable oil

For the Spicy Shrimp Salad:

- 3/4 pound large (21-30 ct.) shrimp, peeled, deveined and tails removed
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil

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- ¼ cup diced green onions
- ¼ cup panko breadcrumbs
- 3 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons sriracha
- 1 tablespoon diced jalapeño
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce

For Serving:

- 1 medium avocado, pitted, peeled and sliced
- 1 small jalapeño, thinly sliced

2 tablespoons eel sauce, optional

Soy sauce, as needed

Directions:

Place the rice in a fine mesh strainer and rinse until the water that runs out of the bottom is clear. This gets some of the starch out of the rice. In a medium saucepan, combine the rice and 2 cups (400g) of water.

Cover and cook on low heat for 20 minutes. Remove from the heat, sprinkle with mirin and fluff the rice with a fork and let cool.

Line a loaf pan with plastic wrap, then spread the sushi rice evenly, pressing it down so that it is tightly packed. Transfer to the refrigerator for at least an hour.

Lift the plastic wrap from the pan, then use a knife to cut it into 8 even squares.

Heat the vegetable oil in a skillet to 375°F (190°C). Fry only a few squares of rice at a

time in the pan. Cook, rotating so that the rice is golden brown on all sides, about 3 to 4 minutes. Remove from the pan to a paper towel-lined plate to drain.

Cut each square of crispy rice in half.

For the Spicy Shrimp Salad:

Heat a large sauté pan over medium heat, add the oil and heat through. Add the shrimp to the pan, cooking until pink and no longer translucent, about 1 minute. Flip and continue to cook until just cooked through. Remove to a cutting board and allow to cool.

Finely chop the shrimp, then add to a bowl with the green onions, breadcrumbs, mayonnaise, sriracha, jalapeño and soy sauce. Stir to combine and set aside.

For Serving:

Top each piece of crispy rice with a slice of avocado and a scoop of the shrimp salad. Drizzle with the eel sauce and top with a slice of jalapeño. Serve immediately with soy sauce for dipping.

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 heat. Season the tilefish 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. §

Pan Seared Tilefish with Wild Mushrooms & Asparagus

Ingredients:

- 2 - 6 oz. fresh tilefish fillets, scaled with skin on
- 4 small new potatoes, boiled and cut in half
- 1/2 lb asparagus, trimmed and sliced diagonally into 2-inch pieces
- 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:

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Carl Augustine from Conshohocken, PA muscles up one of the 3 keeper flounder he caught near the Rt. 90 Bridge. He was fishing on the "Barbara Ann" using minnows to land the three flatfish with the largest at 21 inches.



Capt. Howard Lynch with mates Burro Gonzales and Pete Pendleton on the private boat "Kilo Charlie" had a great trip last Friday. They made a long run to offshore of the Spencer Canyon and went 2 for 2 on white marlin as well as getting 3 yellowfin tuna and 4 dolphin in the box.

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Kenneth Rearick, Matt Wall and Wayne Wall, all from the landlocked and ironically named Jersey Shore in central Pennsylvania came down to a real shore and put in a full morning fishing the Indian River Bay. They caught all three of these keeper flounder within the same hour on the incoming tide using live minnows.

2023 MARYLAND REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

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

eregulations.com



Capt. Al Hunter with anglers Dave Phillips, Steve Hunter, Dan Caiola, Brian Fink, and Jim Frazetti had a big day on the 4th of July. Dan and Brian teamed up to reel in this 173 lb. bigeye that hit on a skirted ballyhoo outside of the Rockpile. They also managed 2 golden tilefish and 5 mahi! Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

Onan KOHLER GENERATORS TWIN DISC VOLVO PENTA Authorized Dealer! *Chuck Bartholme*

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Ship to Shore

STEVE'S MARINE SERVICE
by Steve Katz



When it comes to finding the best fishing grounds, some captains have that fifth sense. Such helmsmen can consistently navigate to productive waters using little more than visual observation of the conditions and a chart or two. On the opposite end of the spectrum, some captains will not leave the dock without the latest in high-tech gadgetry- Starlink, satellite images, altimetry data, multiple fish finding sounders and the like. For most captains, a happy medium that combines local knowledge with the right amount of technology guides their search for productive water. Once there, how do you know that the fish are there? Most of us use a finely tuned echo sounder. Others deploy the spread to see what awaits.

What if there was something even better, a way to "see" if there are any fish around your boat in real time?

Omni sonar works like underwater radar - you can think of it like something from the movie The Hunt for Red October. Omni style sonars include a transducer housing or sound dome that is lowered into the water from a storage

tube within the hull of the boat. Technology has enabled the development of Omni sonar so that the transducer does not need to rotate mechanically to capture the 360-degree view under the boat. The Omni style Sonar consists of multiple



stacked elements to transmit the sonar signal in all directions virtually simultaneously. The combination of the processing power of the hardware and the multiple sonar elements allows the system to provide a real-time image of the water around the boat. Yes, that means you can see fish targets swimming in and out of the sonar beam coverage area.

The Omni style sonar was originally designed for and used by commercial fishing boats. Once the Omni sonar was installed on sportfish boats and captains saw and caught more fish, word got out and it has

become a must have for serious tournament sportfishing operations.

What does an Omni sonar get you? It allows a real-time picture of the fish, or lack of fish, around the boat. A traditional echosounder beam "looks" below the bottom of the boat and reports on the screen on the area you just passed over. The Omni scanning sonar can "look" around the boat, in a full 360-degrees with a range out to 1000' or more, which gives you a coverage of 72 acres of underwater area.

While the Furuno Omni (CSH-8LMK2) is the most popular sportfish omni sonar, back in 1978 the Canadian company, MAQ designed and built the first Omni sonar for the commercial fishing industry. MAQ has expanded their product line since and offers sportfishing Omni sonar similar in size to the popular Furuno model. Additionally, Kongsberg Maritime introduced the Simrad SY50 omni sonar a few years ago. The SY50, built in Norway, is a more compact unit than the MAQ and Furuno with many modern functions within its windows computer

operating system. While these three systems are different in design and operation, the result is similar - they all will "mark" anything that is not water.

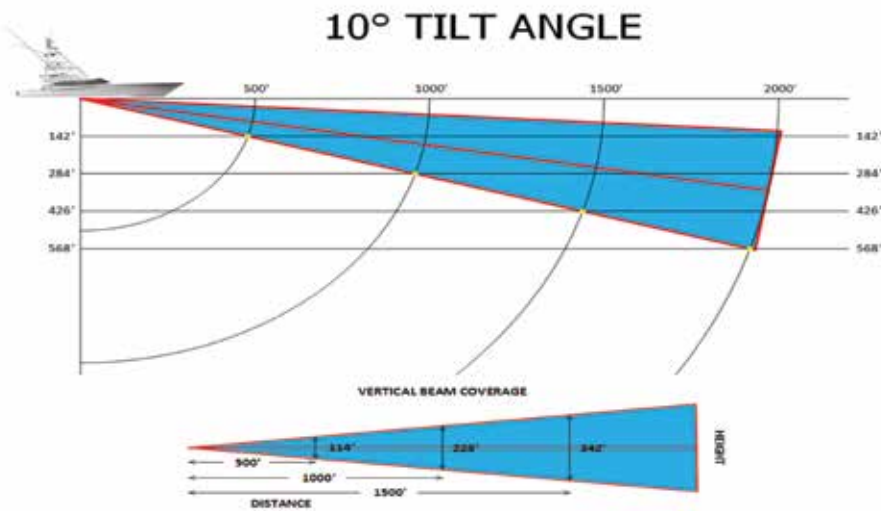
If you are getting your tape measure out to see if you can fit one in your boat, these three units all use the same standard 8" diameter through-hull retraction tube. The hoist that raises and lowers the sonar transducer into operation sits on top of the retraction tube. While each installation is customized to fit the boat, the shortest omni style sonar requires about 54" +/- from the outside of the hull to the top of the hoist. Popular installation locations on a sportfish are forward in the engine room, below the steps leading to the staterooms or inside the cabin on a center console.

These Omni systems all have similar additional components such as transducer, transceiver, processor, and control unit. These are all "black box" type systems, which can use most any standard marine monitor to display the sonar picture.

The Furuno Omni transmits its sonar signal on a fixed frequency of 85 kHz. The beam angle, how far up or down the transducer "looks" can be adjusted from near zero - which is parallel to the sea surface to -55-degrees pointed downward toward the bottom.

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The Simrad SY50 operates with a standard operating frequency of 57kHz and the SY50 allows users to choose any frequency between 54 and 59kHz. The MAQ operates with a standard operating frequency of 60kHz or 90kHz, depending on the version purchased, with the ability to fine tune the frequency during installation.

The specifications include much longer ranges, though the practical application is dependent on water depth, wave heights and other factors. This Omni sonar allows you to change the tilt

angle, something that cannot be done with a traditional echosounder. Increasing the tilt angle allows you to scan a more downward trajectory and a smaller angle allows you to focus on the top of the water column. All these scanning sonars use a stabilization component (motion sensor). This component calculates and compensates for the boat's roll, pitch, and yaw. Proper stabilization of the image allows the system to draw the sonar picture relative to the vessel.

Omni scanning sonar can "look" around the boat, in a full

360-degrees with a range out to a few thousand feet, though regular trolling operation range is usually about 1000'. There are plenty of settings and adjustments that many captains and sonar operators fine tune thought the day. Practical application is dependent on water depth, wave heights, sea water temperature, and other factors. All these scanning sonars use a stabilization component (motion sensor). This component calculates and compensates for the boat's roll and pitch.

As you might expect, an Omni sonar system is a significant investment in your boat. The basic components of a omni system begin around \$75,000 and increase with required accessories, options and installation totaling up to around \$150,000. The installation is comprised of two main phases, the fiberglass, wood and or metal work required to move components as needed make room for the 8" hole in the hull and the

installation of the retraction tube, this is usually performed by a boatyard or boat builder craftsman. The second phase is the mechanical/electrical/electronic phase usually performed by the equipment dealer technician.

There is a learning curve when operating a scanning sonar compared to a traditional echosounder. Interpreting the results on the screen takes some practice. To fine tune your system, you will need to make some adjustments such as range, tilt and gain which are the most used adjustments used throughout the fishing trip. Other adjustments are not often needed throughout the day include transmit power, pulse length, TX cycle, noise limiter, color curve, horizontal and vertical beam width.

Technology that was once reserved for science fiction books or for hunting submarines is transforming the sportfishing space. It's revolutionary technology indeed. §

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Most surf anglers cut the line when they hook up with a ray, but not Numen Bila of Media, PA! He and his sons Evren & Atlas along with some of their friends were fishing off of the Fenwick Island beaches when Numen hooked this beast using bunker. He fought the big butterfly ray up and down the beach and was almost spooled twice. After over an hour of effort, he got the ~200 lb. ray to the beach. The wingspan was almost 7 feet.

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You don't always need a rod & reel to get seafood in Delmarva! Augie Stern took his 6 Harford County based grandchildren Madeleine, Mary Kate and Mason Olszewski with Luke Comen and Brayden Warfield on a clamming trip to the Indian River Bay. They raked in 178 clams in just under 2 hours.



We have been waiting for a report of the 1st keeper cobia in the MD/DE area and we finally got it last week! Gabriella Kendus was fishing the surf near the Faithful Steward dune crossing in the Delaware Seashore State Park when she caught this 39" keeper with cut bunker on the outgoing tide.



Greg Lawrence, Dylan Lawrence and Todd Herman from Hanover, PA with David Lawrence from Frederick, MD had a busy day at Site 11. They were jigging with Gulp or combos of Gulp with minnows & squid and caught over 20 flounder with 8 keepers and many sea bass with 6 keepers. Greg also caught and released a surprise shark. The largest flatfish was 23" caught by Dylan.

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It was big smiles for Emma Daily & Willow Kaufman on their first offshore tuna trip! They headed to the Baltimore Canyon with their fathers Capt. Zach Daily and Emmett Kaufman and caught this 53 lb. yellowfin on a tried and true cedar plug.



The charter boat "Ro Sham Bo" returned to the Ocean City Fishing Center after an overnight trip with a slew of fish. Capt. Willie Zimmerman fished the Washington Canyon and reported the catch of their first swordfish for the year as well as one yellowfin tuna and a box full of blueline tilefish and sea bass.

2023 FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles



BLUE MARLIN
99" Lower Jaw Fork Length
No Retention Limit



WHITE MARLIN
66" Lower Jaw Fork Length
No Retention Limit

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



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



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



BLUEFIN TUNA
27" to <47" curved fork length
2 per vessel/day or trip
47" to < 73" curved fork length
1 per vessel/day or trip
27" to <47" curved fork length
3 per Charter/day or trip
27" to <47" curved fork length
6 per Headboat/day or trip
47" to < 73" curved fork length
2 per Headboat/day or trip



BIGEYE TUNA
27" Curved Fork Length
No Retention Limit



SWORDFISH
47" Lower Jaw Fork Length
1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec)
1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter)
1 per person / 15 per Headboat



SAILFISH
Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit



GOLDEN TILEFISH
No minimum • 8 per person/day



BLUELINE TILEFISH
5/1 - 10/31
3 per person (Recreational)
5 per person Uninspected (Charter)
7 per person Inspected (Charter)



WAHOO
No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day

SHARKS

AUTHORIZED SPECIES

- No Minimum Fork Length
Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead
- 54" Minimum Fork Length
Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose
- 78" Minimum Fork Length
Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead

NOTE: Only 1 shark from the lists above may be retained per vessel per trip. In addition, 1 Atlantic Sharpnose, 1 Bonnethead and 1 Oceanic Whitetip may be retained per person per trip. If a hammerhead shark is retained, no tunas, billfish or swordfish may be retained.

PROHIBITED SHARKS

- Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Shortfin Mako, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White



After a slow morning of sword fishing, anglers Jamie Persels and Tony Gay from Grasonville MD, Ed Fleming from Parsonsburg MD, and Glen Jenkins from Goldsboro, MD got into some nice golden tiles and bailer mahi on the way in from the Washington Canyon. They were fishing with Capt. John Romm on the "Pelagic Assault" out of Ocean Pines, MD.

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Logan Dotson was beaming after catching this beautiful sea bass at the African Queen! At 20" and 5.5 lbs., it was only 7 ounces off the heaviest knobhead caught this season! It was one of 10 he caught that day fishing with Capt. Tom Perry on the "Just One More".

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Weather Offshore: A True Story by Lenny Rudow

One day my two boys and I zipped out to the African Queen wreck site to target spadefish on our 24' center console. The forecast looked promising with fair conditions, but included a 30-percent chance of thunderstorms

clouds indicating light precipitation developing over Virginia's western shore of the Bay about 90 miles away. Checking NOAA's forecast again using the Marine Zone reports featured on my SiriusXM weather overlay,

Meanwhile, the kids were having a ball tugging on one fish after the next: we caught spadefish, dropped bottom rigs and caught sea bass, and enjoyed the mayhem of a marauding school of chopper blues that passed through. At

around 1:30 p.m. I could see that the storms had grown substantially, the leading edges of the front were about 30 miles from the coast, and they were headed directly for us. I told my boys to crank everything up and start prepping for the run home.

Moments after coming off plane inside the inlet we saw the first bolt of lightning in the distance.

Had such precise monitoring of the thunderstorms not been possible, I likely would have turned us around in the morning when I saw that NOAA raised the chances of thunderstorms, rather than risk having my nine-year-old boys in the open Atlantic for a 50-50 shot. Having SiriusXM weather not only got us home safe, but it allowed us to enjoy a partial day of fishing rather than having to turn around and abort the trip early on.



developing. As a matter of course, any time before we pass through the OC inlet, I always check the SiriusXM weather overlay on the chart plotter and make sure to zoom out to view the wider surrounding area and what I could never see developing with my onboard radar. After this initial check in the morning, every hour or so throughout the day, I zoom out and look for red flags of impending storms. This is my standard protocol that always gives me the comfort of having situational awareness directly on my chart plotter screen and without having to rely on the often patchy cell signal I have out on the water. The first time I did so on this day, at around 10:00 a.m., I saw green

I found that the chances for thunderstorms were increasing to 50 percent. An hour later SiriusXM showed the first yellow lightning bolt icons popping up, and pink arrows told me the cells were headed in our general direction. Zooming in, I knew they were moving at 15 mph. That meant that if the storms maintained their track and speed we had about five hours to fish, allowing an hour to make the 12-mile run back and load the boat on the trailer before they hit.

I began checking the screen every half-hour and watched how the storms developed. I knew they were strengthening as the green changed to yellow and then red, and the lightning bolts multiplied.



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George Gozdz, Charter Captain, Stuart, FL



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It was a sunny day for Bob, Conner & Logan Hall from Severna Park, MD with Bob & Diana Gresham of Fenwick Island, DE. They spent the day with Capt. Jason Mumford on the charter boat "Lucky Break" fishing the West Channel with Otter Tails and Gulp on an outgoing tide. They caught 8 keeper flounder with the heaviest 2 at 3.5 lbs.



Young anglers Gabe Asper and Ryland Anderson caught their first tunas at the same time! They had a double hookup while fishing on the charter boat "All In" with Capt. Dave Midgett and mate Zane Rutt. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.





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Amanda Kay Meister had a solid day on her namesake boat the "Amanda Kay". She and Shawn Croney were fishing at an ocean structure using Gulp and she caught her first 2 keeper flounders

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

JULY

- 36th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament**
July 14-16 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1613
- AC Quest for the Ring**
July 16-23 • Atlantic City • www.QuestfortheRingAC.com
- 19th Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic**
July 22-23 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613
- Cape May Marlin Tournament**
July 27-30 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177
- 10th Annual HUK Big Fish Classic**
July 28-30 • Talbot Street Pier • 410-213-0325

AUGUST

- Marlins for Mason**
August 4-5 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1613
- 15th Annual OCMC Ladies Tournament "Heels & Reels"**
August 5-6 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613
- 16th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament**
August 5 • Ocean Pines Yacht Club • 410-641-5306
- 50th Annual White Marlin Open**
August 7-11 • Harbour Island Marina • 410-289-9229
- Paradise Grill Flounder Pounder**
August 16-20 • Long Neck, DE • www.FlounderPounderOpen.com
- 30th Annual Capt. Steve Harman Poor Girl's Open**
August 17-19 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438
- The MidAtlantic**
August 20-25 • Cape May, NJ & Ocean City, MD

SEPTEMBER

- 65th Annual OCMC Labor Day Tournament**
September 1-3 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613
- 22nd Annual Ocean City Fishing Center Spot Tournament**
September 10 • OC Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

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



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make an appearance in the water and hopefully the cooler!

VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



After the fireworks have subsided, the grills are put away and enjoyed your opening Chincoteague Fireman's Carnival oyster fritter sandwich..... it's time to get back to what we do best....fishing the ESVA! With warming temperatures and fair seas, our little piece of paradise is sure to produce bent rods and blistering drags that will last far beyond those fizzled out sparklers from the holiday!

The inshore bite on seaside has been fairly consistent. There is plenty of flourishing flounder fishing going on, not only in the inlets of the VA Barrier Islands but also the near shore wrecks and reefs just off the coast. In both cases numbers have been good, with

improvement hoped for in regards to the size of fish coming over the gunwale. In the inlets, tide seems to be the key to finding success (the last of the flood and the very first of the ebb when the water is the cleanest and coolest). The reefs have given up fat flat fillets to anglers staying close to and right on top of the structure in which the odd looking monsters of the abyss call home. In both cases, Sea Hawk Flounder Rigs with Gulp and tipped with minnows or silversides have coerced many anglers main dish on to the plate.

In other inshore seaside haunts, sharks and Spanish mackerel have entertained anglers with good battles and bigger smiles. The sharking has been mainly inside the

inlets of the ESVA and during a falling tide. Water clarity has little bearing on success, so don't worry about the pristine conditions that are required by flounder. Some chum, and cut baits like mackerel or bunker, is all that is needed for an afternoon of toothy action that will leave a lasting bite mark in the memory of any young fisherman or lady. The Mac's have been trolled up using Drone as well as Clarke spoons in the #00-#1 size in an array of colors including silver, gold, pink and chartreuse. Make sure you keep an eye out for an opportunity to dance with the man in the brown suit while you troll for your supercharged Spanish. As the water warms more of these coastal cobia we will

In regards to the Chesapeake, cobia continue to make lines sing from the central bay south to the CBBT. Bunker chunkers have had the most opportunities as they fight trophies at the end of a fishfinder rig. Sight fishermen are also getting their licks in with live eels luring these brown brawlers in to a battle royal.

The central and southern bay have been the scene of some spectacular sheepshead fishing on structure from the mid bay to the bridge-tunnel. Crab offered on bottom sweeper jigs and top & bottom rigs have herded the sheep into the corral or should I say cooler. The last and first of a tide seem to offer the best conditions to fish vertically on the fish laden structures.

The Tangier and Pocomoke sounds have had a slight



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skinny water rally even with the soaring temperatures. A few nice reds and specks have taken up residence around some shallower structures and even made the move up on the flats with the tide. Chunks of soft crab have done the trick with top water lures like the Rapala Skitterwalk and Mirrolure Popadog providing early morning eruptions that will leave you in awe! If the day is a little less productive and things just aren't working out, remember that a nice grade of blues are still occupying areas like the Tangier targets and watts rocks. As speedy as they are a slow day doesn't stand a chance!

Looks like the table is set and a fine fish dinner is being served. So say Grace, grab your fork, and dig in. That's the only way to partake in the blessing of this wonderful place we call home! §



Damon Deppe struck gold catching this beautiful red drum in the Tangier Sound. He was fishing some grassy shallows with Tangier Sound Charters when this citation sized fish hit on half a soft crab.

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Dennis from Summertime Park in Fenwick, DE had the midas touch on the beach last week. While no one else was catching, he was nailing kingfish on shrimp Fishbites and salted shrimp.



Ron Ellis of Manchester PA gives a solid Delaware stretch to this pair of flounder! He was fishing the West Channel on Pappy's boat when he caught these using a Gulp & minnow combo. The largest was 24 1/2".

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. JULY 12	High 04:15 am High 05:21 pm	Low 10:07 am Low 11:15 pm
THUR. JULY 13	High 05:09 am High 06:16 pm	Low 11:00 am Low -----
FRI. JULY 14	High 05:58 am High 07:06 pm	Low 12:14 am Low 11:51 pm
SAT. JULY 15	High 06:44 am High 07:52 pm	Low 01:07 am Low 12:40 pm
SUN. JULY 16	High 07:28 am High 08:33 pm	Low 01:53 am Low 01:25 pm
MON. JULY 17 <i>New Moon</i>	High 08:13 am High 09:09 pm	Low 02:36 am Low 02:06 pm
TUE. JULY 18	High 08:56 am High 09:42 pm	Low 03:16 am Low 02:45 pm
WED. JULY 19	High 09:39 am High 10:15 pm	Low 03:54 am Low 03:24 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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or Virtual Captain's Meeting available on the Club's website and Facebook page

FISH 1 or BOTH DAYS: JULY 22 and/or JULY 23

LINES IN 6:30am ••• LINES OUT 3:00pm

WEIGH-INS: JULY 22 3:00-6:30PM • JULY 23 from 3:00-6:00PM

CARNIVAL & AWARDS BANQUET Sunday July 23 from 5:00-8:00pm under the Clubhouse
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Featured Boat of the Week



SEA HUNTER - 2019 45' MARK WILLIS - CALL CHRIS WORKMON



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



**BARRATUNA - 2008 53' Sculley
Call Steve Hedrick**



**2023 39' HCB
Call Colton Cunningham**



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



**1997 50' Alex Willis Custom
Convertible Call Joel McLeod**



**1985 47' Hines-Farley
Call Ronnie Fields**



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



**DRIFTWOOD - 2017 28' Harrison
Boatworks Call Jeff James**



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



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



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



**1986 28' Ocean Master
Call Glenn Cameron**



**2017 27' Cobia
Call Colton Cunningham**



**2003 38' Fountain
Call Terry Layton**



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



**SAILFISH - 2018 24' Sailfish
Call Jimmy Fields**



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



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

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