

Priceless

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COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME 48 • • • ISS • • • August 16, 2023



Photo courtesy of the White Marlin Open

What an amazing journey for the crew of local Ocean City boat, the "Floor Reel" during the 50th Annual White Marlin Open. At the start of Day 5, the last of the tournament, none of the 400 boats entered had yet to bring a billfish to the scales! Some were already calculating how the marlin money would flow down to the Tuna Divisions, but that was all shattered when Capt. Dave Warren pulled up to the scales at Harbour Island just before 6PM with a 640.5 lb. blue marlin that boat owner John Ols caught! The team started in the Baltimore Canyon and covered a lot of ground as they moved south. They were below the Poor Man's Canyon in about 130 fathoms when they got their only bite for the week, but it was the one that counted. It took John about an hour and 45 minutes to fight the big fish that never jumped the whole time. Fishing with Capt. Dave and John were Chet Rohrbach, Floyd Leavell, Jim McKeever, Joseph Thurlow, Joseph Zimmer and Luke Mitchell with mate Rob Belcher. As the only qualifying billfish weighed, the crew earned not only 1st Place for Blue Marlin, but a substantial portion of the white marlin money as well, earning a world and tournament record payout of \$6,235,436!



Drew Mongeluzo of Lewes, DE reeled in a pair of bookend flounder at the Old Grounds. Both fell for a jighead with Gulp and were 21" with the heaviest at 4 lbs. He was fishing with his dad Anthony and Capt. Mike Slavin aboard the "On the Hunt".



Capt. Eric Shoaff on the headboat "Judith M" shared that his 5 hour trip over the last week have been as good as last weeks. They have been catching a mix of very nice flounder, some over 6 lbs. at inshore reefs. They are also catching some keeper sea bass, spadefish and triggerfish like this one from the Bass Grounds.

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PANDORA



Jacob Borning from Canton, OH is in the tuna club. He caught this 51 lb. yellowfin tuna, his first, while chunking with butterfish at an inshore lump. He was fishing with Josh Mercer of Selbyville, DE and Ethan & Josh Kleinstuber from Fenwick Island, DE on the "A-Team". He fought the fish for over an hour until gaff man Ethan swung it over the gunnel.

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THE Offshore Report

by Larry Budd

Well, the 50th Annual White Marlin Open is in the books and it again set several records. This year 400 boats competed for a Tournament Record payout of \$10,497,049! Unlike other recent tournaments, the weather even cooperated with only a couple days being sporty in the canyons.

The most notable component of this year's event was the lack of billfish making their way to the scales! While significantly better than 2022's numbers, through day 4 of the event, none had been seen at the dock despite over 400 white marlin and 39 blue marlin being released. Credit is due to the over 1,000 anglers in the tournament for returning these non qualifying fish to swim another day. With such a large purse, I am sure it was

tempting to consider bringing one close to the minimums in. We know of one case where a 71" white was boated, meeting the 70" minimum, but the crew saw the fish was thin. After a quick estimate based on dimensions, they knew it would not meet the 70 lb. minimum and released it. For the full 5 days only 1 white marlin was weighed by the "Skirt Chaser" out of Manteo, NC. It met the 70" minimum, but just missed the qualifying weight by 2.5 lbs. Blue marlin had no weight minimum but needed to be at least 114" to qualify. Only 2 blues were brought in, the first on the charter boat "No Limit" out of the Indian River Marina falling just short of the minimum at 112". It is not uncommon for fish that

large to shrink while the boat heads home. The second one on the Harbour Island based "Floor Reel" left no doubt it would qualify when the crew at the scales yelled out 118"! That fish is on our cover and proved to be the only billfish to qualify in the 50th Annual White Marlin Open. These conditions also made for one of the most conservation focused White Marlin Opens on the books. 99.98% of all white marlin caught were released, as were 99.6% of the blue marlin.

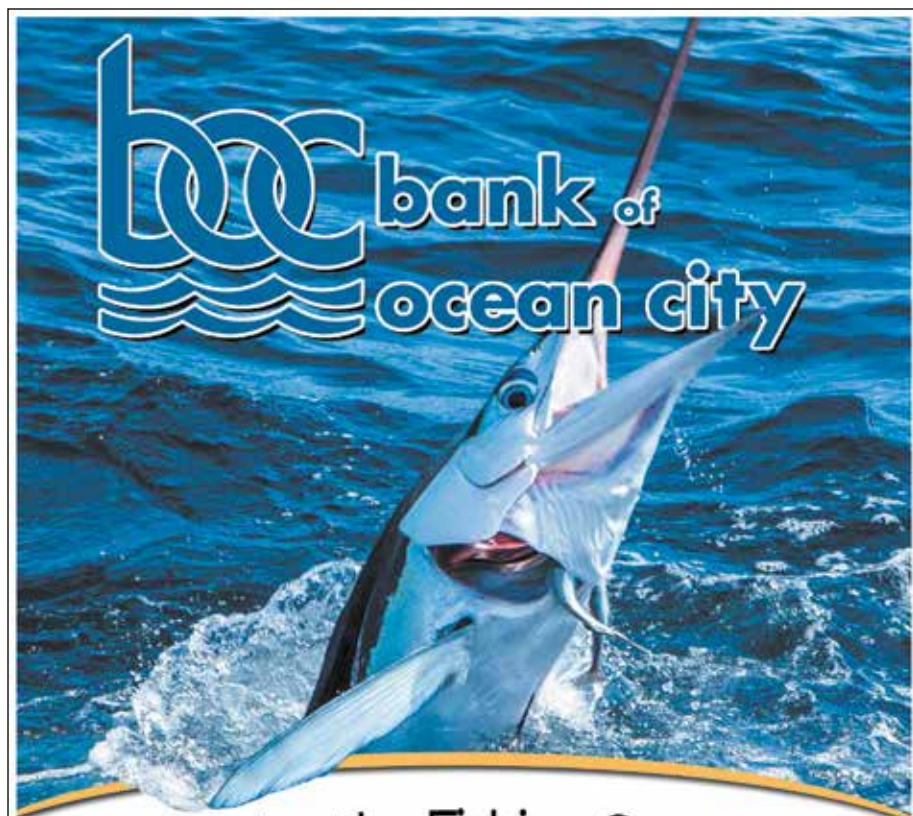
Capt. Dave Warren on the "Floor Reel" covered a lot of territory during their 21 hours of fishing. Their first two days ended without a single bite of any type. Their last day, Friday, seemed to continue the trend as they worked their way south from the Baltimore Canyon to just below the Poor Man's. It was just a little after 1PM with only 45 minutes left to fish for the day that boat owner John Ols hooked into the blue. Surprisingly for its size, the big blue only took 1 hour and 45 minutes to get to the boat, never breaching the surface. So they had one bite, one fish and a world record payday of \$6,235,436!

The tuna bite was a different story. It was slow coming into the week and proved to be the same on day 1 last Monday. 378 boats headed out that day

www.coastalfisherman.net with 26 making their way to the scales. The Ocean City based "Instigator" ended the day on top of the tuna board with a 199 lb. bigeye tuna, followed by the "Bow Down" from Shark River, NJ with a 118 lb. eyeball in 2nd and a 64.5 lb. yellowfin tuna from the OC boat "Skid Row" filling out the top 3.

Day 2 on Tuesday was a different story. With a forecast of 10' to 12' waves, only 22 boats dared to venture out. Three boats brought in some yellowfins, but not enough to change the leaderboard.


Wednesday saw clear skies and saw an impressive 383 boats hit the rip and some damage to the leaderboard. First in was the "Fishlik". They had departed from Chincoteague, VA and headed to the Washington Canyon to chunk. They had good action on yellowfin tuna, but Capt. Chris Mentlik reported 75% of those got sharked. That did not really matter once Chris got hooked up on a big fish he knew was a bigeye. It took 2 hours to land and once on the scales it registered at 247.5 lbs. putting them in 1st Place for Tuna. The "Full Service" from Ocean City put up a challenger they caught on the chunk as well from the Washington. It joined the 200 club at 203.5 lbs. moving into 2nd Place. Monday's 199 lb. bigeye from the "Instigator" slipped to third in just a matter of hours. The other notable catch of the day came from the "Reel Oppor-Tuna-Ty". Angler Ed Quick caught a 162.5 allison tuna that hit on a diving plug



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

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in the Poor Man's Canyon. We don't see many of these big yellowfin sub species for the year, yet it was the first of 3 allisons weighed over the 5 days.

Thursday saw rougher weather and only 60 boats took to the waves. While only 5 brought fish to be weighed, it was enough to rattle the tuna board again. The "Game Over" was first to make changes. They spent the day above and outside the Washington Canyon in deep water trolling in rough seas and weather. It was during one of the days thunderstorms that John Zimmerman connected with a bigeye spending 45 minutes fighting the fish and the weather. It was worth it when the beast weighed in at 221.5 lbs. moving into 2nd Place. They were followed by the "Ro Sham Bo". Capt. Willie Zimmerman had the crew inside the Washington Canyon when Rusty Shriver caught a 71" and 215 bigeye tuna taking third place with all three top tuna over 200 lbs. As they say however, don't count your chickens until they're hatched, but the "Ro Sham Bo" would not have to worry. More on that later.

The skies cleared again for the last day, Friday and another flotilla of 357 boats headed out. With big tuna on the board and millions of dollars up for grabs for marlin, it is safe to say only a few were tuna fishing! Owner and Capt. of the "Reel Tight" Steven Pilipauskis however was one of those. He had fished their first 2 days above the Washington Canyon in deep water with no bites, but stuck to their strategy and planned the same for Friday. So, it was an awesome surprise when after only 20 minutes with lines in, they hooked up on a bigeye. Brian Stewart was on the rod and as he described it, he "...cranked, cranked, cranked and then the reel went bzzz, bzzz, bzzz and he then cranked cranked, cranked some more and got



the fish to the boat". It's like we were there with him! The detailed description aside, the bigeye tipped the scales at a whopping 265 lbs. jumping into 1st Place where it finished the tournament and set a new record for Heaviest Bigeye for the year!

There were over 550 white marlin caught and released during this year's 50th Annual White Marlin Open, including this one on the charter boat "Finatic". On the last day of the event Capt. Chris Malamphy with mates Brandon Malamphy & Sean Russell headed out to do some mud marlin fishing just inside the Rockpile in 35 fathoms. Anglers Collin Wiercinski, George Andrews, Larry Cerep, Roland Arjukese, Stephen Dixon and Phil Lewis went 1 for 2 on white marlin with Phil reeling this 67" one to the boat.

There was also good action in the mahi and wahoo divisions as well. Overall, 8 mahi met the tournament minimum of 20 lbs. Andrew Spangenberg on the local boat "Roncito" crushed the leaderboard with a 50.5 lb. dolphin he caught on Friday in the Washington Canyon. They were fishing for marlin when the unusually large mahi hit on the right long. It and one other small mahi were the only bites for the day, but enough to take the Top Spot in the Mahi Division. 2nd Place went to the crew on the "Aquila" from Beach Haven, NJ with a 32 lb. fish. They also won the Small Boat Dolphin award. Another local boat, the "Maverick",

rounded out the top 3 slots with a 31 lb. mahi they caught in the Wilmington Canyon in 500 fathoms.

While many times we see no wahoo at the scales, this year saw 5 that beat the 40 lb. minimum. 1st Place went to the "Shooting Star" out of Millsboro, DE. It was owner and Coastal Fisherman subscriber Ricky Rothenberger's first time in the WMO. Interestingly he chose to fish day 2 on their 29' Sea Swirl walk around cuddy. Remember, that was the day of 10 - 12 foot seas! They stayed inshore as the waves were too much as they headed further out, ending up at the Dump Site. They were not targeting wahoo, but got lucky and David Hass snagged a 57 pounder on a tuna rig. 2nd Place went to the "Captain Deadly" down from Long Island, NY. Capt. and owner Mike Kahoud was also tuna fishing when they managed to hook a 55 lb. speedster in the

lip with a circle hook. Angler Chad Jackson reported the wahoo put on quite a show jumping high in the air. The 3rd Place wahoo came from a long time WMO fishing family, the Gessler's. 15 year old Matthew Gessler caught a 46 lb. wahoo while fishing with his uncle, Capt. Tommy Gessler on the "Boy's Toy". Capt. Tommy won the Open when he was 15 in 1993!

There were many more great stories from this year's event. You can see the full results and key payouts starting on page 60.

We have the Poor Girl's Open coming up next weekend followed by a full week of the MidAtlantic, so there is a lot more offshore action coming up. I suspect reports this week will be light as anglers prep and keep their practice locations secret!

So until then, look for us at the scales and share your catches to CoastalFisherman@comcast.net! §



Gery Kassimir from Reisterstown, MD joined Reza Eman of Ocean City for some flounder fishing at the Rt. 50 Bridge. They used minnows with squid strips and Gulp with squid strips to tempt their prey tricking two keeper flounder with the largest at 20".



We have been seeing some big rays lately with all anglers reporting some fun action. Taylor Short caught this one off of Assateague Island. He shared he normally does not get excited when he hooks a ray, but this one was by far his biggest and took some huge runs.



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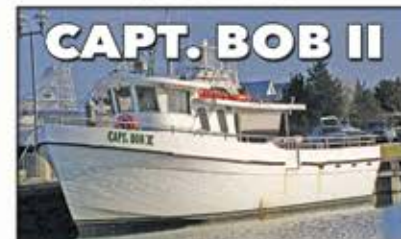
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FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



White Marlin Week was in full swing, witnessing a flurry of boat activity entering and exiting the OC inlet. Surprisingly it was amazing that anything was caught there at all! However, the silver lining for anglers was that the consistently rewarding fishing experiences within the back bays, inlet and nearby reefs throughout the entire summer continued this past week despite all the additional activity, with this past week being no exception. For those not partaking in the WMO, abundant flounder populated most of the nearby wrecks and reefs. This year, spanish mackerel are notably abundant, even captivating novices who have never tried

trolling for this species.

Nearshore Wrecks & Reefs

The nearshore waters are settling in the mid 70s and are teeming with life. Bait schools grace almost every corner, while the wrecks hold sizable flounder on their down-current sides. Additionally, the rubble piles and reefs continue to host a few keeper sea bass. Venturing to the reefs outside of OC, Blake Gunther and Derek Yobst encountered impressive flatties. Their consistent success in reeling in large fluke, including some doormats, bodes well as they gear up for the Paradise Grill Flounder Pounder next week. As we get closer to the tournament I expect less

angler will share location. This was not an issue for Aaron Paxton who reeled in an enormous 6.8-pound flounder at Little Gull Shoal. Undoubtedly, such a trophy fish holds significance for any angler, especially a young one. Randy Swain and his 12-year-old son, Loudon Swain, embarked from Sunset Marina and headed northward, successfully nabbing doormat fluke using Gulp, squid, and minnows on deep-water structures. Loudon is only 12 years old yet he handles the rod like a pro. The recent endeavors of the "Double Trouble Charter," captained by DJ Churchill, included trolling for spanish mackerel while also targeting sea bass, flounder, and cutlass pursuits in an around inshore reefs & wrecks. Despite facing a few storms that temporarily kept them docked, Captain DJ attested to the remarkable cooperation of the fish. Their clients not only returned with plentiful catches but also some of the finest quality fish in recent memory. The groups consistently achieved fluke limits on each trip, accompanied by notable ribbonfish catches. Captain DJ also noted that the spanish mackerel fishing this season has been unprecedentedly consistent, a great treat for this rich and sweet meat. The First and Second Lumps near the Bass Grounds were the prime fishing areas last week, closely followed by Fenwick Shoals. Moreover, the Lump just north of the Bass Grounds yielded sizeable spanish mackerel. Intermixed with the spanish are bluefish and cobia. For those unfamiliar with trolling for spanish mackerel, utilizing small 00 or #1 Clark spoons

www.coastalfisherman.net stands as the optimal lure choice. Alternatively, small poppers and bucktails can be employed. Maintaining a speed around 5 miles per hour serves as the sweet spot for attracting these voracious fish. Early mornings offer the ideal window to target them, as the bite typically diminishes around 9 or 10 AM. This presents a strategic approach for anglers keen on an early start. As the spanish mackerel action wanes, transitioning to wrecks and reefs offers opportunities to pursue the sought after large fluke.

Peyton Balliett celebrated her birthday alongside Steve Balliett, engaging in her beloved pastime, fishing! Peyton's birthday escapade yielded a satisfying cobia catch, accompanied by other dinner worthy fish. Following the festivities, a birthday celebration at a local bayside restaurant ensued. Happy birthday, Peyton!

The Great Eastern Reef persists in harboring a few keeper sea bass however, venturing to deeper structures like the Rock Pile presents the optimal chance to secure a cooler laden with these black gems. The hot spot for flounder during this past week was the African Queen, with the flatties congregating just off the down-current side of the wrecks. Although the nearshore pots yielded some mahi, the water's persistent green hue has curbed the influx of these pelagic fish to inshore waters. Hopefully, water clarity will improve, transitioning from green to the characteristic blue, thereby drawing these pelagic fish closer to the coast. To target mahi around the Bass Pots and High Flyers, jigging small bucktails adorned with squid is the preferred technique. Alternatively, trolling small plugs and squid skirts prove fruitful in

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Back Bays & Inlet Fishing

The back bays and inlet have yielded noteworthy catches recently, including sizeable flounder and short rockfish and blues. While reports of croaker pods in the bay are scarce, their anticipated arrival remains imminent. Amidst the heightened boat traffic due to White Marlin Week, the "Miss OC Fishing" achieved several successful trips. Clients reaped bountiful catches and relished watching the grand yachts traverse the inlet for the tournament. Rusty and Dylan Thawley, hailing from Denton, MD seized a rewarding day of fishing along the south jetty wall. Using clams as bait, they triumphantly landed a 9 pound and a 12 pound sheepshead. Accompanied by Captain Jason Mumford on the "Lucky Break Charters," the father-son duo showcased their angling prowess. Donna Gutridge, along with Lane, Drew, Tricia and Brad Wolters, also ventured into the inlet with Captain Jason. This group returned with multiple keeper flounder using minnows, the largest measuring 22 inches. Jason's aptitude for the inlet's nuances shines through once again. The primary channel of the inlet, in conjunction with the bulkheads around the 2nd Street area, witnessed sluggish activity this week, primarily due to the influx of boats for the White Marlin Open. On the other hand, the vicinity behind Assateague Island emerged as a favorable spot for fluke and even small stripers. Reports suggest that the island's northern side offered ample sightings of ponies, providing anglers with an enchanting view of this unique wildlife.

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Timothy Goodman from Lancaster, PA was at it again in the Delaware Bay. He was using Gulp on Spro Bucktails and top teasers, working the shallow edges of sandbars and managed 4 keepers. Pictured at Rick's Bait and Tackle in Long Neck, DE.



Christina Puglisi reported she found a unicorn! More specifically a keeper rockfish in the now *very tight* slot of 28-31". She caught this 29.5" striper at the Indian River Inlet on an eel. Even Sandy the beach dog is in awe.

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Meet the Advertisers

What made you want to start your own clothing brand - Pure Lure?

Brendan Hanley: I've always been very entrepreneurial and felt that it was the right time to offer a fresh look and perspective in the lifestyle fishing space. We are now on year five. Being around water my entire life fishing and surfing, and coming directly from this industry, I have a deep passion for building something that represents quality, performance, innovation and most importantly, authenticity.

There are several fishing brands in the market. How will Pure Lure stand out?

Brendan Hanley: There are many great brands in the market, but I feel that the best retailers and consumers are always looking for something new, something fresh and something authentic. We will always focus to be a premium brand. I have great relationships with many amazing retailers throughout the country and so many have shared the excitement for newness. We currently wholesale to close to 100 locations mainly focused on the Eastern Seaboard and you can always find us at PureLureFishing.com or at our amazing BrandHouse located in the heart of the harbor in West Ocean City.... Just look for the GIANT BLUE MARLIN!

We have also partnered with many great retailers right here in our backyard as we sell to Angler's in Annapolis, Assateague Surf shop, M.R. Ducks, Atlantic Shoals, Hocker's Super Stores, Vernon Powell and many others. We also will look to be testing in six to 10 Bass Pro elite doors in the South in 2024

We will always deliver great service with a grassroots approach in everything we do, but what I am most proud of over the last few years is what we've accomplished from a marketing perspective. This year we were involved with the PBR event held right over at Sunset and our continued partnership with the Motsko family as the presenting sponsor of the White

Marlin Open. This year's 50th anniversary was once again for the record books.

This tournament is in our backyard and I have fished in this tournament for many years.

Pure Lure has also hand selected a group of world class captains and mates that embody everything we stand for as a brand. These are true watermen at every level.



Is there anything specific you feel separates you from other brands?

Well, I really feel that our customers can see that we are active participants in the space. We do what they do, we love what they love. Many brands sell products and are not actually participants. I really feel that this is a key factor to our success.

Tell us about your background in the industry.

Brendan Hanley: I've been in the industry since my early teens, starting off in a local surf shop as

a manager and buyer. Right after college, I opened my own store for a few years and at the same time I started my sales rep career with Redsand. This literally was my first real taste of the industry at 22 years old where we printed T-shirts and fleece in Encinitas CA in a founder's garage. We grew that business to the mid-\$20 million range.

Over the last three decades, I

worked with Billabong and Von Zipper from 2000-2012 and then went to Under Armour where I finished there as the Global GM for the Outdoor business.

I learned so much at Under Armour, especially in the areas of planning and strategy. Under Armour founders, Kevin Plank and Kip Fulks are very special people. I am grateful for my time there.

What is the target market and who is your target customer?

Brendan Hanley: We most definitely focus on the specialty

independent businesses within the fish, surf, dive and outdoor space. This channel has a very loyal customer base with true enthusiasts and end users. The specialty accounts also offer a "pro shop" type atmosphere and superior shopping experiences.

I am very much looking to strategically grow the business responsibly with great partners who share our Pure Lure vision.

Being located in the fishing harbor in Ocean City, Maryland, the white marlin capital of the world, we obviously will concentrate on the eastern seaboard with a heavy focus on Florida, in addition to the North Central region and Texas.

We also have our Direct To Consumer / website that had grown year over year as we have now shipped to all 50 states.

Our target consumer is someone who is deeply passionate about the outdoors, loves the water and fishing, and appreciates brands. If we had to put an age on this consumer it would be 15-50. There are 60-million-plus anglers in North America and fishing is the largest U.S. recreational sport.

Do you have any advice for others who want to start an apparel line?

The main thing is you must be 100% committed. There are no days off, period. You cannot be 1/2 vested and be successful. It cannot be part time gig. You must be willing to work insane hours doing everything and anything. I've mentioned to folks in past that we are so all in, that FAILURE cannot be an option.

Is there anyone you'd like to thank?

Oh man, there are so many but the first is my wife Lisa of 33 years who has supported me always with so many of my ideas. My sons Curran, Trevor and Ian who have also worked nonstop. Our retail GM Kara Johnson and the team that she has built to run our BrandHouse. Lastly, I want to thank all of our friends, our customers who have supported our brand from day one and all the new people who are discovering us. We are so grateful! §



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The private boat "Grande Pez" got no marlin love on their 2nd day fishing in the White Marlin Open, they did however reel in 5 big yellowfin tuna with the largest at 74 lbs! Capt. Ryan Freese and crew had the spread set for marlin, so all of these were caught on dink rods making for some extra work for the anglers. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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



Dave Popovich took advantage of a calm day to hit the offshore wrecks. He caught this very spotted trophy sized 7 lb. flounder using a MagicTail Jig tipped with Gulp.



Capt. Chris Mizurak on the headboat "Angler" reports that while the waters are warm there are still keeper sea bass making their way into the coolers. This knothead was caught on a recent trip to a natural reef inshore.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Brenda Reynolds of Mt. Airy, MD caught her first tuna, a yellowfin! She was fishing on the charter boat "Foolish Pleasure" with Capt. Dale Lisi in the Washington Canyon. Pictured at the Bahia Marina.



Capt. Eric Shoaff is still getting the spadefish to bite on the headboat "Judith M"! These mild tasting fish are a treat. Anglers were also catching sea bass, though a lot were shorts, as well as flounder and triggerfish.

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FISHING CHARTERS



The "Bay Bee" shows you don't always have to head offshore to get fat flounder! This angler snagged a nice keeper from the Ocean City Bay.



The "Thelma Dale IV" reported started out last week with slow drifts in the morning causing anglers to work for every fish. Midday saw a pickup in the action with lots of short sea bass, keeping people busy. The big fish pool winner however was a keeper flounder.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Nora, Brian and Hunter from West Virginia chartered the "Green Reaper" for some inshore fun. They caught some spanish mackerel & triggers, and this sea robin!



Young Jack from Iowa spent the morning reeling in sea bass one after another while the others on the "Morning Star" watched in amazement. Capt. Monty Hawkins however reported as the conditions changed, it "...favored anglers over 10 ..."

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FISHING CHARTERS



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! Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Marina.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Despite warmer weather, warmer water and rolling summer storms, Capt. Chris Mizurak had some decent sea bass trips. The crews were busy with lots of shorts, but keepers were found like the ones these boys found. As normal for this time of year, there were some flounder in the mix as well. This trip was to a natural reef.

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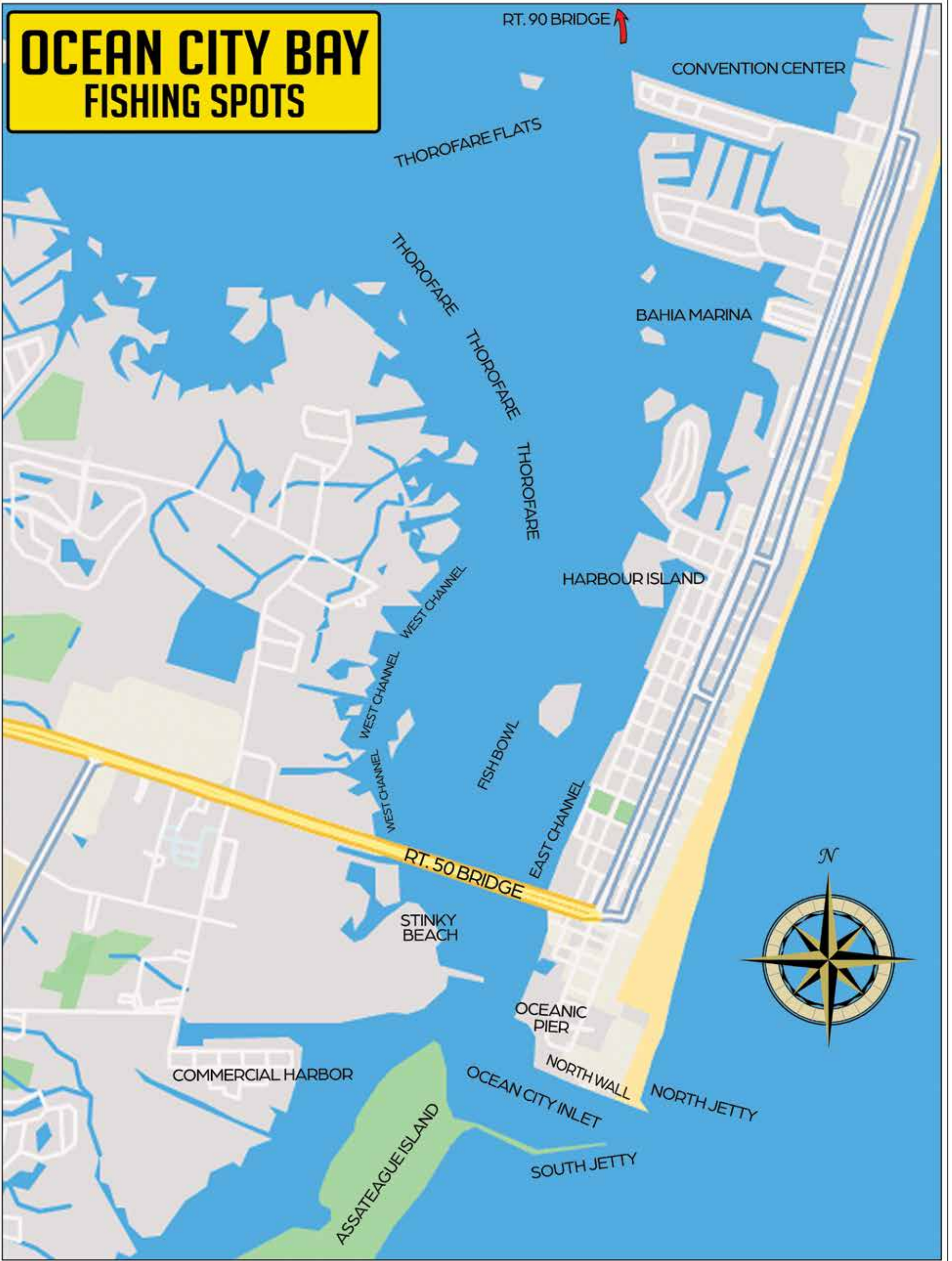
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The Brannan and Babikow families had a great day of mahi fishing on the "Green Edge" at the Bass Potts. Angler's Reese Babikow, Matthew Brannan, Linda Brannan, Brian Brannan, and Capt. Tim Babikow returned to the dock with 13 peanut mahi. That's a lot of tacos!



Mates Jacob Holley and Zac Taylor came up from Orange Beach, AL on their 70' Viking "QuickTime" to fish the Mid-Atlantic tournament circuit and wanted to catch a flounder bad! After walking a few miles from Sunset Marina to the bridge to fish with little success they jumped aboard a friend's boat (Jim Turner) out of the Indian River Marina and less than a minute into their first drift through the Inlet with live spot, Jacob hooked and landed this doormat 27.5" 7lb flounder!

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Award winning local angler Shaun Flaherty got out on his trusty kayak for some fishing in the bays behind Assateague Island. He was rewarded with a keeper flounder and bluefish caught on a tube.



With all the flounder reported this week, we were happy to see this catch from Luke McAteer of West Ocean City! He caught this 3.5 spanish mackerel on a mahi lure at the African Queen.

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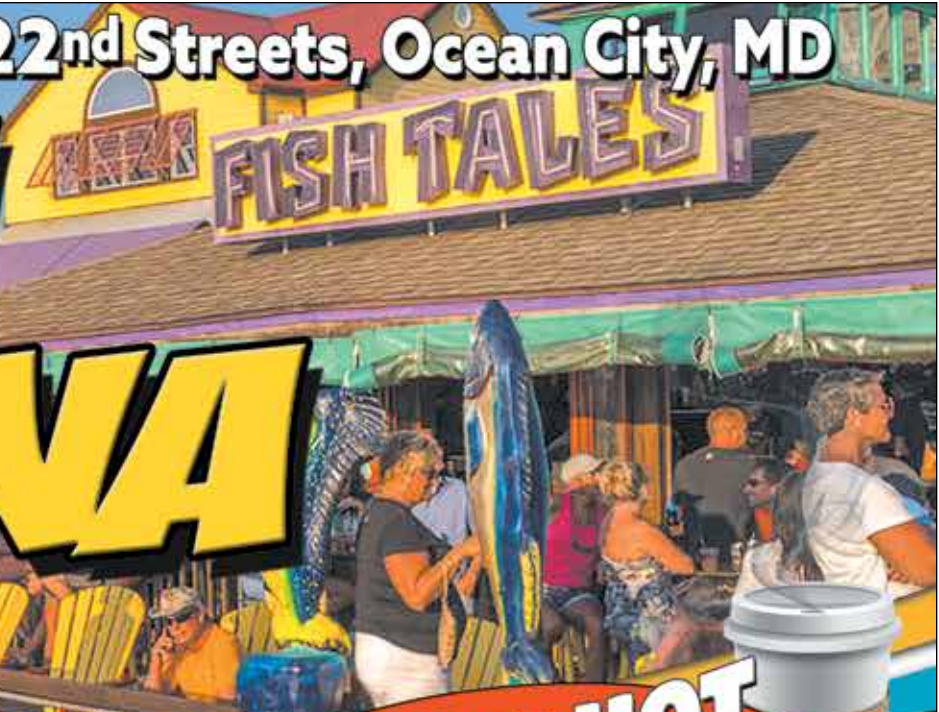
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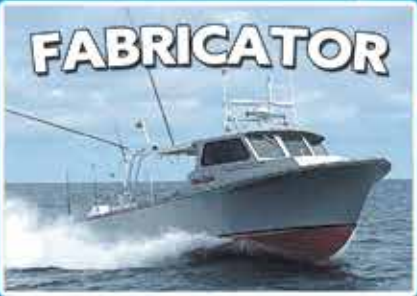
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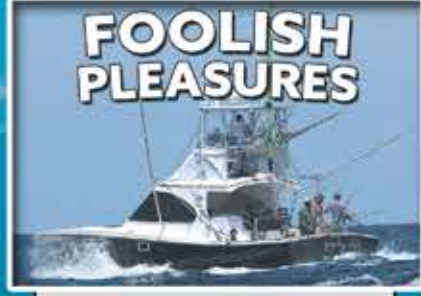
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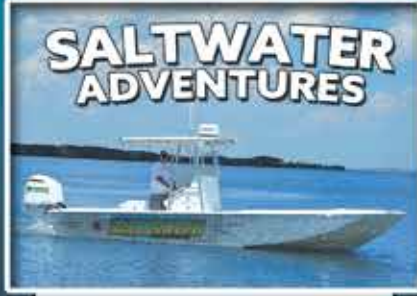
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DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Despite a few storms this week, the nearshore reefs and coral teemed with sizable fish. The back bays continue to yield some large flounder, along with rockfish and blues making their appearances along the night rocks.

The sheepshead activity at the Icebreaker Walls in the Delaware Bay is gaining momentum, resulting in several sheepshead weighing around ten pounds.

Many anglers are presently out scouting their locations for the upcoming Paradise Grill Flounder Pounder Tournament set to commence on Wednesday the 16th, so expect to see more boats on the bays this week!

Nearshore Reefs & Coral

This year has witnessed an

exceptional burst of life in the nearshore coral and reefs, resulting in some of the most consistent and high-quality fish we've seen in years. This past week was no exception.

The Old Ground remains the primary hotspot, especially within depths ranging from 65 to 110 feet. These zones are optimal for targeting flatfish this time of year, and Gulp bait stands as the preferred choice for many. The early hours of the day have proven more productive due to reduced boat traffic, which tends to escalate after 11 am. After that the Old Grounds look more like a parking lot for boats than they do ocean structure.

On the charter boat "Katydid" based at Lewes Harbour Marina, the sight of flounder limits was common.

Throughout the past week, anglers on this vessel consistently reached their limits, occasionally landing some substantial doormats. Several participants even surpassed their personal bests in catching fluke. For instance, Kris Groszer from Lewes captured a massive 23-inch, 4.01 lb. fluke using squid while fishing aboard the "New Beginnings" at the NJ/DE reef. Another impressive catch occurred when Jack McLaughlin, aboard the "Grizzly" on Wednesday, proudly returned with his personal best fluke weighing 7.5 pounds. The phenomenon of landing sizable fish has defined this season, not merely limited to the "Grizzly" but extending to multiple charter and private boats.

Chris Eastburn and his group, who also chartered the "Grizzly", managed to secure 28 keepers, with the largest weighing 6 pounds. This trip coincided with Captain Carey's birthday, adding to the celebratory mood. Another notable catch came from Mike Strain, who returned this week with a cooler filled with fluke, including several weighing over 4 pounds. Dave Popocich contributed to the haul with a striking spotted fluke weighing 7 pounds, caught using a Magic Tail baited with Gulp. Justin Reed exhibited his prowess in reeling in Gulp favoring fish from ocean structures, the largest of which measured 29 inches, promising an exquisite dinner.

On the "Jay Sea 2," Bill Henry, Buckaloo and their crew embarked on a fluke fishing venture on Wednesday. Despite a sluggish start, the bite picked up momentum after a tide change, leading to a successful haul and the boy's ready for some Rum

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Punches and Bloody Marys!
Kudos to Captain Jamar for his outstanding efforts.

A memorable milestone was reached as Jim School secured his first flounder, an impressive five-pounder, which could potentially spoil him for regular keeper-sized fish. Abby Riddel from New Castle used minnows at the Old Grounds to catch a beautiful 23.5-inch, 4.5-pound fluke.

Meanwhile, Julie Mister celebrated the capture of her personal best 4-pound flounder from the Delaware Bay, employing squid and pink shine Gulp. This is notable given how much she fishes! Justin Reed maintained his fishing streak, landing several high-quality fish from the ocean the previous week, yielding a wealth of fish, with half measuring over 20 inches.

Team Wolf Pack marked a triumphant day on the "Nostalgia," about 15 miles off IR, boasting a deck laden with delectable flatfish.

The "Yahoos" made their presence felt by returning with 24 flatties after a productive day on the ocean, including the largest one weighing 5 pounds. The group was out prospecting for the upcoming Flounder Pounder Tournament.

As for the "Reel Chaos," it made waves with a series of substantial catches this past week. Employing green bucktails tipped with squid and Gulp proved successful, as Kevin McNelis and his friends reeled in a good number of doormats. Summing up the experience, Kevin remarked, "life doesn't get any better than this." Notable catches also came from Anthony, Aiden and Tara, who shared a few splendid flounder they landed last Monday at Lewes Icehouse Bait & Tackle.

A significant achievement for Kelly Wilkinson Lysinger as she netted her first-ever mackerel while trolling the nearshore humps. The spanish

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 mackerel population has flourished, marking one of the most prosperous seasons in years.

The Fenwick Shoals are a hub of activity, with numerous fish eagerly engaging with trolled spoons. The shoals have also attracted a few wahoo and cobia. A friendly reminder about the impending Flounder Pounder Tournament, which will undoubtedly fill the local coral grounds and wrecks with a flotilla of boats.

Back Bays & Inlet

August has ushered in relatively mild weather during these "dog days of summer," as reported by Old Inlet Tackle. Daytime incoming tides have brought about sporadic snapper blues and spanish mackerel bites. Nighttime excursions have yielded better bluefish results, given their affinity for the lights at the Coast Guard station. For those seeking these fish, cut bait, swim jigs, and surface poppers have proven to be the most

effective baits. Noteworthy mentions include the presence of togs and sheepshead along the rocks, and the anticipated appearances of black drum and triggerfish.

When it comes to inlet fishing for flounder, a strategic approach involving lead heads and Gulp baits in close proximity to the rocks has shown promising results. While the cut near the VFW has produced commendable flounder, high traffic and fishing activity have somewhat subdued the fish's willingness to bite.

Along the outer wall of the Delaware Bay, Ian Wilson, Jason Wilson, and Scott Garlock ventured out with sand fleas, resulting in a successful haul of sheepshead and triggerfish. This past week, the Outer Wall and Icebreakers have notably started to yield sheepshead catches.

Until Next Week...
 Tight Lines and Fins Up! §



Jack McLaughlin and friends spent the day with Capt. Cary Evan on the "Grizzly" out of Lewes Harbour Marina. He caught the largest flatfish of the day at an ocean structure with this 7.5 lb. flounder.

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Little Claire Lobos from Baltimore, MD is now a true salt! She went fishing on the headboat "Judith M" with Capt. Eric Shoaff and caught this cute pinfish at a natural reef.



Hook'em & Cook'em Bait & Tackle at the Indian River Marina has been reporting a slew of fat flounder from the inshore reefs & wrecks! Kris Groszer of Lewes, DE fished on the "New Beginnings" at the DelJersey reef and caught this 23" and 4.1 lb. flatfish.

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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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  ★ <small>New</small>	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.		Bluefin Tuna 	May 29 Crew "Marli" Baltimore Canyon 216 lbs.	July 31 Eric Widland 19 Fathom Lump 89 lbs.
Summer Flounder 	June 21 Haleigh Davis Ocean Structure 7 lbs.	June 26 Mike Lewis Old Grounds 9.6 lbs.	Longfin Tuna 		
Sea Bass 	May 20 Wayne Small Ocean Structure 5 lbs.	May 22 Richard Krauss Ocean Structure 4.3 lbs.	Yellowfin Tuna  ★ <small>New</small>	August 9 Ed Quick Poorman's Canyon 162.5 lbs.	July 30 Crew "Fish Whistle" Norfolk Canyon 132 lbs.
Sheepshead 	June 24 Rob English Ocean City Jetty 14 lbs.	June 5 Paul Mathews Outer Wall 13.78 lbs.	Dolphin 	August 1 Jack Hannum Poorman's Canyon 65 lbs.	
Striped Bass 	June 1 Buddy Martin Rt. 50 Bridge 12 lbs.	May 22 Chic Stearrett Bethany Beach 18.7 lbs.	Swordfish 	June 16 Crew "Wrecker" Poor Man's Canyon 100 lbs.	
Tautog 		May 6 James Milano Ocean Structure 22.9 lbs.	Blue Marlin  ★ <small>New</small>	August 11 John Ols Poor Man's Canyon 640.5 lbs.	
Wahoo  ★ <small>New</small>	August 8 John Harris Dump Site 57 lbs.		White Marlin 		

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



I recently reviewed a publication I had on file from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFC) about the Atlantic highly migratory species they manage.

The report was from a few years old and essentially a rundown of the status of the HMS fishery, new rules and regulations that were up for consideration, and how those rules might impact fishermen.

Even though the report was a bit dated, I did find some interesting facts in it's description of the different fish covered by their HMS management plans. I've always maintained being well educated about the different fish we pursue not only makes us better fishermen, but also gives one a better appreciation, and concern, for the well-being of all of our marine resources. Seeing this kind of stuff coming from fishery reports and publications also makes me feel a bit more confident that those involved with managing our resources know a lot more about the different species that we fishermen often give them credit for. So here's a few "fun

facts" from the report:

Atlantic Swordfish

Reaching a maximum size of about 1165 pounds, Atlantic swordfish are one of the largest and fastest predators in the Atlantic Ocean.

Like sharks, swordfish must continually swim with their mouth open to keep water flowing across their gills to maintain an oxygen supply. This process is known as "ram gill ventilation" and is believed to conserve energy better than the more common mechanism used by most fish where water is pumped across the gills.

Because they do not have the ability to contract, swordfish's eyes produce heat when stimulated by the nervous system, which in turn warms the eye and brain tissues. This allows the fish to more effectively hunt in deep, cold-water environments without experiencing a decrease in brain and visual functions.

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

Bluefin tuna are known as fish that are of a late age when they become sexually mature and

can live to a relatively old age. The oldest age recorded from a tagged bluefin was one that was about two years old when tagged and was recaptured 18 years later.

Bluefin tuna from the western Atlantic generally reach a larger size than those of the eastern Atlantic.

Western Atlantic bluefin first spawn at about eight years old from mid-April into June in the Gulf of Mexico and the Florida Straits.

Atlantic Bigeye Tuna

Exhibiting very extensive vertical movements, bigeyes are actually able to dive deeper than other tuna species. They become sexually mature at about age three and a half and spawning takes place in tropical waters.

Atlantic Yellowfin Tuna

Small yellowfins will congregate near the surface in mixed schools with skipjacks and juvenile bigeyes.

Yellowfin growth rates depend on the size of the fish. Young fish grow slowly at first but faster after they leave the nursery grounds and most of

www.coastalfisherman.net the large yellowfins caught by fishermen are males.

Blue Marlin

Young blue marlin are one of the fastest growing of the bony fishes. They can reach close to 100 pounds after their first year. Females grow faster and reach a larger maximum size than males. The life expectancy for blue marlin is 20-30 years.

Blue marlin have relatively small stomachs which reduces the proportion of the body needed for "guts" and allows more volume for muscles. This translates into more swimming speed and endurance.

White Marlin

White marlin have a life span of about 18 years, they grow quickly and mature females are larger than males.

In July of 1995 a white marlin was tagged off Cape May NJ. It was recaptured off West Africa in November of 1996. The track covered 3,517 nautical miles in 476 days and is the longest recorded distance for one of these fish.

Some of the largest prey found in white marlin stomachs includes snake mackerel over 28-inches long.

Sailfish

Sailfish are probably the slowest growing of the Atlantic billfishes. The longest a tagged sailfish has gone from capture

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to recapture is 16.1 years and most sailfish caught off Florida are under three years of age.

Adult sailfish have few natural enemies but studies show that they are sometimes preyed upon by killer whales, bottlenose dolphin, and sharks.

Sharks

There is a lot still unknown about the natural life span of sharks, but for many species it is believed to be 30-40 years or longer.

Compared to other fish, sharks have a low reproductive potential. Species such as the sandbar, lemon, and bull shark do not reach sexual maturity until 12-30 years of age.

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. §



Capt. Jason Mumford on the "Lucky Break" decided to mix it up from all the flounder fishing lately. So he took Rusty and Dylan Thawley from Denton, MD out to the south Jetty of the Ocean City Inlet and targeted sheephead with clams. They caught this pair with one at 9 lbs. and the heaviest at 12 lbs., that's a big convict.

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It appears that Numen Bilal of Media, PA cannot get enough of fishing for rays off the beaches of Fenwick Island. This one measured 115" to the tail and 54" wing to wing and took over an hour to get to the sands. Pictured are Numen with his father Turkmen Vilal and sons Evren and Atlas, and friends.



Young Aaron Paxton from Hamburg, PA clearly connected the dots on how to land this big flounder. He was fishing with Capt. Eric Shoaff at the Little Gull Shoal on the headboat "Judith M" out of the Bahia Marina.

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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



The Best Lobster Recipe Ever

Ingredients:

- 4 lobster tails
- Salt and pepper
- 1/4 cup butter melted
- 3 garlic cloves minced
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon thyme minced
- 1 teaspoon rosemary minced
- 1 teaspoon parsley chopped

Directions:

Preheat the oven to broil or 500 degrees. Start by preparing the lobster. Using kitchen shears butterfly the tail by cutting down the center. Loosen the meat and pull the lobster meat upward. Salt and pepper the meat and set on a baking sheet.

In a small bowl whisk together the melted butter, garlic,



paprika, thyme, rosemary, and parsley. Spread evenly on each lobster tail.

Broil the lobster tails for about 8-10 minutes or until the meat

is opaque and lightly brown on the top. Serve with melted butter if desired.

How to Make Maryland Crab Cakes

Ingredients:

- Cooking spray
- 1 pound crabmeat, shredded
- 1 1/2 tablespoons dry bread crumbs
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh parsley
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1/2 teaspoon ground dry mustard
- 1 dash hot pepper sauce

Directions:

Preheat the oven's broiler. Lightly grease a broiler pan or baking sheet with cooking spray.

Mix crabmeat, bread crumbs, parsley, salt, and pepper together in a large bowl.

Mix egg, mayonnaise, mustard, and hot sauce together in a small



bowl; stir into crab mixture until well combined.

Form into patties and place on the prepared broiler pan or baking sheet.

Broil crab cakes under the preheated broiler until golden brown on both sides, about 5 to 7 minutes per side.

Serve hot and enjoy!

Grilled Vegetable & Swordfish Kebabs

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup olive oil, plus more for oiling the grill grates
- 1 tablespoon grated garlic
- 1 tablespoon grated ginger
- Zest of 1 lemon

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

2 pounds swordfish, cut into 1-inch cubes

4 to 6 mini bell peppers of varying colors

1 medium red onion, cut into 1-inch pieces, ends kept on

1 medium zucchini, cut into 3/4-inch-thick rounds



1 cup cherry tomatoes

Garlic Aioli:

Juice of 1 lemon

1 cup mayonnaise

1 tablespoon chopped fresh cilantro

1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

2 teaspoons minced garlic

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

1 teaspoon sherry vinegar

1/2 teaspoon hot sauce

8 pieces pita or naan, toasted on the grill

Chopped fresh cilantro, for garnish

Chopped fresh parsley, for garnish

Directions:

Special equipment: 10 (12-inch) metal or wooden skewers

For the kebabs: Whisk together the olive oil, garlic, ginger, lemon zest and some salt and pepper in a small bowl. Put the swordfish in a large bowl. Put the peppers, onions, zucchini and tomatoes in another large bowl. Evenly divide the olive oil mixture between the two bowls and toss to coat. Cover and let marinate for about 30 minutes to 1 hour at room temperature.

For the garlic aioli: Meanwhile,

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whisk together the lemon juice, mayonnaise, cilantro, parsley, garlic, mustard, vinegar and hot sauce in a medium bowl. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use.

When the fish and vegetables are ready, preheat a grill over medium-high heat. (If using wooden skewers, soak in water for at least 30 minutes before grilling.)

Meanwhile, thread the swordfish onto six 12-inch skewers. Thread the peppers, onions, zucchini and tomatoes onto individual skewers.

Brush the grill grates with oil. Place the kebabs on the grill, sprinkle with salt and pepper, and grill until lightly charred and grill-marked and the swordfish is cooked through, 3 to 5 minutes per side.

To serve, spread 1 to 2 teaspoons of garlic aioli on top of each pita. Place the swordfish and vegetables on top, drizzle with more garlic aioli, and sprinkle with cilantro and parsley.

Blackened Wahoo

Ingredients:

- 12-16 ounces wahoo
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- Pinch of cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon thyme or oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder



1/2 lemon

Directions:

Rinse wahoo in cold water and pat dry with paper towels.

Mix spices in a small bowl and cover the fish entirely with it.

Heat butter in a skillet (it has to be very hot!) and place fish in it. Cook for 2 minutes on one side and then for another 2 minutes on other side.

Move to the plate, squeeze lemon on top and serve.

Pecan & Rosemary Crusted Flounder

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup panko breadcrumbs
- 3/4 cup pecans
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh rosemary, plus sprigs for garnish, optional
- 2 teaspoons seafood seasoning (see next recipe)
- 2 large eggs
- 1 1/4 pounds skinless flounder fillets, pin bones removed

Nonstick cooking spray, for the baking sheet

Fresh lemon juice and lemon wedges, for garnish

Directions:

Place a rimmed baking sheet in the oven and preheat the oven to 425 degrees F.

Pulse the panko and pecans in a food processor until finely chopped. Stir together the panko mixture, rosemary and 1/2 teaspoon of the seafood seasoning in a shallow dish or plate. Whisk the eggs in a separate shallow dish until lightly beaten.

Sprinkle the flounder with the remaining 1 1/2 teaspoons seafood seasoning. Dip the fish in the eggs and dredge in the panko mixture until coated.

Remove the baking sheet from the oven and coat with the cooking spray. Place the fish on the hot pan and coat the tops with cooking spray. Bake until the fish flakes with a fork, 8 to 10 minutes.

Remove the fish from the oven

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and sprinkle with lemon juice before serving. Garnish with lemon wedges and rosemary sprigs if using.

Seafood Seasoning

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons smoked paprika or sweet paprika
- 2 tablespoons garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon thyme
- 1 teaspoon celery seed
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin

1/4 teaspoon allspice

Directions:

Whisk the ingredients together in a small bowl. Transfer to an airtight container or jar. Store for 6 months to 1 year in a cool, dry place.

How to season fish: Use 1 tablespoon seafood seasoning for every 1/2 pound (8 ounces) of fish.

Garlic Herb Tuna Steak Marinade

Ingredients:

- 2-4 tuna steaks

Marinade Ingredients:

- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped cilantro
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped parsley
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon coarsely cracked black pepper - or 1/4 teaspoon ground pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
- Juice of half a lemon - about 2 tablespoons

Directions:

Combine all of the marinade ingredients and whisk vigorously.

Place tuna steaks in a gallon ziploc bag. Add the marinade, toss to coat the tuna steaks, press out excess air and seal (if using ziploc bag).

Transfer to the fridge and chill for 30 minutes.



Grill 6-8 minutes on each side until easily flaked with a fork and center of tuna steak is just barely pink. Internal temperature should read 90-95 degrees when done. Alternately, steaks can be seared in a skillet over medium-high heat, or broiled in the oven at 400 degrees.

Notes:

Serving size: makes enough for 4 tuna steaks. If using more tuna steaks, double the marinade.

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Ahi Tuna Sushi Stacks

Ingredients:

- 2 avocados, diced
 - 2 medium-sized tuna steaks
 - 1 orange, peeled and cut up
 - 1/2 cup panko breadcrumbs
 - 1 cup microgreens 1 tbsp hoisin sauce for drizzling
 - Tamari vinaigrette:
 - 3 tbsp tamari
 - 1 tbsp sesame oil
 - 1 tbsp lime juice
 - 1 tsp chili garlic sauce
 - 2 green onions thinly sliced
 - 1/2 nori sheet, cut into thin strips
 - 1 tsp Sesame seeds for garnish
 - Wonton chips:
 - 1/2 package wonton wrappers
 - Cooking spray
 - Sea salt, to taste
- Directions:
Preheat the oven to 400°F. Add wonton wrappers to a parchment lined baking sheet, spray with cooking spray,

www.coastalfisherman.net
season with salt and bake for 2 minutes. Flip, then bake another 2 minutes, watching closely so they don't burn.

Meanwhile, dice tuna steaks into 1/4-inch pieces. I find it easiest to freeze tuna for about 1 hour to get it to harden up so it's easier to cut. Add tuna and chopped up orange segments to a large bowl, tossing with tamari, sesame oil, lime juice, chili garlic sauce, green onions, nori strips and sesame seeds.

Try your best to divide all ingredients in four. Add a bit of the tuna mixture to a 1 cup measuring cup, then top with avocado. Press everything down hard in the measuring cup. This is key to getting that stack shape.

Drizzle a bit of hoisin sauce on a plate, then flip measuring cup upside down so it comes out in a stack-like form. Top with panko breadcrumbs and microgreens, then serve alongside wonton chips and enjoy! §

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MARYLAND STATE LINE

The map shows the Delaware coast with numbered markers 1 through 7 indicating restaurant locations. A red arrow points to Lewes. The Maryland State Line is marked at the bottom.

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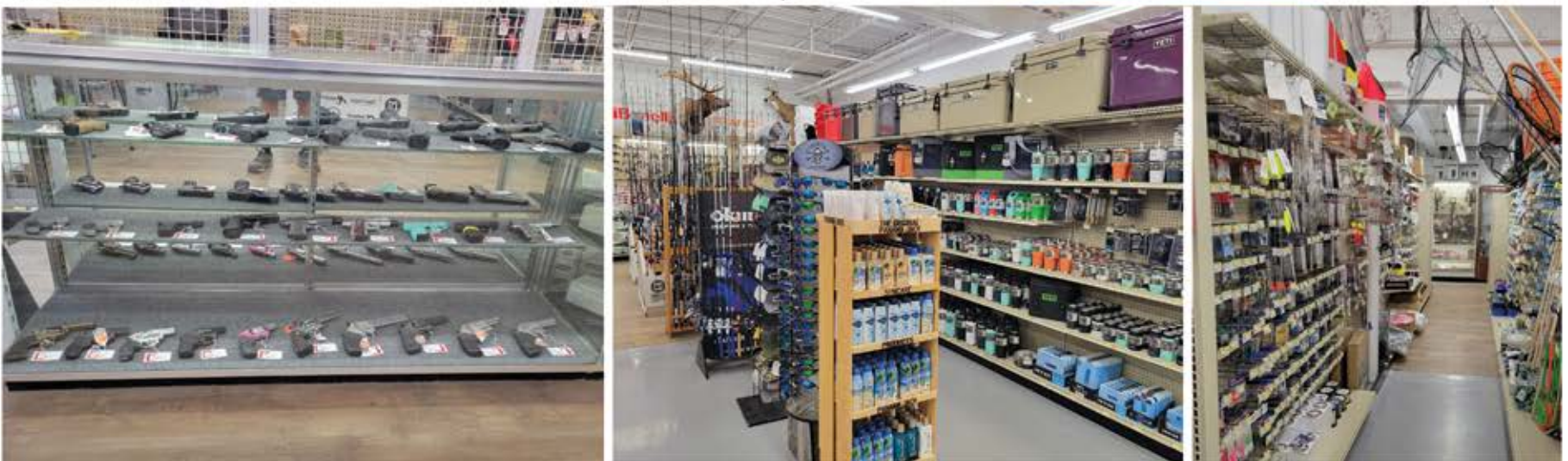


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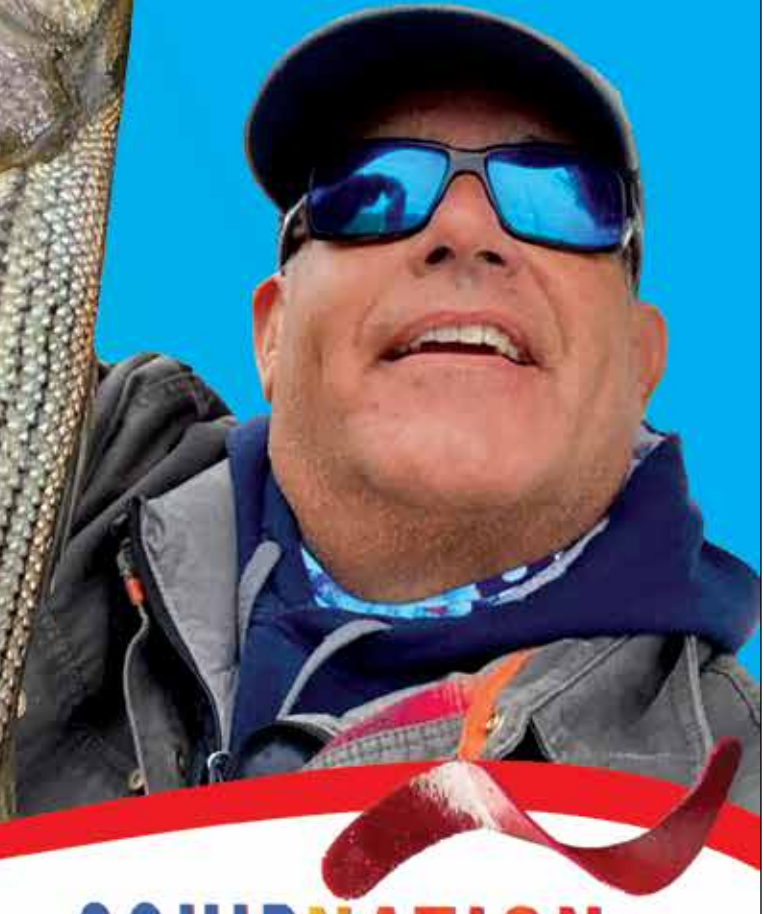
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The headboat "Tortuga" based at the Bahia Marina had a very successful evening trip working the Ocean City Bay. This group all came home with a keeper flounder.



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!



It was big smiles for Karen & Mary Arrabal of Cincinnati, OH showing off two keeper flounder, with the largest at 18½". The were fishing the OC Inlet using minnows with Capt. Jason Mumford on the "Lucky Break".

An advertisement for Cheers! restaurant. At the top, it says "Since 1989" next to a Facebook logo. The word "Cheers!" is written in large, stylized, yellow-outlined letters on a green background. Below this, there is a photograph of various drinks: a tall glass of beer with a thick head of foam, a glass of red wine, and several glasses of spirits. A bag of Gobble's potato chips is also visible. A circular badge on the right says "OPEN EVERYDAY from 8am - 8pm". At the bottom, it lists "Beer • Wine • Spirits" and "GOTTA GO GIBBLE'S!". The phone number "410.641.2366" and the address "9923 Old Ocean City Blvd. • Berlin, MD 21811" are provided, along with the Sunoco logo.

Ship to Shore

STEVE'S MARINE SERVICE
by Steve Katz



Beyond the Cockpit - Tournament Preparation

Tournament season is in full swing here on the Mid-Atlantic coast. Some of the best boats and teams have converged in our area to compete for millions in prize money - from New Jersey to South Carolina there is a tournament for every angler in every size boat.

Working on sportfishing boats year-round, I see my fair share of service and repairs to these vessels. Though it seems that just before or during a big tournament, boat service issues arise that have not been a problem all year!

Just in the last couple of days, a few big projects were performed "overnight" at Sunset Marina, a complete large Seakeeper replacement and an Omni Sonar replacement. These projects are usually planned out in advance, with detailed coordination of the marina, parts, and skilled service providers. When it comes to tournament time, repairs, and service like this can only happen "overnight" with the dedication of service providers whom you have an established relationship with.

The projects this week would not have happened so quickly without the help of the manufacturers bypassing their normal channels and getting products to the service providers amazingly fast. A special thanks to all manufacturers who have helped and continue to support us all year long but especially during a tournament emergency. Of course, the local service providers and especially the marinas for staying "open" until the jobs are done.

Preparing for the Tournament

The fishing part of the boat is usually well stocked with mates, bait, tackle, and a lot of backup supplies, but that is not always the case with the mechanical/electrical/electronics part of the boat. It is difficult to have a spare or backup of everything on your boat and is not generally needed. Though there are a few items that prove to be critical and seem to stop working during a tournament.

One popular item that seems to go out at the worst time is the Garmin SiriusXM weather antenna power supply. This is

a special module that supplies power to the Garmin SiriusXM antenna which is necessary to receive marine weather data, such as sea surface temperature and offshore weather. There is a small led light on the power supply, red is bad, green is good. Carrying a spare power supply is a good idea, it is not too expensive, not too difficult to install and seems to go bad when you need it the most.

On that topic, it is a good idea to check SiriusXM, DirectTV and other subscription-based services. While most

boaters have these services on an automatic renewal, a subscription issue seems to only happen during the tournament. Nowadays, with Starlink and satellite phones, the captain or crew could easily call the service provider to update the subscription if needed. Though you often need account numbers and serial numbers and an unnecessary lengthy conversation to get your service re-activated, all while tournament fishing, not the best time but it can certainly get you going again.

If your boat has air conditioning, refrigeration and or ice makers, these systems really get a workout during tournament season. For instance, some larger boats have numerous air



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SiriusXM Fish Mapping Screen Sample

conditioning systems that are not often needed at the dock with just a few crew members onboard. Come tournament week, a boatload of crew, friends, and family pack the boat full of people, creating an extra warm environment for the air conditioner to cool. These systems need to be in tip-top operation condition to keep everyone cool. An air conditioner that is dirty or low on refrigerant might be OK when the boat is empty but when you have a full house, it cannot keep up with the cooling requirements. It is best to go through these systems in advance of tournaments to assure they are operating 100% before the team arrives.

Helm Electronics

Most chart plotters manufacturers offer regular software updates to enhance their products. Unfortunately,

the combination of hardware vintage and brands on any given boat may not play well with the latest version of software or some old feature is removed to make room for a new feature.

If it has been a while since you updated your chartplotters or peripheral software, it is a good idea to review the notes on the latest version and see if it fixes or contains the enhancements you desire. If so, update the software at least a few weeks before the tournament so you can adjust to the changes and be sure it is functioning properly. The possibility of a botched software update the night before fishing outweighs the updated features.

When it comes to Tournament fishing preparation - do not forget about the boat's systems while preparing the fishing gear and tackle. §



Capt. Scott Stapleford with mate Gary Sargent on the charter boat "Game On" kept these anglers busy going 6 for 8 on yellowfins totaling 330 lbs. Six fish on a single trip is impressive given the conditions last week. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Don't forget to update helm software like chart plotters.

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Capt. Chris Mizurak on the headboat "Angler" has been reporting some slow starts to recent trips, however the action picks up as the day progresses with keeper flounder, some trigger fish and a knot head or two making their way to coolers.



14 year old Daulton O'Donnell of Atglen, PA tore it up on this trip with Capt. Jason Mumford on the charter boat "Lucky Break". They fished the Ocean City Inlet using jigs and minnows to reel in these 3 keeper flounder.

2023 MARYLAND · DELAWARE · VIRGINIA CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES

	MD	DE **	VA		MD	DE **	MD
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	8 lbs. or 22"	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"	35 lbs.
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	80 lbs. or 46"	Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"	30"
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
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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



Luke Manolescu of West Grove, PA used bull minnows to land these 2 keeper flounder from the Indian River Inlet with the largest at 18". Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the marina.

Anglers Chris Zellner from Schnecksville, PA, Jon Hoffman of Mertztown, PA and Larry Wehl from Kurtztown got in on the hot bigeye action. They joined Capt. Mark Hess on his boat the "Slaughterhouse" for a day in the Wilmington Canyon. They caught this 220 lb. bigeye and a couple of hefty yellowfins.

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Jimmy Mourlas spent some time on the waters off of Watts Island in the Virginia part of the Chesapeake Bay with Capt. C.L. Marshall. They were fishing with peeler crabs for other prey, but instead reeled in this pompano!



Lane, Drew, Tricia and Brad Wolters with Donna Guttridge look like they had a good trip with Capt. Jason Mumford on the charter boat "Lucky Break". They fished mainly at the OC Inlet with minnows where Lane took top honors with a 22" keeper flounder.

2023 VIRGINIA REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

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

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Capt. Dave Borrell took Brian and Brady Weibley of New Bloomfield, PA out on his pontoon to get them some flounder. He found success using white Gulp Mulletts near Harbor Island boating 4 almost identical keeper flounder!



On the last day of the White Marlin Open anglers Paul Pedone, Danny Echert, John Riggs, Jon Bauer, Scott Carstates, Steve Werner and Todd Dundore with Capt. Ken Thompson already had a 162.5 lb. allison tuna on the board, so they were marlin fishing. They were on the "Reel Oppor-Tuna-Ty" and went 1 for 2 on whites and managed this 28 lb. wahoo that hit on a diving plug



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Matthew and Linda Brannan had a good day at a nearshore structure catching 5 keeper flounder up to 22" They were fishing on the "Late Bite" with Capt. Brian Brannan using pink Gulp.

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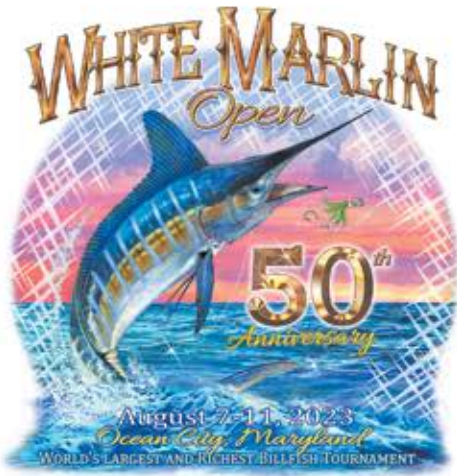
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3RD PLACE

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NONE WEIGHED

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2ND PLACE

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"AQUILA"
32 LBS. • \$82,520

3RD PLACE

WILLIAM McATEER
"MAVERICK"
31 LBS. • \$30,065

WAHOO

1ST PLACE

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57 LBS. • \$4,700

2ND PLACE

CHAD JOHNSON
"CAPTAIN DEADLY"
55 LBS. • \$31,065

3RD PLACE

MATTHEW GESSLER
"BOY'S TOY"
46 LBS. • \$29,065

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1ST PLACE

BRIAN DEMILE
"TRASH MAN"
770 POINTS

2ND PLACE

BERNARD LINNEY
"HIGH YIELD"
700 POINTS

3RD PLACE

DAVE McKENDRICK
"TAYLOR JEAN"
665 POINTS

DAILY POINTS

MONDAY 8/7

"TRASH MAN"
665 POINTS

WEDNESDAY 8/9

"TAYLOR JEAN"
525 POINTS

THURSDAY 8/10

"RO SHAM BO"
175 POINTS

FRIDAY 8/11

"MAX BET"
490 POINTS

TOP BOATS

1ST PLACE

"FIN PLANNER"
1,190 POINTS
DAY 3

2ND PLACE

"MAX BET"
1,120 POINTS
DAY 3

3RD PLACE

"TAYLOR JEAN"
1,085 POINTS
DAY 3

TOP RELEASE BOATS

1ST PLACE

"FIN PLANNER"
1,190 POINTS
DAY 3

2ND PLACE

"MAX BET"
1,120 POINTS
DAY 3

3RD PLACE

"TRASH MAN"
1,015 POINTS
DAY 2

SMALL BOAT BIG FISH

1ST PLACE

CHRIS MENTLIK
"FISHLIK"
247.5 LBS. \$366,662

SMALL BOAT RELEASE

1ST PLACE

"PRIME HOOK"
420 POINTS

SMALL BOAT DOLPHIN

1ST PLACE

TIMOTHY GOODMAN
"AQUILA"
32 LBS. \$82,520

SMALL BOAT TUNA

1ST PLACE

CHRIS MENTLIK
"FISHLIK"
247.5 LBS. \$366,662

Boats Fished by Day
Monday - 378
Tuesday - 22
Wednesday - 383
Thursday - 60
Friday - 357

BOATS REGISTERED - 400



Photo courtesy of the White Marlin Open

The competition for the top tuna spot was competitive during the 50th Annual White Marlin Open! Nine bigeye tuna had hit the scales through day 4 of the event with a 247.5 pounder on top of the leaderboard. Most thought that was going to be hard to beat, but not the crew of the "Reel Tight"! Capt. and owner Steven Pilipauskis was first to the scales at 4PM on the last day with a bigeye tuna caught by Brian Stewart of Shadyside, MD. The crowd on the dock roared as the big fish made its way to the scales and erupted when the weighmaster called out 265 lbs. sliding securely into 1st Place in the Tuna Division and setting a record for the Heaviest Bigeye Tuna this season! The crew had just got the spread out in the Washington Canyon when the big fish quickly, only 20 minutes after lines in taking just over an hour to get to the boat. Rounding out the crew were Brian Stempowski, Carey Riel, Dave Angel, Dave Schwartz, Mark Manger and Mark Sun. The eyeball remained unchallenged taking 1st Place for the Tournament and earning a cool \$1,019,441 in prize monies.



Photo courtesy of the White Marlin Open

Capt. Chris Mentlik with mate David Bruning and anglers Daniel Fitzpatrick, Jeremy Vanover, Mark Montgomery, Richard Folino and Steven Montgomery brought a lot of energy to the scales last Wednesday during the 50th Annual White Marlin Open! They were first to the dock at just after 5PM with a mess of tuna they caught chunking in the Washington Canyon. They put 5 fish on the dock, but it was the bigeye tuna caught by Chris Mentlik of Street, MD that captured the crowds attention. Once on the scales it weighed 247.5 lbs. and easily moved into 1st Place. It held onto the top spot until Friday were it moved to 2nd Place in the Tuna Division where it finished overall. In addition the crew took top honors in the Small Boat Category for Heaviest Tuna and Biggest Fish earning a combined tournament payout of \$366.662.

2023 FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles

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

SHARKS AUTHORIZED SPECIES

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

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

PROHIBITED SHARKS

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

Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov



Photo courtesy of the White Marlin Open

Angler Andrew Spangenberg brought a real surprise to the scales during the 50th Annual White Marlin Open, a 50½ lb. mahi. Dolphin that size are not unusual this far north and it took 1st Place earning \$32,065. Andrew was fishing in the Washington Canyon on the “Roncito” with owner Schrader Grady, Brooks Grady, Courtney Grady, Doug Workman and Kevin Oaster with Capt. Al Rittmeyer and mates Emerson Tores and Mario Castañeda.



Photo courtesy of the White Marlin Open

In many tournaments we will not see any wahoo caught, but that was not the case at the 50th Annual White Marlin Open. It was owner Ricky Rothenberger’s first time in the WMO. He and fellow anglers David Hass and John Harris with mate Robert Auman chose one of the roughest days to head out in their 29’ walkaround cuddy! They stayed close in at the Dump Site and managed this 57 lb. speedster that got hooked in the lip and held on to take 1st Place in the Wahoo Division and \$4,700.



Photo courtesy of the White Marlin Open

We think the “Maverick” is going to need a bigger boat with a crew this size! It was however Will McAteer that caught a 31 lb. and 57” mahi during the 50th Annual White Marlin Open in the Wilmington Canyon that locked the crew into 3rd Place in the Mahi Division and \$30,065 in prize money. The actual crew fishing with Will were Capt. Jake Farley with mates Charlie Coates & Chase Neider and fellow anglers Ken Scaturro, Mason Newcomer, Pat McAteer, Randy Newcomer, Rick Wrieden!

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Photo courtesy of the White Marlin Open

The crew of the "Ro Sham Bo" had one of the more interesting stories from the 50th Annual White Marlin Open. They were one of the 60 boats that fished last Thursday and returned to the scales with a 215 lb. bigeye tuna caught by Rusty Shriver inside the Washington Canyon that placed them in 3rd Place at the time. The next day they headed out to east of the Baltimore Canyon in search of marlin! Angler Doug Reynolds hooked up early on a big blue marlin on a 130, but the beast fought him for over 7 hours before it died from the fight. It sank to the bottom and the fish was too large to real in as dead weight. The bigeye slipped out of the top 3 on Friday, however the crew of Capt. Willie Zimmerman with mates Evan Evans & Joey Marowski with Bill Zommerman, Dan Pamcutt, Doug Reynolds, Glen Heitman, Mike Wheaton, Nick Shriver and Rusty had a big consolation prize waiting for them. Since no qualifying white marlin were weighed, the money from the Level AC 50th Anniversary Calcutta rolled to the tuna category and the "Ro Sham Bo"s 215 lb. eyeball was the biggest in the calcutta earning the crew \$1,782,403!


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Photo courtesy of the White Marlin Open

There were only a few dolphin brought to the scales during the 50th Annual White Marlin Open last week with Friday being the busy day. Anglers Brandon McKenzie, Shawn Rapf and Timothy Goodman on the "Aquila" out of Beach Haven, NJ were the last boat to the scales for the event bringing in a 32 lb. mahi that Timothy Goodman of Palm Beach, FL caught. It slipped into 2nd Place overall as well as taking the Small Boat Dolphin Award for a combined payout of \$82,520.



Photo courtesy of the White Marlin Open

Owner and Capt. Mike Kahoud on the "Captain Deadly" with his mates Christopher Krebs, Liam Cormier-St. John and Melvin Gonzales with anglers Jeff Williams and Chad Jackson came down from Long Island to fish the 50th Annual White Marlin Open. On Wednesday they were deep in the Washington Canyon trolling a long weed line looking for mahi with no bites. They switched to marlin fishing and hooked into a 55 lb. wahoo on a circle hook in the lip! The speedster put on quick a show jumping high in the air until Chad got it to the boat. It held on to 2nd Place in the Wahoo Division earning \$31,065.



Photo courtesy of the White Marlin Open

The 50th Annual White Marlin Open this year had a theme, tuna! With no qualifying billfish coming to the scales until the last day, anglers battled it out with bigeye tuna. On Thursday Capt. Steve Pfeiffer with mates Brendon Hawkins & John Zimmerman on the "Game Over" headed out to above the Washington Canyon in deep water. The crew of Dennis Mason, Michael Harrop, Peter Ciaremello, Raymond McGrath, Tom Ford and Tom Akers had to deal with rough water and weather. It was during a thunderstorm that John Zimmerman hooked up with this 221½ lb. eyeball taking just 45 minutes to boat. It held it's own and finished 3rd in the Tuna Division taking home \$169,929 in awards.



Photo courtesy of the White Marlin Open

The crew of the "Fin Planner" accepts their award for being both the Top Boat and Top Release Boat during the 50th Annual White Marlin Open. Owner Mark Fortier and anglers AJ DeCenzo, Bill Hoffman, Gary Reed, Hal Williams, Jason Gibbs, Peter Rivera and Ted Vincent with mates Chris Storrs & Lee Alberty in total released 17 white marlins for a combined point score of 1,190 and earning \$58,740 in prize money. Capt. Chris Gornell reported they spent their fishing days in the Baltimore Canyon in about 500 fathoms.

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Capt. Ken Thompson with anglers Donny Echert, John Riggs, Jon Bauer, Paul Pedone, Scott Carstairs, Steve Werner and Todd Dundore with mates Adam Thompson & Ed Quick were the 1st of 4 boats to bring in big allison yellowfin tuna during the 50th Annual White Marlin Open! Ed Quick caught the 162.5 lb. allison in the Poor Man's Canyon. The crew also released a white marlin on the last day of the event earning the Small Boat Daily Points and \$88406 in prize money.



The White Marlin Open has always been a family affair for the "Boy's Toy" and the Gesslers of South Bethany, DE. The 50th Anniversary of the event was no exception! Young 15 year old Matthew Gessler caught a 46 lb. wahoo to take 3rd Place in that division and \$29,065 in prize money. He is not the first one in the family to win money in the Open. His Uncle and captain of the "Boy's Toy", Tommy Gessler won the Open when he was 15! His grandfather also fished many of the tournaments over the decades. Matthew is surrounded by his family as is the Gessler way!

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. AUGUST 16 New Moon	High 08:33 am High 09:12 pm	Low 02:47 am Low 02:27 pm
THUR. AUGUST 17	High 09:15 am High 09:43 pm	Low 03:19 am Low 03:04 pm
FRI. AUGUST 18	High 09:55 am High 10:16 pm	Low 03:49 am Low 03:41 pm
SAT. AUGUST 19	High 10:33 am High 10:50 pm	Low 04:18 am Low 04:21 pm
SUN. AUGUST 20	High 11:11 am High 11:24 pm	Low 04:48 am Low 05:04 pm
MON. AUGUST 21	High 11:50 am High 11:59 pm	Low 05:21 am Low 05:51 pm
TUE. AUGUST 22	High ----- High 12:31 pm	Low 06:00 am Low 06:43 pm
WED. AUGUST 23	High 12:38 am High 01:38 pm	Low 06:43 am Low 07:39 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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The crew of the "Floor Reel" of owner John Ols, Capt. Dave Warren & mate Rob Belcher with anglers Chet Rohrbach, Floyd Leavell, Jim McKeever, Joseph Thurlow, Joseph Zimmer and Luke Mitchell are joined by Tournament founder Jim Motsko, Presenting Sponsor Pure Lure's Brendan Hanley and Park Place Jeweler's Jill Ferrante in accepting the top prize for winning the 50th Annual White Marlin Open. Not only was their \$6,235,436 award the largest in tournament history, it is also the largest payout of any tournament worldwide.

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VIRGINIA

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



Other than the excitement of the White Marlin Open the fishing scene around the southern Eastern Shore has been quiet and quite breezy. But even when a strong westerly gust lets the air out of (or maybe puts air into) your fishing plans that you have had all week, there is still fun to be had and fish to crank on in the waters of the greatest place on earth!

The offshore scene has been bumpy in regards to seas but flat when we talk about furious fishing action. The tuna and mahi bite has carried the bulk of the buzz from the deep but reports of bills that could be worth millions of bills are coming in for a dramatic end to the Open.

Closer to shore, a structure oriented flounder bite is still under way for those tough enough or crazy enough to plow their way through the seas of whitecaps. The rough conditions have lent themselves to jigging (with a short period wind driven chop, you really have no

choice), 2-4 oz. jigs with Gulp and or strip bait like flounder belly.

Along with flounder our sea bass season has reopened. Our regs include a 13 inch minimum size and a creel limit of 15 fish per person. This is sure to add an additional aspect and fillets for the table to upcoming offshore excursions.

The inshore flounder bite has been stunted by turbid water. Steadfast summer flounder fishermen have been reaching for their landing nets usually during the brief periods of clear water around high water. The usual baits of minnows, silversides, squid strips, and Gulp have continued to be the primary choices fished on some pretty loud and bright teasers to lure keepers from the murk.

The shallow waters of the seaside also have provided a backup plan of small croakers, kingfish, spot and of course the summertime standby....sharks. The spot and kingfish have been

caught on small hooked t&b rigs both with and without attractor floats tipped with small pieces of bloodworm or Fishbites. The sharks have taken cut bait like bunkers, mackerel and even the spot and croakers that have been readily available in the same waters.

The Chesapeake has seen a brief reprieve with slightly lower water temperatures. This has cultured a spec bite in the shallows from the Tangier and Pocomoke Sounds south. Fishing is not hot and heavy, but there is enough action to give it a cast. You may just luck into a slot sized red or a warm weather rock, which is legal in MD again.

The southern bay has still blessed us with a few cobia, sheepshead around the reefs, and spanish on the troll. We also are starting to see evidence of the annual spawning run of red monsters with spots on their tails. These fish can be found in 15-30 foot depths around the sloughs

www.coastalfisherman.net and hills of the lower Chesapeake from Watts Island down to Hungers Creek. A fish finder rig with a 8/0 octopus circle is all the tackle you need to line up a battle with one of these fish of a lifetime. An offering of cut spot, croaker, and kingfish is the only invitation needed to spend time battling with a dinner guest that will make your drag sing and the grumpiest of us all smile in delight.

This week a year ago, after a windy week just like this past, Michelle, Sammy, Belle and myself went down to test the waters and see if some magnum reds wanted to play. We had a night that we will remember for the rest of our lives. It wasn't just the awesome fishing, (although that helped cement the memory) it was the laughing, dinner on the boat, and watching a beautiful Eastern Shore sunset TOGETHER. Now, with Sammy busy working and with friends and Belle working and riding horses, I am starting to realize just what I may take for granted. So get out there and make some memories in this wonderful place we call home! §

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Capt. C.L. Marshall with Kim Mourlas found a beautiful day to be on the Pocomoke Sound in Virginia. They caught this keeper rockfish using peeler crabs.



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TOURNAMENT ***

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Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 1, 2, & 3
Weigh-Ins: September 1, 2, & 3
6:00-8:00pm at Sunset Marina

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Capt. Janet Rupp from Chesapeake, MD snagged a big flatfish! She caught this 24" and 5.5 lb. flounder at the Winter Quarter Shoal on squid while fishing with Capt. Victor Bunting and mates Matthew Moran and Jeff Nottingham on the "Ocean Princess".

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 September 10 • OC Fishing Center • 410-213-1121
18th Annual Bahia Marina Flounder Pounder
 September 10 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438
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 Oct 8-10 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974
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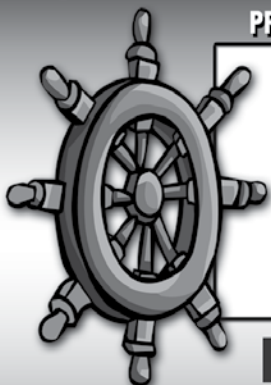
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