

Priceless

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COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME 35 • • • WINTER ISSUE • • • 2010



At the end of October, Steve Doctor of Ocean City, MD set a new Maryland state record by capturing this 62 lb. great northern tilefish while fishing on the "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and Mates Dean Lo and Matt Temple. The fish was caught on a squid and skipjack tuna combination in 800 feet of water in the Baltimore Canyon. This was one of six Maryland state records set along the coast this year and missed the IGFA All Tackle World Record by only 1 lb. 8 oz. Weighed at Sunset Marina.

Double Lines

by Dale Timmons



Welcome to the annual winter edition of Coastal Fisherman. In our last weekly issue in September, I wished you "light winds," among other things, but I must have jinxed us all, because that certainly hasn't been the case. We've had another fall and early winter of wind, wind and more wind, including some serious northeasters that have devastated the beaches from Delaware to North Carolina. Fishing during that time period has been hit and miss. We had a continued good white marlin bite in late September into October, and there were tuna offshore all the way into November, but very few anglers were chasing them. In their infinite wisdom, the feds saw fit to close the sea bass season just as the fall fishing was cranking up. This action, coupled with the flounder closure in

Maryland, gave ocean bottom fishermen very little reason to even go out. Inshore, the speckled trout season was practically nonexistent, and after years of chasing specks, it is still a mystery to me why they are here some years and gone the next. At least I still have all those new lures I bought in anticipation of this year's season, not to mention a rod and reel or two. The fall red drum season was fairly productive, although one of those northeasters came right in the height of it and certainly didn't help matters. Good numbers of large reds were caught by anglers fishing the inshore shoals in boats, but for some reason (probably the abundance of food on the shoals) not too many of these fish came into the surf. Along the Virginia barrier islands, there were a lot of puppy drum and "yearlings" in

the 30-inch class, but not a lot of larger fish, at least in my experience. Oddly enough, there were at least two puppy drum caught the last week of November and the first week of December on Assateague. More proof that you never know what might happen if you have bait in the water. Even though we had a lot of wind, temperatures have been relatively mild, and water temps remained in the mid-50s into early December, so we had a striper season where the fish kind of "trickled down", though I think quite a few fish got by us in the bad northeaster in mid-November. There were still a lot of bunker in the ocean in early December, however, which meant that both stripers and big bluefish hung around. Even though a lot of striper anglers weren't too happy about it, this was probably one of the best seasons in recent memory for the big bluefish, both just off the beach and in the surf (good news for folks selling 9-inch plastic shad bodies). These slammers were big, too. I heard of at least one 39-incher from Assateague, and I caught a few

myself that would have probably topped the 15-pound mark. Anyway, as this is being written in early December, there are still blues and stripers around, but there is yet another "coastal low" coming up the beach...



I am sad to note the passing of yet another member of the local fishing community, as Capt. Walter Austin left us in November. Walt ran his charter boat, the "Arno", out of Talbot St. Pier for many years. He was a friendly, low key kind of guy, a true gentleman in every sense of the word, and he will be missed. Walt loved bottom fishing, especially the offshore winter fishery for sea bass and tautog, so here's hoping that wherever he is, the seas are calm, the sea bass are big, fat "knotheads", and there aren't any seasons or limits...



In this winter issue I often write about "what worked for me" in the fall season, but I have to be honest and admit that I had such a slow fall that there

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2009 Season in Review

by Larry Jock



It was an interesting 2009 season with 6 Maryland state records set and a couple of closures by our government friends that really threw things for a loop.

Following is a summary of the action we saw in each issue of the Coastal Fisherman this year.

May 6, 2009 - Capt. Kane Bounds graced the first cover of the year with a 19 lb. 8 oz. tautog caught in mid-March on an ocean wreck... The winter sea bass bite was excellent, with a few knotheads caught over 6 lbs... Paul Twilley caught a 7 lb. 5 oz. sea bass in the Wilmington Canyon... The Bow Mariner wreck produced a 7 lb. sea bass caught by Noah Fowler... Dean Lo caught a 6 lb. sea bass in the Wilmington Canyon... Scott "Eddie Munster" Hoffman released a striped bass on New Year's Day while trolling at Great



Through mid-December, larger fish were caught in the bay than by anglers fishing in the ocean. In early November, Dana Nelson of West Ocean City, MD boated this 45.5-inch, 37 lb. striper while fishing on the "Cup Cutter" with Mark Longanecker. The striper hit a live eel in the Thorofare and was weighed at Sunset Provisions.

Gull Shoal that was estimated at 50 lbs... The first flounder of the season was caught by Bo Smeltzer on the south side of the Assateague Bridge... In Ocean City, the early flounder bite was

best in the bay behind Assateague Island... Flounder started appearing in the Delaware Bay with a good bite around Brown Shoal and in the Lewes Canal... Tautog were biting around the Outer Wall in the Delaware Bay... Other notable catches... Ken Yuen's 6 lb. 3 oz. sea bass caught in February on an ocean wreck.

May 13, 2009 - Bob Houser captured a 6 lb. 1 oz. sea bass in 54-degree water on an ocean wreck... Mike Whiter caught a 17 lb. tautog on an ocean wreck... The striped bass bite turned on off Assateague Island with several fish beached that measured over 40-inches... Ronnie Rueter caught a 49-inch striper off the beach at Fenwick State Park... The flounder bite was very good in the bay behind Assateague Island and around the Rt. 90 Bridge... In Delaware...

The best sea bass bite was around Site #11... Good flounder action in the Rehoboth Bay and the Lewes Canal... The black drum bite in the Delaware Bay turned on around the full moon at the Pin Top, Tussey's Slough and the Horseshoe on the Jersey side of the bay... Other notable catches... Johnny Coffey's 13 lb. 13 oz. tautog caught at Site #11... Allen Sklar's 44-inch striper caught off Assateague Island.

May 20, 2009 - Donald Hatfield was on the cover with a 52-inch, 45.5 lb. striper caught while surfcasting off Assateague... Several other large stripers, over 40-inches, were caught off Assateague as well... The first weakfish of the year was caught in the bay behind the Ocean City Airport... Headboats returned with good catches of sea bass and tautog from Russell's Reef, the African Queen and the subway cars at the Jackspot... Mike Whiter boated a pair of 16 lb. tog on an ocean wreck... The best flounder bite continued to be in the bay behind Assateague Island... In Delaware, striper action was good at night in the Indian River Inlet... Black drum fishing was excellent in the Delaware Bay, especially at Broadkill Slough... Other notable catches... Derek Bair's 46-inch striper caught in the Indian River Inlet.

May 27, 2009 - The "Nontypical" crew made the cover for the first mako of the 2009 season. Jim Hughes landed the 185 pounder in the Baltimore Canyon... "Restless Lady" found warm water outside the Poor Man's Canyon and caught 27 dolphin... Tom Vaughn caught an 18 lb. 4 oz. tautog near the Bass Grounds... The bay behind Assateague and the Thorofare both produced good catches of flounder... In Delaware... Flounder fishing was good in the back bays, the Lewes Canal and

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the Broadkill River... Striper fishing was very good in the surf and in the Indian River Inlet... Bill Hocker won the Lewes Canal Flounder Tournament with a 5.26 pounder... the first weakfish of the season were caught along Broadkill Beach on Bass Assassins... The black drum bite was very good on the Coral Beds... Other notable catches... First dolphin of the year caught by Chuck Dammann on May 21st... John Rogowitz's 48.5-inch striper caught off Assateague Island.

June 3, 2009 - Mike Weber was on the cover with a 350 lb. thresher shark caught at the Fingers... Threshers were caught around "DB" Buoy and at the Fingers... Makos were caught at the Sausages, the Marine Electric and near the Jackspot... Excellent week for flounder fishing with the best bite behind the OC Airport... Great striper bite around the South Jetty and off the beach on Assateague Island... J.D. Eddy landed a 47.95 lb. snowy grouper between the Baltimore and Poorman's Canyon... In Delaware... stripers and shad were plentiful in the Indian River Inlet... Flounder

action in the Lewes Canal was very good... Notable catches... Anthony Lano landed an 82.3 lb. black drum at the Coral Beds... Troy Schifflett caught a 13 lb. 13 oz. bluefish at the 12 Fathom Lump.

June 10, 2009 - For the second week in a row, the "Nontypical" crew graced the cover, this time by winning the Mako Mania Shark Tournament with a 224.4 lb. mako shark caught in 25 fathoms inside the Washington Canyon... Excellent week of shark fishing highlighted with over 200 caught by 46 boats in the Mako Mania... Good striper bite around the South Jetty during the early morning hours and at night... It was a good week for sea bass fishing on ocean wrecks with several caught over 5 lbs... In Delaware... Fantastic striped bass fishing in the Indian River Inlet... Thresher sharks were caught in good numbers around "DA" and "DB" Buoys... Other notable catches... Ethan Spencer landed a 443.3 lb. thresher shark near the Jackspot... J.R. Pequignot caught an 81 lb. bluefin near the Parking Lot.

June 17, 2009 - The cover featured the first white marlin

and blue marlin of the season along with a good yellowfin tuna catch on the "Marli"... Terry Layton on the "Nontypical" released the first white marlin in 1,200 fathoms outside the Poorman's Canyon... Jake Burger released the first blue marlin while fishing on the "Marlin Magic" only a mile from the "Nontypical"... the "Marli" returned with 17 yellowfin tuna (releasing 37) during a trip to the Norfolk Canyon... Bluefins were caught around the Hambone... "Game Over" landed a 506 lb. thresher shark, "Bill\$ 4 Bills" hooked a 443 pounder and "Teaser" boated a 450 pounder, all at the Fingers... Quite a few makos caught around the Hambone and the Sausages with weights ranging between 90 and 125 lbs... Good flounder bite in the East Channel and on the flats north of the Thorofare... In Delaware... Flounder, stripers and bluefish were caught in the Indian River Inlet, although most of the stripers were too small to keep... Flounder fishing was good in the Lewes Canal, Broadkill River and the Roosevelt Inlet... Other notable catches... Bud Ghigliotti caught a 45-inch

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striper off the bank of the Broadkill River... Doug Sims caught a 180 lb. mako at the Hambone.

June 24, 2009 - The big news of the week were the new state record mako and thresher sharks caught. Jim Hughes on the "Nontypical" landed an 876 lb. mako shark during the Ocean City Shark Tournament. The fish ate a bonita fillet in 500 fathoms between the Poor Man's and Washington Canyons... The day before, Brent Applegit set a new Maryland state record by catching a 642 lb. thresher shark at the Fingers... Blue sharks continued to be plentiful... The "Reel Chaos" blistered the yellowfin, putting 20 in the box and releasing 45 others, all in the Poor Man's Canyon... Flounder bite moved to the East Channel... The new Assateague Tackle Deadly Double Flounder Rig debuts and becomes an instant hit... Large bluefish were caught around the Rt. 50 Bridge... Good catches of sea bass were made on ocean wrecks and reefs... Surfcasters found mostly sharks and rays and some chopper bluefish... In Delaware... good

Continued on page 14



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isn't much to write about in that regard. I did have a pretty good early season on the small red drum, fish up to a little over 30 inches. I think I caught 15 or so, and one of the things that worked well was something old that is new again, as the saying goes, namely spinner blades. Many years ago I fished a few times with a gentleman named Joe Sparrow, who has been deceased for some time. Joe was from Onancock, VA, and in many ways he was a pioneer in fishing Virginia's Eastern Shore. With his friend Claude Rogers, who was the director of the Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Tournament for a long time, Joe was the first to fish for cod off Virginia, and he and Claude also discovered the presence of tarpon in the Virginia seaside marshes in the late 50's. Anyway, Joe loved to fish spinner blade hooks, usually straight out of the package on a mono top and bottom rig. They were mostly inexpensive bronzed hooks in an octopus style. He would use the same hook, just in different sizes, for

several different species. I think the largest they came in was a 5/0, and that was his "go to" hook for large red drum. For puppy drum he would use about a 2/0 or 3/0, and he "accidentally" caught quite a few big drum on the small rigs while fishing for puppies. I started thinking back about Joe and his spinner blades when another friend of mind told me he had burned small black drum in the surf down in Virginia on spinner blade hooks after he had run out of plain snelled hooks. I started making spinner blade versions of my short-leadered puppy drum rigs, and I was very impressed at how well they worked. Most of mine had 4/0 circle or octopus circle hooks with gold, silver or chartreuse blades and various colored beads. I tied them with 60 or 80 lb. line. With good hooks and high-end blades that won't rust, they are expensive to make, so I don't know if they will ever be widely available on the commercial market, but if you make your own rigs, they are definitely worth trying. Of course, you could do like Joe

and just use spinner blade hooks straight out of the package...



Consider the following random thoughts:

- Many years ago you weren't allowed to keep a striper over 15 lbs. in the state of Maryland. That was later changed to a 32-inch maximum, which is about the same size fish. Now we are encouraged to kill the large breeding females, but on most of the mid-Atlantic coast we can't keep even one small fish in the 18 to 26-inch range to eat.

- When size limits were first put in place for flounder (and I admit I pushed for a limit) we were told that at 12 inches at least 50 per cent of flounder would have a chance to breed. Now the limit is up to 18 and 19 inches or even more, and recreational anglers are facing stricter creel limits and season closures, even in the face of an ever growing flounder population.

- The Atlantic coast recreational catch limit of 250 billfish per year is an arbitrary and capricious number brought

about by one gentleman testifying before a federal committee who was asked, "About how many billfish do sport fishermen bring in per year?", and answered something like, "Oh, I don't know, maybe 250." If he had answered 500, would the catch limit be twice as high?

The list of absurdities could go on and on, in the face of which I have come up with the following observations:

- The federal government should get out of fisheries management altogether, at least for recreational anglers, and let the states manage fisheries like they did successfully for many years, without strong arming them with threats of cutting off federal funding.

- Assuming the above, the regional fishery management councils and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) should be eliminated. They have failed miserably anyway, and this move would save the American taxpayers a lot of wasted dollars.

- The Marine Recreational

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Fisheries Statistical Survey (MRFSS) should be eliminated. Another complete waste of paper and taxpayers' dollars.

- The Sustainable Fisheries Act portion of the Magnuson-Stevens law should be repealed, thereby eliminating the basis for many of the time consuming and money wasting lawsuits brought by extreme environmental groups who are mainly just trying to justify millions of dollars in donations from individuals and companies with too much money on their hands and no understanding that they are being duped.

Of course, none of this will ever happen. The powers-that-be, the lawyers and the bureaucrats are too entrenched, and the politicians are too cowardly to admit failure. So look on the bright side—it will be warm again in a few months, and maybe they will even let us catch a fish to bring home to eat...



Contact Dale Timmons at coastfish@verizon.net or call 410-629-1191.



In early October, Mike Esser of Landenburg, PA landed the heaviest yellowfin tuna of the year out of Ocean City, a 79.4 pounder caught on a skirted ballyhoo south of the Washington Canyon. Mike was fishing on the "Salt Shaker" with John Lawrance of Baltimore, MD, Rob Burton of Fenwick Island, DE, Eddie Hartwell of Middletown, DE and John Wooldridge of Ocean Pines, MD. The crew also brought home a 39.8 lb. yellowfin, and weighed both fish at Bahia Marina.

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During the first week in November, Jesse Billings caught a striper almost as big as himself, landing this 29 pounder while trolling a Stretch lure at Overfalls Shoal in the Delaware Bay. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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On October 1st, Michelle and Capt. Nick Clemente anchored the "Get Sum" at the South Jetty and ended their day with 2 stripers, 2 triggerfish, a sheepshead and some tog. All of the fish were caught on green crabs. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



In late November, Antonio Barlow of Rehoboth, DE caught this 3 lb. 2 oz. flounder while fishing with grass shrimp in the Roosevelt Inlet. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop in Lewes, DE.

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On November 20th, George Henning of Ocean City, MD caught and released this 24-inch, 11 lb. tautog during a trip aboard the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Rich Silvani and Mike Kinder.



The bluefish were thick and big this fall off the Delmarva coast and Alex Urban of Ocean City, MD took advantage of it, catching these two from the surf off Ocean City. The fish measured 29.5 and 31-inches. Photo courtesy of Oyster Bay Tackle.



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REDUCED!!! The original owner in this well cared for 3 BR, 2 BA home hates to leave her lovely home, which is situated on 2 lots with 120 FT of bulkhead. Cape Isle of Wight community on the north side of Rumgate making the Bay access a direct shot out of the main canal. The huge screened in porch is 20X18 and is a great place to eat crabs. First time offered! NO HOA. Convenient to great West OC restaurants, shopping and OC Elementary School. **\$425,000** (447646)

CAPE ISLE OF WIGHT LOT - West OC

Ready to build your dream home? Well come on and take a look at the views of the Ocean City skyline, bay and marsh lands from this great lot in Cape Isle of Wight in West Ocean City. Lot located at the end of a cul-de-sac. 200 ft. pier already built out of Trek. Natural rock riprap installed a few years ago. NO HOA fees. Public sewer available. **\$325,000** (459022)

TERNS LANDING - OCEAN PINES

A truly custom built 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath Waterfront home by Profile Home Builders. Incredible attention to detail, featuring hand carved wood columns, custom cabinetry in kitchen and baths, white oak hardwood flooring. Silent floor design in bedroom levels for ultimate privacy. All bedrooms feature private baths. Concrete poured heated pool and the list goes on and on. Must see to appreciate this "beach cottage" beauty! **\$950,000** (462470)

BRIDGE POINT II - BAYSIDE

Neat, clean 2 bedroom, 2 bath unit on 1st floor with great view of canal and open bay. Owner lives here year round and is ready to move on. Pool, community dockage in quiet 94th Street Corridor. **\$195,000** (458370).



SEA RAIDER - 94TH ST. BAYSIDE

Unique opportunity for the boater who is looking for a first floor 3 bedroom, 2 bath fully furnished unit off 94th St. Features boat slip, a wonderful back deck and community picnic area to enjoy outside living. Has an upgraded kitchen, flooring and decorated like a "model". **\$273,500** (456488)

CAINE KEYS II - OLD LANDING RD

Lovely 3 BR, 1.5 BA ranch home with great view of the bay from the front porch. Just a short walk to the beach at 104th St. Fantastic sun room overlooks canal. Dock your boat behind your home and have a large level yard to have cookouts. Yard is fully fenced. Home features new baths and heat pump, hardwood floors and ceramic tile. **\$399,900** (457896)

CHARLES ST. - WEST OC

Fabulous views of the Isle of Wight Bay and Ocean City Skyline from this unique 5 BR, 4.5 BA contemporary. Decks on each level and two Master Bedroom suites, one w/ sitting area. Gourmet kitchen with marble floor, deluxe stainless steel appliances, granite counters and 2 sinks. 2 additions in lower level, an office and storage area, are finished with HVAC adding another 450 SF not shown in the tax records. Call for upgrade list. **\$695,000** (462290)

DEER POINT - 9401 WHITE TAIL CIRCLE

Lovely 2 story 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial. 1st floor master suite. Large level lot with wooded back drop. Gas fireplace, hardwood & tile flooring, formal dining room and eat-in kitchen. Sunroom overlooks park-like setting. 2 car garage w/floored attic with pull down stairs. Large covered front porch. **\$399,900** (455037).

HERRING LANDING - PONDEROSA CT.

Location is what you get in this updated West OC home. Very contemporary home upgraded with new hardwood flooring, stainless steel appliances & new granite counter tops. The 50" plasma TV and home theater, plus porch furniture and outdoor TV included in the price. Security system, rain bird irrigation system, wireless collar network. Only steps away from Herring Nature Park. **\$439,900** (447650).





Tim Plant of Swansboro, NC was surfcasting off Assateague Island when he hooked into this 46.75-inch striper while using bunker for bait. The fish weighed 33.5 lbs. on the scale at Buck's Place.



The crew on the "Reel Chaos" had a great year, finishing it off in early November with an overnight trip to 100 fathoms in the Baltimore Canyon where they boated a 65-inch bluefin tuna, 2 yellowfin tuna and released a swordfish. The bluefin and swordfish were hooked while chunking with squid, while the yellowfins were caught on trolled ballyhoo. Pictured are Tom Flickinger and Mike Matarese of Pennsville, NJ, Paul DiFebo, Jr. of Wilmington, DE, Capt. Anthony Matarese, Jr. and Mate Anthony Matarese, Sr.

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In mid-October, Mike Erisman caught this 14 lb. 8 oz. tautog while fishing with sand fleas at the Ice Breakers in the Delaware Bay. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Scott Mullen of Sterling, VA caught and released this 47-inch red drum during a good bite at the Mud Hole just off Assateague Island at the end of September. Scott released the red drum while fishing on the "Fish Finder" with Ken Wilcox of Ashburn, VA and Capt. Mark Sampson. Capt. Mark estimated the red drum at 50 lbs.

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Season in Review continued:

flounder action in the Indian River Inlet and around structure in the Delaware Bay... Butch Brooks boated a 10 lb. 13 oz. flattie in the Indian River... Sea bass were caught around Reef Site #11 and at the Old Grounds near "DB" Buoy... Other notable catches... Michael Branson caught the first bigeye tuna of the season out of Ocean City while fishing in the Washington Canyon... "Hammy IV" returned with a 500 lb. thresher caught at the Fingers.

July 1, 2009 - Scott Pringle was on the cover with a 210 lb. bigeye tuna caught while fishing on the "Press Time" in the Washington Canyon... The East Channel was red hot for flounder fishing with several that weighed over 5 lbs... Ocean City's first bigeye of the season was caught on the "Restless Lady" in 250 fathoms outside the Poor Man's Canyon... Bluefin tuna were caught in Massey's Canyon and at the Hambone... Yellowfin were the star of the week with several boats coming back with double digit catches from the Poor Man's and Washington Canyons... Makos were found on ocean structure between 20 and 30 fathoms... Triggerfish showed up in good numbers on ocean wrecks, primarily the China Arrow... In Delaware... Flounder fishing was steady in the Lewes Canal, off the Cape Henlopen Pier and in the Delaware Bay... Stripers were plentiful in the Indian River Inlet... Croakers arrived in the Delaware Bay near the Star Site and the Shears... Other notable catches... The "Marli" hooked 51 yellowfin tuna in 150 fathoms in the Poor Man's Canyon.

July 8, 2009 - Anglers on the "That's Right" were on the cover with 4 yellowfins, 2 dolphin and a blue marlin release, all hooked in the Poor Man's Canyon... Three white marlin were released during Canyon Kick-off... The "Bluefin" caught 10 yellowfins in 70 fathoms inside the Poor Man's Canyon... Bluefins were caught at the Hambone with several fish in excess of 80 lbs. hitting the scales... Two big makos were caught... Dave Guinto landed a 232 pounder at the Fingers... William Marvel boated a 321 pounder in 1,000 fathoms between the Washington and the Norfolk Canyons... William

Wildbergh landed the first wahoo of the season on the southern end of the Poor Man's Canyon... Most of the keeper size flounder were caught in the East Channel, north of the Rt. 50 Bridge... In Delaware... Plenty of flounder were caught in the Indian River Inlet along with some stripers... Delaware Bay reefsites #6, #7 & #8 also produced flounder... Other notable catches... Brad Richwine and Kenny Schoen ventured out to the Fingers in a flat bottom skiff and captured a 389 lb. thresher shark.

July 15, 2009 - The crew on the "That's Right" were on the cover with a 158 lb. bluefin caught at the Chicken Bone that took Heaviest Tuna honors in the Ocean City Tuna Tournament... During the tournament, 20 to 25 bluefins measured 61-64 inches... Yellowfin tuna were scarce... The "Marli" returned with 17 YFT's from 65 fathoms inside the Poor Man's Canyon... Bluefin action centered in the triangle formed by the Chicken Bone, the Hot Dog and the Sausages... Large flounder were decked in the East Channel and on ocean wrecks... In Delaware... Plenty of flounder were caught in the back bays, at Brown Shoal and at Reef Site #10 in the ocean... Sea bass fishing was good at "DB" Buoy... Tautog and triggerfish were caught on Fenwick Shoal... Other notable catches... Matt McGuigan decked a 41 lb. cobia on Winter Quarter Shoal... Tassos Argyros speared a 60 lb. cobia on an ocean wreck.

July 22, 2009 - Junior anglers Taylor McCart, Spencer Cropper and Parker Kreppel were featured on the cover with releases of 2 white marlin and a blue marlin, winning the Billfish Division of the Kid's Classic... Over 380 kids participated in the Marlin Club Kid's Classic... Several bluefins over 60-inches were caught around the Hambone, Chicken Bone and Lumpy Bottom... Flounder bite moved to behind Bahia Marina... Some white marlin were released between the Baltimore and Wilmington Canyons... A blue marlin was released by Tony Burch in the Poor Man's Canyon... Croaker showed up in mass for anglers drifting in the bay... Bluefish continued to be caught in the surf and by anglers off of the Rt. 50 Bridge... In Delaware... The area between "DA" and "DB" Buoys produced

nice catches of flounder... Jody McCullough landed an 11 lb. 10 oz. doormat near "DB" Buoy... Flounder, weakfish and bluefish were all caught off Bowers Beach... Other notable catches... Tom Moran caught a 65-inch bluefin at the Hambone... Giuseppe Ferrarelli boated a 170 lb. bluefin.

July 29, 2009 - On the cover was Chris Toner who landed a 71 lb. cobia to set a new Maryland state record. The fish was caught in 70-feet of water outside Great Gull Shoal... The "Billfisher" took top honors in the Branch Kreppel Memorial Blue Marlin Tournament with 2 blue marlin and 4 white marlin releases... Over 30 white marlin and 9 blue marlin were released during the week from the Spencer Canyon down to the Rockpile... A couple of mako sharks were caught around the Hot Dog... Dolphin were caught in good numbers in 30 fathoms around the Hot Dog... Bluefins were caught at the Hambone... A couple of fantastic days of fishing produced good catches of yellowfin tuna around the Hot Dog... Striped bass showed up again around the South Jetty and also at night around the Rt. 50 Bridge... In the surf, croakers and bluefish dominated the action... In Delaware... Striped bass fishing in the Indian River Inlet turned on... "DB" Buoy, Reef Site #10 and Brown Shoal all produced some nice catches of flounder... Other notable catches... Wilson Hazzard caught a 75 lb. wahoo in the Baltimore Canyon... Joe Kossek caught a 10 lb. 2 oz. sheepshead at the Ice Breakers... Alex Levantowsky boated a 16 lb. 4 oz. tautog.

August 5, 2009 - On the cover was the crew of the "Big Oh" who released 5 white marlin to win the Marlin Club Ladies Tournament... 298 boats entered the White Marlin Open... Some whites were released around the Rockpile and at the Hambone... The bluefin bite moved up to the Lobster Claw... Yellowfins were reported in 20 fathoms inshore of Massey's Canyon and around the Chicken Bone... A couple of wahoo were caught near the Chicken Bone... Dolphin dominated action at the scales with most ranging between 12 and 15 lbs... Croaker fishing was red hot in the bay, especially behind Assateague Island... Some stripers were caught around the

Rt. 50 Bridge... In Delaware... Back bays were loaded with croaker... Sites #6 and #7 at Brown Shoal and #8 Star Site were hot flounder spots in the Delaware Bay... Other notable catches... Greg Garman landed a 69 lb. wahoo at the Hambone... Taylor Harman released 2 white marlin to win the Junior Angler Division of the Ladies Tournament... Jerry Gray caught a 5 lb. 8 oz. flounder to win the Ocean Pines Summer Flounder Tournament.

August 12, 2009 - It was a very exciting White Marlin Open, highlighted by Bob Farris' 1,062 lb. blue marlin that took 1st place in the Blue Marlin Division and set a new Maryland state record. The big blue was caught in 125 fathoms outside the Poor Man's Canyon... Sean Healey caught a 93.5 lb. white marlin (second heaviest in tournament history) to win first place and over \$900,000 in award money... Overall, 27 billfish were weighed and 380 were released during the 5-day tournament... Bigeye tuna dominated the Tuna Division with a 249 pounder caught by Doug Salter taking first place... Jamie Gill captured a 254 lb. scalloped hammerhead shark to set a new Maryland state record... The best flounder bite continued to be on ocean wrecks, with some action in the bay around the East Channel... In Delaware... Flounder, tautog, sheepshead, bluefish and stripers were all caught in the Indian River Inlet... Croaker, kingfish and spot were featured in the surf... Jake Knox landed an 11.14 lb. flounder on a Gulp! Swimming Mullet at Reef Site #10... Other notable catches... Gunnar Zorn landed a 67.5 lb. longfin tuna... Anglers on the "Playmate" caught a grand slam (white marlin, blue marlin, spearfish) in 70 fathoms between the Baltimore and Poor Man's Canyon.

August 19, 2009 - On the cover was the crew on the "Predator" who took 1st and 3rd place in the Dolphin Division of the Poor Girl's Open. They also released a couple of white marlin during the trip... 435 lady anglers participated in the Poor Girl's Open at Bahia Marina... Anglers on the "DA Sea" went to the Spencer Canyon and released 2 blue marlin and 2 white marlin to win the Billfish Division... The first Cubera snapper ever caught

Continued on page 18



Ocean City Marlin Club

2010 Tournament Series



410-213-1613

info@ocmarlinclub.com

www.OCMarlinClub.com

1st Annual Bluefish Tournament

Captain's Meeting: May 28

Fishing Days: May 29 & 30

Fish 1 of 2 Days

Awards: Sunday, May 30

6th Annual Kid's Classic

Captain's Meeting: July 16

Fishing Days: July 17 & 18

Fish 1 or 2 Days

Awards: Sunday, July 18

31st Annual Small Boat Tournament

Captain's Meeting: June 25

Fishing Days: June 26 & 27

Fish 1 of 2 Days

Awards: Sunday, June 27

2nd Annual Ladies Tournament

Captain's Meeting: July 29

Fishing Days: July 30 & 31

Fish 1 of 2 Days

Awards: Saturday, July 31

28th Annual Canyon Kick Off

Captain's Meeting: July 1

Fishing Days: July 2, 3 & 4

Fish 2 of 3 Days

Awards: Monday, July 5

52nd Annual Labor Day Tournament

Captain's Meeting: September 2

Fishing Days: September 3, 4 & 5

Fish 2 of 3 Days

Awards: Sunday, September 5

32nd Annual Challenge Cup

Captain's Meeting: September 16

Fishing Days: September 17 & 18

Fish 2 of 2 Days

Awards: Saturday, September 18



Ocean Pines Area Chamber of Commerce

3rd Annual

Summer Flounder Tournament



Saturday, July 31st, 2010

Lines In: 7 am - Lines Out: 3 pm

Weigh-Ins 2 pm - 4:30 pm

at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club Marina

\$800 in Cash Prizes

Entry Fee: \$25

Free T-Shirt to the first 100 Entrants

Fish may be caught when fishing from
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Entry Forms and Rules will be available
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Ocean Pines Yacht Club Marina,
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Oyster Bay Tackle,
Fenwick Bait & Tackle and Ake Marine
or

Contact the Ocean Pines Area
Chamber of Commerce Office:

410-641-5306

info@oceanpineschamber.org

All entries must be submitted to the Chamber office

Awards will be held at the Ocean Pines
Marina and Yacht Club at 4:30 p.m.

Cash bar available

Entry fee is non-refundable



In late September, Judy Greenwood was drifting a squid and minnow combination in the Canary Creek when she caught a 7 lb. 10 oz. flounder. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



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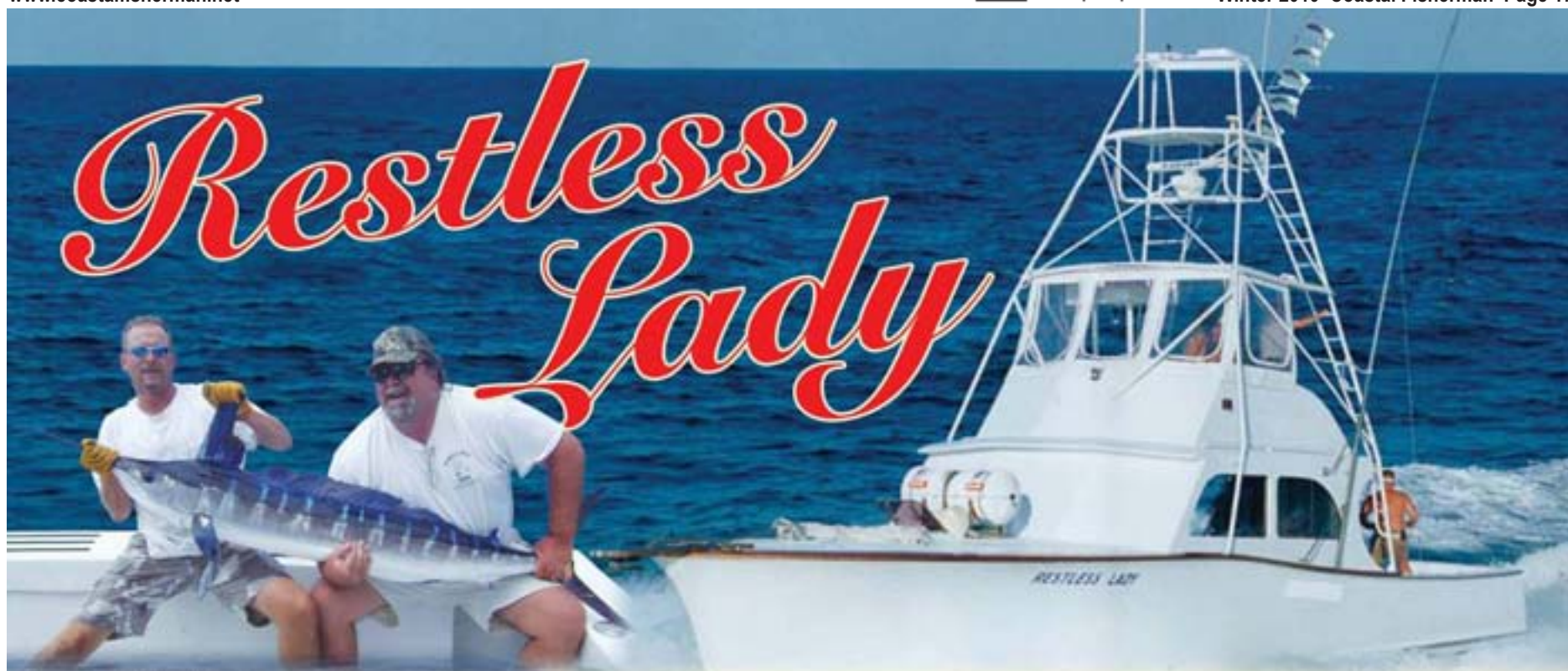


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Season in Review continued:

off the shores of Ocean City was boated by Brad Cave. The 40 pounder was hooked on an ocean wreck... Wahoo were caught at the Hot Dog... Larger flounder were captured on ocean wrecks and reefs... The South Jetty produced small bluefish and stripers, triggerfish and sheepshead... Snapper bluefish, huge rays and large sharks provided action for surfcasters... In Delaware... Good size flounder were caught at the Old Grounds and near Sites #6, #7, #8 and #10... Cobia were caught around Delaware Light... Other notable catches... Joe Sbriglia caught a 66.5 lb. yellowfin tuna in the Poor Man's Canyon... Mickey Payne caught a 10 lb. 9 oz. flounder to win 1st place in the Rick's Bait & Tackle Flounder Tournament.

August 26, 2009 - The crew on the "Topless" were featured on the cover for winning the Mid-Atlantic \$500,000 with a 95 lb. white marlin worth over \$653,000 in award money... 36 Ocean City boats released 114 white marlin during the 5-day tournament... Offshore action was very slow, with dolphin dominating the action up and down the line... Donnie Moore on the "Predator" caught a 69 lb. yellowfin in the Poor Man's Canyon to win 1st place in the MA 500... A few wahoo were caught, highlighted by a 60 pounder landed in the Washington Canyon... Steve Hammond scored an 11 pound flounder in the East Channel... The better flounder bite was definitely in the ocean around the Twin Wrecks, African Queen and the Bass Grounds... Bluefish, kingfish and sharks kept surfcasters busy... In Delaware... Good flounder fishing was at "DB" Buoy, the Old Grounds and Reef Site #10... Sea bass were caught near "DA" Buoy... Snapper blues, croaker, spot and a few spike trout were caught from the beaches... Other notable catches... Daina Kazmaier released a blue marlin in 500 fathoms east of the Poor Man's Canyon... The "Lil' Man" recorded 2 sailfish and 2 white marlin releases in the Washington Canyon.

September 2, 2009 - On the cover was John Bowman of Ocean View, DE with an 11 lb. 3 oz. flounder caught in the Indian River Inlet... Tropical Depression Danny rolled through and really

messed up the fishing action... One of the few bright spots was the white marlin bite in the Washington and Norfolk Canyons before the storm... "Clear Shot" went 6 for 9 and the "Mak-Atak" was 6 for 6 on white marlin... After the blow, the bite moved to the Wilmington Canyon where the "Moore Bills" released 12 whites... Flounder were caught from the Rt. 50 Bridge north to Harbour Island on live spot and peanut bunker... The Twin Wrecks, Great Eastern Reef and the Bass Grounds provided the best flounder action of the week... Sea bass bit at the Great Eastern Reef... A dolphin was caught only 8 miles off the beach... The "Shelly II" returned with 7 golden tilefish and 10 wreckfish... In Delaware... Kingfish, spot, croaker and bluefish are being caught off the beach to Sites #10 and #11.

September 9, 2009 - The crew on the "Press Time" were featured on the cover with 20 yellowfin tuna and a couple of dolphin, all caught at the Hot Dog... Over the weekend, the white marlin bite was hot with 48 recorded releases in the Labor Day White Marlin Tournament... The billfish bite centered in 50-75 fathoms in the Baltimore and Wilmington Canyons... Some boats went south to the Poor Man's and Washington Canyons and did well also... The weekend yellowfin bite was scattered along the 30 fathom line between the Hot Dog and the Elephant Trunk... "That's Right" returned with 18 yellowfins north of the Hot Dog... An Indian River boat caught an 80.4 lb. wahoo in the Baltimore Canyon... The flounder bite was better this week with larger fish landed in the East Channel and the deep holes just south of the Commercial Harbor... In Delaware... Larger stripers were caught in the Indian River Inlet and larger bluefish were landed mostly on the incoming tide... Massey's Ditch gave up some flounder, croaker and spot... Other notable catches... Pete Hesson caught a 12 lb. 8 oz. sheepshead in the Indian River Inlet... The "Zipper" returned with 14 yellowfin tuna from the Elephant Trunk... Lance Smith decked a 10 lb. 12 oz. flounder behind Bahia Marina.

September 16, 2009 - The "Playmate" made the cover with 2 wahoo, 6 yellowfins and 11 dolphin caught near the Tea

Cup... Maryland closed the flounder season on September 13th... Before the closure, anglers caught some nice flounder in both the East and West Channels... Ben Pollmeier won the Flounder Round-Up with a 6.6 pounder and Les Givens won the Bahia Flounder Pounder with a 4 lb. 9 oz. flattie... Croaker left the bay... Tautog were caught off the 4th Street Bulkhead... Stripers and bluefish were caught near the Rt. 50 Bridge... The dolphin bite was good from the Baltimore Canyon down to the Washington Canyon... The wahoo bite was also good around the Tea Cup... Some yellowfin tuna were caught in 30 fathoms from the Tea Cup to the Elephant Trunk... In Delaware... A few flounder were caught in the Indian River and a few stripers were hooked in the Inlet... Some flounder were also caught around "DB" Buoy... Mullet showed up inside Cape Henlopen and in Canary Creek... Other notable catches... The "Restless Lady" returned from rough seas near the Elephant Trunk with 12 yellowfins, a dolphin and a false albacore... Kelly Wenzel won the OCFC Spot Tournament when she muscled in an 8-incher... Dillon Baker caught a 50 lb. wahoo to win the Wahoo Rodeo... Dean Lo speared a 60 lb. cobia at Fenwick Shoal... Ed Krell boated a 5.75 lb. flounder to win the MSSA Beach-N-Boat Tournament.

September 23, 2009 - The cover featured the crew on "Rhonda's Osprey" with a 101 lb. wahoo caught by Jerry and Mason McMullen in the Baltimore Canyon. This ended up being the largest wahoo caught out of Ocean City in 2009... The Cape May Marlin & Tuna Club released 118 billfish to win the Challenge Cup with the Ocean City team releasing 89... Most of the action was in the Norfolk Canyon... White marlin were also caught at the Rockpile... The "Recon" boated a 71 lb. wahoo in 50 fathoms between the Poor Man's Canyon and the Hot Dog... Other wahoo were caught at the Hot Dog, the Tea Cup and in the Baltimore Canyon... The "Playmate" returned with 15 yellowfin tuna and some dolphin from the Elephant Trunk... Other yellowfins were caught at the Tea Cup and the Hot Dog... Tautog and sheepshead were caught at the South Jetty... Good numbers

of sea bass were caught at the Great Eastern Reef... In Delaware... Rick Ritter landed a 10 lb. 15 oz. flounder in the Indian River Inlet... Brown Shoal produced good catches of flounder... Anglers anchored at the Star Reef Site picked at a mix of croaker, kingfish, snapper bluefish, small sea bass and triggerfish... Other notable catches... "Pumpin' Hard" released 4 white marlin in the Norfolk Canyon... Capt. Nick Clemente caught an 8 lb. 9 oz. sheepshead at the South Jetty.

October - December 2009 -

Weather-wise, it was a horrible fall with 6 or 7 nor'easters keeping most anglers at the dock.

A good white marlin bite kept offshore anglers excited through September. It was difficult to get a bead on the tuna bite with the weather making it tough to get offshore.

Inshore, with the flounder closure on September 13th and no trout bite, most anglers in the bay were forced to search for stripers, sheepshead and tautog. Sheepshead and tog bit around the South Jetty and off Martha's Landing.

Coming off of three straight years of excellent striper fishing inside 3-miles, the bite had not really materialized at the time this issue went to press. On a good note, stripers were still being caught off New Jersey, so local anglers are still hopeful.

At the end of September, the red drum bite was very good around the Mud Hole.

From the end of October through the beginning of December, it was all the bluefish you could catch with choppers showing up both along the beach chasing mullet and roaming the inshore shoals. Choppers, on average, were exceptionally large with many fish hitting the docks weighing over 10 lbs.

Our government friends closed the sea bass fishery on October 5th, causing incredible pressure on tautog until its closure for the month of December.

To end on a high note, congratulations go out to Steve Doctor for landing a 62 lb. great northern tilefish to set a new Maryland state record. The fish was caught in 800 feet of water in the Baltimore Canyon. Way to go, Steve!

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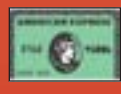
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John Coleman and Lee Lindsay, both from Hook'em & Cook'em Bait & Tackle, caught these tautog while fishing off the rocks at the Indian River Marina. The largest tog weighed in at an even 8 lbs. and was caught on live green crabs. Photo courtesy of Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.



Mark Stephens, Steve Sealand and Capt. Jeremy Blunt ended their day with 6 stripers in the box of the "Samurai I" during a trip right before Thanksgiving. The fish were caught on trolled Stretch's on the Delaware/Maryland line. Jeremy's striper was the largest caught during the trip, coming in at 38-inches. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center 800-322-3065





Jon Bleacher of Salisbury, MD captured this 9 lb. tautog while fishing on the “Morning Star” with Capt. Monty Hawkins. The tog was caught on a green crab at an artificial reef in late November.



Mike Tuel (left) and Chris Tilghman, both from Ocean City, MD, caught these striped bass on live mullet in the bay behind Assateague Island while fishing on the “Wedgie 2”. Mike’s striper measured 40-inches while Chris’ was 41-inches.

A large advertisement for Sunesta Retractable Awnings. The main image shows a patio with a retractable awning, a table with chairs, and a view of a lake. Two smaller inset images show different awning setups. The text "A RETRACTABLE ROOM WITH A VIEW" is prominently displayed in the center.

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During the first week in October, the "Striper Kings of Allegheny Township, Pennsylvania" ventured down to Ocean City for a trip aboard the "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente. Todd Tansimore and Jon Pulsifer ended their day with a couple of linesiders caught while drifting live spot near the Rt. 50 Bridge. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Kevin Weber of Ocean City, MD left Mr. Bigglesworth at home and caught a couple of stripers near the Assateague Bridge. The fish measured 34 and 36-inches and were caught while trolling tandem bucktails. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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AKE MARINE PRIMETIME ROCKFISH TOURNAMENT



Dale Miller of Berlin, MD won 1st place in the Ake Marine Primetime Rockfish Tournament held on November 21st. Dale was fishing on the "Tru-Dat" with Paul Koehrsen of Berlin, MD when he hooked into the 24.9 pounder while drifting a live eel in the bay behind Snug Harbor at the beginning of the incoming tide. Dale took home \$1,500 in award money for his first place finish. Weighed at Ake Marine.



Second place in the Ake Primetime Rockfish Tournament was won by Bobby Carson of Hatteras, NC with a 16.9 lb. rockfish caught on a trolled umbrella rig in the ocean off 115th Street. Bobby was fishing on the "Got R Done" with Rich Schafer of Havre de Grace, MD and John Lentz of Ocean City, MD. Bobby won \$600 for his second place catch. Weighed at Ake Marine.

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John Lentz of Ocean City, MD and All Tackle Ocean City boated this 16.6 lb. rockfish to win 3rd place in the Ake Marine Primetime Rockfish Tournament. John hooked the linesider on a trolled umbrella rig in the ocean off 115th Street while fishing on the "Got R Done" with Bobby Carson of Hatteras, NC and Rich Schafer of Havre de Grace, MD. John won \$300 for his 3rd place finish and weighed his catch at Ake Marine in West Ocean City.



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2009 COASTAL FISHERMAN 2009

Heaviest Fish of the Year

(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - ties go to first fish reported)

Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
Sea Bass 	March 6, 2009 Noah Fowler Bow Mariner 7 lbs.	February 25, 2009 Paul Twilley Wilmington Canyon 7 lbs. 5 oz.	Mako Shark 	June 20, 2009 Jim Hughes Washington Canyon 876 lbs.	July 1, 2009 Rick Sank Poor Man's Canyon 170 lbs.
Tautog 	March 15, 2009 Capt. Kane Bounds "Judith M" 19 lbs. 8 oz.	July 17, 2009 Alex Levantowsky "Grizzly" 16 lbs. 4 oz.	Thresher Shark 	June 19, 2009 Brent Applegit Fingers 642 lbs.	July 1, 2009 John Kazem "B" Buoy 376 lbs.
Striped Bass 	May 17, 2009 Donald Hatfield Assateague Surf 45 lbs. 8 oz.	November 26, 2009 Harry Aiken Delaware Bay 45.85 lbs.	Cobia 	July 25, 2009 Chris Toner "Fish Finder" 72 lbs.	August 1, 2009 Bobby Haas Site #11 22 lbs.
Weakfish 	May 16, 2009 Chris Tilghman Rt. 90 Bridge 7 lbs. 8 oz.	May 24, 2009 Isaiah Ross Broadkill River 6 lbs. 8 oz.	Bluefin Tuna 	July 13, 2009 Giuseppe Ferrarelli "That's Right" 170 lbs.	June 28, 2009 Collin Johnson "MEGA-BITE" 180 lbs.
Speckled Trout 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Yellowfin Tuna 	October 2, 2009 Mike Esser Washington Canyon 79.4 lbs.	August 15, 2009 Bill Russell Middle Lump 64.3 lbs.
Flounder 	August 17, 2009 Steve Hammond East Channel 11 lbs.	July 19, 2009 Jody McCullough Indian River Inlet 11 lbs. 10 oz.	Longfin Tuna 	August 4, 2009 Gunnar Zorn Wilmington Canyon 67.5 lbs.	No Weights Reported
Bluefish 	June 27, 2009 Mike Osifat Poor Man's Canyon 13 lbs.	May 24, 2009 Troy Schifflett 12 Fathom Lump 13 lbs. 13 oz.	Bigeye Tuna 	August 3, 2009 Doug Salter Baltimore Canyon 249 lbs.	June 21, 2009 Doug Riniker Poor Man's Canyon 102 lbs.
Sheepshead 	October 11, 2009 Fred Todd "Get Sum" 13.4 lbs.	September 5, 2009 Pete Hesson Indian River Inlet 12 lbs. 8 oz.	Dolphin 	August 5, 2009 Ron Bennett, Sr. Baltimore Canyon 37.5 lbs.	July 27, 2009 Ned Baumbach 19 Fathom Lump 23.6 lbs.
Black Drum 	August 12, 2009 Milton Crim South Jetty 15.1 lbs.	May 22, 2009 Anthony Lano Coral Beds 82.3 lbs.	Wahoo 	September 20, 2009 Mason McMullen Baltimore Canyon 101 lbs.	September 5, 2009 John Galyen Baltimore Canyon 80.4 lbs.

For a copy of this page or to report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200



Back at the end of September, Allen Sklar of Bishopville, MD caught and released this beautiful red drum surfcasting off the beach on Assateague Island while using bunker head for bait.



In October, the crew of the "Wrangler" had a good overnight trip in 500 fathoms between the Washington and Norfolk Canyon. The group caught a swordfish on squid, a tilefish while jigging and a wahoo and white marlin while trolling ballyhoo. Fishing on the "Wrangler" were Lenny Rudow of Mayo, MD, Mark Blye of Manchester, MD, Jim Farber of Middletown, MD, Capt. Craig Mercier and Mate Tom Zapf. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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The Autistic Children's Support Group of Worcester County would like to thank the Ocean City Fishing Center, Sunset Marina, the Black Friday 550 Rockfish Tournament and the Ocean City Tuna Tournament for donating \$6,760 to our group from the proceeds of the tournaments. This generous donation will help many families in Worcester County deal with the challenges of autism.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



Mike Cathell captured this 10 lb. 15 oz. sheephead while fishing with sand fleas at the Ice Breakers. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina in Lewes, DE.



Jessica Hitchcock of Gaithersburg, MD landed a 32-inch striper and Buddy Hindle of Bel Alton, MD caught a 30-incher, both while fishing on the "Bay Bee" with Capt. Bob Gowar and Mate George Lenz. The stripers were caught on live spot in the Ocean City Inlet.



BLACK FRIDAY 550 ROCKFISH TOURNAMENT



Tim Hopkins of Darlington, MD (right) landed a 20 lb. rockfish to win 1st place in the Black Friday 550 Rockfish Tournament held at the Ocean City Fishing Center. Tim was fishing on the "Playmate" with Laura and Dudley Campbell of Berlin, MD, Maggie Hopkins of Darlington, MD, Capt. Willie Zimmerman and Mate Justin Hart. The 38-inch rockfish was caught while trolling a Mojo rig on the MD/DE line and won Tim \$2,035 in award money.



Second place in the Black Friday 550 Rockfish Tournament was won by Doug Southworth of Kent Island, MD with a 19 lb. rockfish caught while fishing on the "Stripe Tease" with Kevin Jones and Philip Dumenil. The 2nd place fish was caught on a trolled Mojo in the ocean off 70th Street and earned Doug \$635 in award money. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Andy Petrusis (right) caught a 19 lb. rockfish to win 3rd place in the Black Friday 550 Rockfish Tournament. Andy was fishing on the "Bitter Salt" with Brice Worthington of Annapolis, MD, Jason Burke of Pasadena, MD and John Morton of Ocean City, MD. The 38.5-inch rockfish was caught on a trolled tandem rig south of Little Gull Shoal and earned Andy \$690 in award money. Weighed at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Maggie Hopkins of Darlington, MD won Top Junior Angler honors in the Black Friday 550 Rockfish Tournament by landing this 15 lb. rockfish while fishing with, Tim Hopkins, also from Darlington, MD, Laura and Dudley Campbell of Berlin, MD, Capt. Willie Zimmerman and Mate Justin Hart. The rockfish was caught on a trolled Mojo on the DE/MD line. Weighed at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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Maryland Anglers Must Register in 2010

Beginning January 1, 2010 anglers in Maryland will be required to sign-up with the National Saltwater Angler Registry. The purpose of the registry is to assist NOAA in accumulating catch and effort data by creating a national registry of anglers that will be used for telephone surveys.

Who Must Register?

All anglers fishing in Maryland waters must register EXCEPT for:

- Holders of Chesapeake Bay Sportfish License.
- Anglers who fish only on licensed party, charter, or guide boats. These vessels are surveyed separately from angler surveys.
- Anglers holding permits to fish for highly migratory species, such as tunas or swordfish, and those fishing under commercial fishing licenses or subsistence fishing permits.
- Anglers registered or permitted to fish in a formal state or federal subsistence fishery.
- Anglers under 16 years of age.

What Information is Being Collected?

The goal is to collect just enough information to make it possible to correctly identify and contact anglers to conduct surveys about their catch and effort. Registrations will include an angler's name, date of birth, address, telephone number, and the regions where they intend to fish, though anglers will not be restricted to only fishing in those regions, and will not be required to register separately for each region they fish in. As is the case already, surveys may be handled by representatives of NOAA Fisheries or state fisheries agencies.

Will It Cost Money to Register?

Fishermen who are automatically included in the registry because their state has a Memorandum of Agreement to share angler information with NOAA will NOT be required to pay a federal registration fee (though they will need to pay any costs associated with their state license). For others, Congress gave NOAA Fisheries the option of collecting a fee to cover the administrative costs of running the registry. There will be no charge for the registry until 2011, at which time it is expected to cost about \$25 for those required to pay. All fees collected through the Registry will go to the U.S. treasury, not a specific program.

How Do You Register?

Anglers can register by phone at 1-888-674-7411 or online at www.countmyfish.noaa.gov.

Note: Delaware anglers DO NOT need to register with the national database since the State of Delaware already has a licensing program in place.



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Jerrold Briddel of Millsboro, DE caught 4 tautog (1 pictured) up to 5 lbs. 4 oz. while fishing with green crabs in the Indian River Inlet. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop.



In early November, Ed Baker of West Ocean City, MD caught this 39.5-inch striper while drifting a live eel in the Ocean City Inlet during the last of the incoming tide.

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At the end of September, David Conner released this white marlin while fishing on the "Brenda Lou" with Corey Carvell, Matt and Bob Keeney and Frank Goodhart. Corey also released a white marlin during the trip to the Rockpile. The group had 8 white marlin enter their spread, and ended their day with a dolphin in the box.



Ken Wilcox of Ashburn, VA took advantage of a good red drum bite at the Mud Hole just off Assateague Island during the end of September. Scott released this 48-incher while fishing on the "Fish Finder" with Scott Mullen of Sterling, VA and Capt. Mark Sampson. Capt. Mark estimated the red drum at 50 lbs.

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David Walker (left) and Tony Vansant were drifting live spot in the Delaware Bay during the first week in November when David boated this 29.5 lb. striper and Tony decked a 25.2 pounder. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina in Lewes, DE.



On September 28th, Noah Fowler of West Ocean City, MD (top) released his first white marlin while fishing with his dad, Tommy Fowler, in 50 fathoms inside the Poor Man’s Canyon. The white hit a trolled, naked ballyhoo on a pin rig. Two days later, Tommy headed out to the same location and ended up boating this 65 lb. wahoo after hooking it on a purple and black skirted ballyhoo.

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Benny Thumma of West Ocean City, MD braved some horrible conditions back in mid-October and was rewarded with this 33-inch striper caught while drifting live spot in the East Channel aboard the "Hard Times".



Mike Gillespie of Chapel Hill, NC caught this 36-inch striped bass on a live eel just off Martha's Landing. Mike was fishing on the "Kiki" with Tom Hughes of Ocean City, MD and Matt Wood from Frederick, MD.



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Bob Houser ventured down from Carlisle, PA to fish on the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and was rewarded with a 23.25-inch tautog that he released on an artificial reef.



On November 10th, Calvin Smack caught this striped bass while using bunker for bait, surfcasting off Assateague Island.



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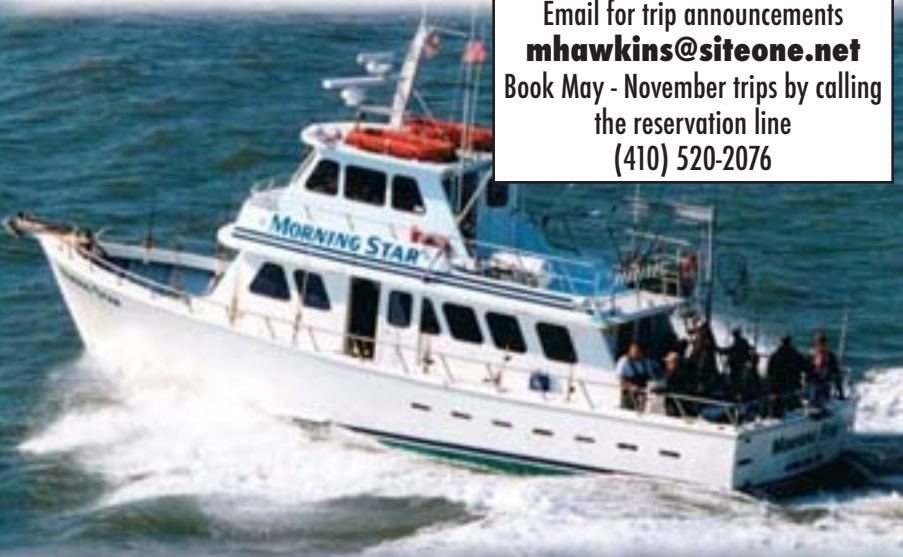
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In early November, Bill Vernon of Rehoboth Beach, DE caught this 44-inch, 34.75 lb. striper in the Delaware Bay to temporarily take the lead in the Bill's Sport Shop Striper Tournament. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop.



Paul Macek of Forest Hill, MD landed these 4 bluefish, ranging from 9 lbs. to 13 lbs., while surfcasting off 100th Street in Ocean City. The choppers were caught on bunker and mullet. Photo courtesy of Oyster Bay Tackle.

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Larry Shotwell, Sr., Larry Shotwell, Jr. and Joe Walker, Jr., all from Pittston, PA and Joe Walker, Sr. from Warren, NJ had a great day fishing on the "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente and Mate Jeff Kowalski. The anglers teamed up to catch 9 tautog, 4 sheepshead and a striper. The tog and sheepshead were caught on green crab at the South Jetty while the striper was hooked on a live spot in the East Channel. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Mike Kurtz of Fenwick Island, DE really smoked the striped bass, landing this 39-inch, 29 pounder while casting a Swim Shad at the Ditch next to Harpoon Hanna's. Weighed at Capt. Mac's Bait & Tackle in Fenwick Island, DE.



Gary Stag caught this 46-inch striped bass while fishing off the beach on Assateague Island during the first week in November. The fish tipped the scales at 35 lbs. at Buck's Place.



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In October, Jeff Weidman of Ephrata, PA caught this 7 lb. 5 oz. flounder while drifting a live spot by Burton's Island. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.



Three out of four happy anglers isn't bad. On November 30th, Jim Johnston, Martin Aldred, Mike Johnston and Rich Sosnowski caught 6 stripers and some bluefish while trolling on Little Gull Shoal aboard the "??". Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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Just before Thanksgiving, Laura Campbell (center) and Dudley Campbell of Berlin, MD had a great day striper fishing on the "Playmate" with Capt. Willie Zimmerman and Mate Justin Hart. The group caught 8 stripers and 2 bluefish while trolling umbrella rigs 2.99 miles off the beach on the Delaware/Maryland line. Their largest striper measured 35-inches and weighed 16 lbs. on the scale at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Assessment Update Finds Species Not Overfished and Overfishing Not Occurring

The 2009 Atlantic striped stock assessment update indicates that the resource remains in good condition. Estimated fishing mortality rates in 2008 are equal to or less than 0.21 and below the

and total biomass have remained relatively stable over the last several years, stock abundance declined from 2004 to 2007 with a small increase in 2008. The decrease in abundance is reflected in a decline in coastwide landings in 2007 and 2008. The decline is more prevalent in areas largely dependent on contributions from the Chesapeake stocks (such as Maine) than areas that are dominated by the Hudson stock (such as New York). The spawning stock has remained relatively stable due to the

complex was declared restored. The 2006 and 2007 estimates were the lowest in recent years at 7.4 million and 5.8 million fish, respectively. The 2003 cohort remains the largest since 1982 at 22.8 million fish. Recruitment in 2008 of 13.3 million fish was slightly above the recent average.

Striped bass are one of the most sought after species by recreational anglers along the Atlantic coast. In 2008, recreational anglers landed over 2.2 million striped bass weighing 12,310 metric tons. Recreational landings have ranged from a low of 336 metric tons in 1989 to a high of 13,814 metric tons in 2006. The coastwide landings in 2008 reflect a 17 percent decline from a high of 2.7 million fish in 2006. Changes in landings have varied by state, with Maine, Connecticut, and New York showing an increase in landings and the remaining states showing a 32% decrease on average. Recreational discard mortalities (assuming an 8 percent mortality of releases) in 2008 were 950,000 fish, a 64 percent decrease from a high of 2.1 million fish in 2006.

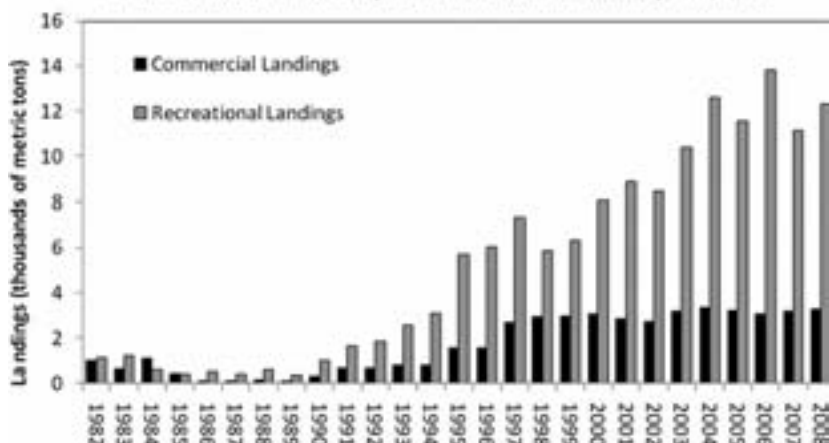
Landings from the commercial striped bass fishery have been consistently lower than the recreational catch. Commercial landings increased from 63 metric tons



Michelle Arnold caught this 18 lb. striper during a trip aboard the "Skipjack" with Capt. Chris Thurman and Mate Dave Walker. The striper was caught on an eel at Overfalls Shoal. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

in 1987 to 2,679 metric tons in 1997 and have remained steady due to quota restrictions. Landings in 2008 were 3,281 metric tons. Gill nets are the dominant commercial gear used to target striped bass. Other commercial fishing gears include hook and line, pound nets, seines, and trawls.

Figure 2. Atlantic Striped Bass Commercial & Recreational Landings
Source: ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Stock Assessment Update, 2009



target (0.30) and threshold (0.34) rates. The assessment provides stock status for the combination of the three primary stocks (Hudson River, Delaware River, and the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries). The striped bass stock complex is determined to be not overfished with overfishing not occurring.

Although spawning stock

growth and maturation of the 2003 year class and the accumulation of spawning biomass from year classes prior to 1996. Analysis of tag data also suggests an increasing natural mortality in Chesapeake Bay, likely the result of the mycobacteriosis.

Recruitment estimates have averaged 12.5 million fish since 1995 when the stock

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MSSA/OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB ROCKFISH TOURNAMENT



Jim Giles (left) won 1st place in the MSSA/Ocean Pines Anglers Club Rockfish Tournament, catching a 34 5/8-incher while fishing on the "Sell Fish" with Rich Patschorke. Rich landed a 34 3/8-inch rockfish to finish 3rd in the tournament. The fish were caught while trolling in the ocean off 95th Street. Jim won \$200 for his 1st place finish and Rich took home \$40 for finishing in 3rd place. Pictured at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.



Second place in the MSSA/Ocean Pines Anglers Club Rockfish Tournament was won by Elvin Shelly (left) with a 34.5-inch rockfish caught while fishing on the "Whatever" with Dick Shelly and Clive Walker. Clive won \$100 in award money for his 2nd place finish. Pictured at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.



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On September 24th, the crew on the "Legasea" had an incredible day, releasing 16 white marlin while trolling ballyhoo between the Washington and Norfolk Canyons. The crew consisted of Jeff Lessin, Davin Lamm, Capt. Josh Ruskey and Mates Domenic DiSanto and Rick Tshudy. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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Pat Hurley, Charlie Sitskorn and John Freeberger were trolling Stretch's only a 1/4 mile off the beach, south of the Assateague Bridge, and returned with 5 nice size stripers.

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Tom Fitzpatrick from Reisterstown, MD landed this 36-inch striper on a live spot in the Delaware Bay. The linesider tipped the scales at 20.4 lbs. on the scale at Hook'em & Cook'em.



Ten-year-old Mike Coco of Bear, DE caught this 7 lb. tautog while fishing on an ocean wreck using green crab for bait. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop in Lewes, DE.

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Driftin' Easy

by Sue Foster



THE SURF ANGLER

The Atlantic Coast of Maryland and adjoining Delaware offer a fishing experience like no other. The angler needs no boat nor does he need an array of fancy equipment. The surf angler, unlike other "shore" anglers, will experience very few snags. These fishermen have miles of beaches to explore so there is an element of freedom and independence that seems to

radiate from surf anglers. The surf fisherman rarely feels confined.

Surf fishing begins in March with a few stripers and sharks. It picks up in April with more striper action and the first bluefish. By May we see a good run of stripers and bluefish. Some black drum are also reported, mostly on Assateague Island. Once we get into June, the fish run smaller and we get into the summertime fare of snapper blues, kingfish

(whiting), croaker, spot, trout, flounder, sand sharks, short stripers and skates. We don't see large fish again (aside from rays and sharks) until September, when big red drum run offshore of Assateague. In October we see big stripers once again, along with larger bluefish. This can last into the first week of December.

What makes a good surf fishing area is deep water close to the beach (rolling dark water) with an outer bar further out (white water.) A perfect surf-fishing scenario is a "cut" in this outer bar (rolling dark water) where the water cuts through the outer bar into the deeper water close to shore (a slough.) This is also sometimes called a "rip." This is where the polarized sunglasses come into play. Sometimes the cut in the bar is hard to see. Cleaner looking water coming into the slough from across the bar will be a tell tale sign of a cut in the bar. These cuts are the passageways where the fish come across the bar and into the slough. Like any other kind of fishing, cleaner water will make your bait more visible and make it easier for the fish to feed!

Surf fishing is like any other kind of fishing. Fish like structure and feed at changes of depth. A perfectly flat beach is not a good surf fishing beach. A beach that offers a simple dip as you walk out into the ocean will attract baitfish, little crabs and tiny clams that in turn attract the larger fish you are trying to catch.

Many anglers ask about tides when surf fishing. An incoming tide is the tide between low tide and high tide. This tide is very popular with surf fishermen because the water is cleanest and the crabs tend to steal the bait less. The very best tide, however, is probably three hours before high tide and three hours after the high tide. Some anglers make the mistake of looking at the tide chart and going exactly at high tide. They miss several hours of a good tide that happens before the peak!

Time of day is also very important when it comes to surf fishing. Fish seem to come in closer to the shore during the early hours of the morning, between 4 A.M. and 10 A.M., and again in the late afternoon to

dusk between 4 P.M. and dark. If this coincides with a good tide and a favorable breeze, all is well with the fishing world.

The wind direction is very important when it comes to surf fishing, especially during the summer months. An east, southeast, or northeast breeze brings fish closer to the beach. A westerly wind can make the surf nice and flat and very easy to fish, but it may not produce.

What other weather factors make surf fishing good? Like any other kind of fishing, a falling barometer will make fish feed. They sense a front or a storm coming and they will feed more readily. Like most kinds of fishing, the time between the new moon and the full moon also gives surf fishermen the "edge." Nocturnal fish such as drum, stripers and trout tend to feed on a full moon.

The most important part of the surf fishing experience is the rod and reel. As we said before, the key to surf fishing is to get your rig, bait and sinker out past the crest of the waves. To do this, you need to cast a certain amount of distance. Therefore, you need a rod in the 8 to 13 foot range. The most popular lengths are 10 to 11 footers.

Like in any sport, the nicer the equipment, the more enjoyable the sport will be. A quality surf rod will have more graphite in it, thus making it more sensitive and lighter in the hand. It doesn't necessarily make it stronger, just more pleasant to use. Some higher dollar surf rods have a skinny cork-wrapped grip that also makes the rod lighter to hold. The guides are usually of a higher quality. The guides on an inexpensive surf rod are made out of ceramic and are thicker and heavier. The guides on a higher quality surf rod may be made out of Aluminum Oxide that is thinner yet stronger, and they also weigh less. Since the diameter of the rings is larger, your casting distance will increase. They will also hold up longer. If you are using a Spectra Fiber line such as Power Pro, it is important to invest in a higher quality rod. The thin Spectra line can eventually cut through ceramic guides.

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Continued on page 54



Danny Cox of Ocean City, MD caught this 41-inch, 25 lb. striper while fishing with his good luck charm, brother Tom Cox of Conway, SC. The striper was caught on a live eel near the Rt. 50 Bridge.



Patrick Ellington of Shrewsbury, PA was fishing with his son, Conor, off the beach on 138th Street in Ocean City when he caught a pair of chopper bluefish while using finger mullet for bait. The largest bluefish weighed 10 lbs. 6 oz. on the scale at Oyster Bay Tackle.

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A higher quality surf reel will have from 4 to 13 ball bearings. The more ball bearings a reel has, the smoother it will feel and the longer it will last. Some reels, such as Shimano, have ball bearings that are sealed. This is important when surf fishing.

Quality surf reels have a ball bearing in the line roller. This keeps your line roller on your bail turning so your line does not wear a groove in it. This is a plus when it comes to surf fishing. A line roller that does not turn correctly creates friction that can slow you down when casting.

A quality reel will have heavier gears, more drag discs in the drag system to make the

drag work better, and some even have a Waterproof Drag System.

If you choose a 9 to 10 foot rod and reel combination, I would spool with 14 to 17 pound test line. If you choose an 11-foot or longer rod and reel combination, I would spool with 17 to 20 pound test. Also, if you plan to cast lures with your surf rod and reel, you need to use lighter 10 to 14 pound test. Thin diameter lines are also a good choice.

Spectra Fiber lines such as Power Pro or Berkley Fire Line lines are great for surf fishing. Most experienced surf anglers use these types of line because of the strength, small diameters, and sensitivity.

The appropriate surf rig is of utmost importance when surf

fishing. If you are new to surf fishing, the basic rule of thumb when choosing surf rigs is to look for the rigs that have brightly colored Styrofoam floats on them. These are all surf rigs. The float does three things when fishing in the surf. They make your baits more visible to the fish; they elevate the bait off the bottom floor so the moving sand does not cover up your bait, and it helps keep the troublesome speckled crabs from chewing off your bait.

The surf angler needs to decide what he or she will be fishing for and what kind of bait the angler will use in order to choose the correct rig. If you are using any kind of cut bait such as squid, mullet, herring, butterfish or bunker, you will be fishing for bluefish, stripers, drum, flounder, trout and sharks and can use a surf rig with medium to large-sized hooks. (Sizes #4 and larger) If you are fishing with some kind of worm, you will likely be fishing for kingfish (whiting), croaker, spot, pompano and small sea trout so you can use a kingfish or spot rig that is made with smaller size #6 or #8 hooks.

A great rig for surf fishing is the mullet rig. Some people feel these rigs are complicated, but they are actually quite simple. Always buy a couple extra hooks, as sometimes they fall off or bend when catching the snapper bluefish. The advantages to the mullet rig is that you don't need a knife to cut your bait; the bait stays on the hook, and since the rig comes with a fairly long leader and a big float, the crabs generally stay away from it.

Serious surf anglers like to make their own rigs for big stripers and drum. They use 50

to 80 pound test leader material with a #6/0 to #10/0 circle hook. The 18 to 30-inch leader is tied to a 3-way swivel and snap, or set up with a fish finder rig.

Ranger long cast rigs are also available, pre-made in some tackle stores. These rigs are available with or without floats. These specialty rigs allow the angler to cast out with the baited hook attached to a plastic hook holder, so the rig and sinker do not go into two different directions when casting. These rigs allow anglers to cast 30 per cent further.

The sinker is probably the most important aspect of surf fishing. Round or bay type sinkers will roll back in with the waves. You need to use pyramid, hurricane, or sputnik type sinkers. Hurricane type sinkers will hold better per ounce than the traditional pyramid types. If the surf is extremely rough or the current is running hard, sputnik sinkers are available. These sinkers have retractable wires that need to be reset after every cast. Only use these sinkers when you have to, but always have one or two around.

The cast is an important element in surf fishing. There are several techniques that surf anglers employ to get a distance cast. If the angler is a beginner, just getting the bait out beyond the crest of the wave is the most important thing to do. If you are right handed and casting with a spinning rod and reel, put your right hand at the reel seat with your thumb above and your fingers below. Flip over the bail, holding the line with your index finger. Be sure to position the line towards the end of your index finger so you

Continued on page 56

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In early December, David Rippey landed this 38-inch, 20.1 lb. striper while fishing off of the Rt. 50 Bridge. Weighed at Oyster Bay Tackle.



Harry Nazario was fishing from the surf in Ocean City when he beached this 35.5-inch bluefish while using a bunker head for bait. The chopper weighed 10 lbs. 4 oz. on the scale at Oyster Bay Tackle.

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don't forget to let go of the line when casting!

Bring the rod tip over your head, and then cast forward, propelling your bait into the ocean. It takes practice to get a "long cast." If your rig goes too high in the air, you won't get the distance. If you cast is too low, it will drop inside the first big wave. Follow through and extend your casting arm to get that extra couple yards. Keep your eye on the ocean where you want to land your cast, not on your hands. If your finger gets sore, purchase a finger guard.

If you have no bait on the hook, you can't catch fish. The serious surf fisherman needs to check the bait often and either hold the rod in his or her hand, or watch the tip of the surf rod in the sand spike like a hawk! The smaller the baits, the more often you need to check your bait.

Big fish are often lost in the wash in the surf. If you hook a nice fish, be sure to use your drag and let the wave action help you bring the fish to shore. The biggest mistakes an angler can make is to pull too hard

when the fish gets close to shore or let slack get in the line. Keep tension on the fish the entire time, but wait for the next wave to bring it closer.

To have an enjoyable day of surf fishing, there are only a few key items you need besides the rod, reel, line, rigs, bait and lures:

- A simple PVC sand spike will protect your investment.
- A 5-gallon bucket or a cooler to hold your bait and fish.
- A sharp knife is necessary to cut your bait.
- A pair of needle nose pliers or some sort of hook remover to extract the hook is very important, especially when fishing for bluefish!
- A ruler is important to make sure your fish are legal.

The surf angler is a special type of fisherman. Rarely is he or she disappointed; even if the fish aren't biting, the mere experience of being on the beach fishing is very special. Sunsets, sunrises, birds diving, and porpoises jumping are all part of the surf fishing experience.



On October 4th, Phil Wenke of Ocean Pines, MD was tossing a Gotcha Plug near the Rt. 50 Bridge at night when he hooked into this 30-inch striped bass.

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On November 9th, James Weber caught this 30.55 lb. striper on a live eel near the #8 Buoy in the Delaware Bay. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop.

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20'	2006	SEA FOX 204 Cuddy Fish w/ Merc 3.0 L I/O + trailer	\$12,900	25'	2009	PARKER 2520 XL Sport Cabin w/ Yamaha 350 hp 4 stroke	\$79,900
21'	2007	HYDRA-SPORTS 212 Center Console w/ Yamaha 200 hp 4S + trlr	\$26,900	26'	2007	SEARAY 250 Amberjack w/ Mercruiser I/O	\$38,995
21'	2004	ANGLER 2100 Walkaround w/ 150 hp 2 stroke + trailer	\$17,900	26'	2006	SEASWIRL 2601 Walkaround w/ Twin Yamahas T-150 hp 4 stroke	\$47,900
21'	2003	CAROLINA SKIFF 2180 DLX w/ Yamaha 115 hp 4 stroke + trailer	\$14,900				
22'	1986	GRADY WHITE 227 Seafarer w/ 1995 Cobra 230 hp I/O	\$7,000	17'	2008	SUNDANCE F17T + trailer	\$5,750
23'	1987	SEA OX 230C Walkaround w/ Seadrive 3.0L, hardtop + trailer	\$7,900	18'	2008	SEASWIRL 1851 Dual Console w/ Yamaha F115TXR 4 stroke + trlr	\$22,900
23'	1994	PROLINE 23 Walkaround w/ 2002 Yamaha 225 hp 2S, hardtop	\$15,500	18'	2009	PALM BEACH 181 Center Console w/ Yamaha 90TLR 2 stroke + trlr	\$16,915
23'	1996	PARKER 23 Center Console w/ Yamaha 225 hp 2 stroke + trailer	\$21,900	19'	2009	PALM BEACH 195 Center Console w/ Yamaha F115TXR 4 stroke + trlr	\$21,619
24'	1992	GRADY WHITE 244 Explorer w/ 225 hp 2 stroke, garage kept	\$14,900	19'	2009	PALM BEACH 1900 Center Console w/ Yamaha F90TXR 4 stroke + trlr	\$21,623
24'	1999	BAYLINER 2452 Ciera w/ Merc I/O, hard top	\$13,900	16'	2008	XPRESS SV16 Bass (Sand) w/ Yamaha 50TLR 2 stroke + trailer	\$11,995
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				18'	2008	XPRESS SV18 Bass (Blue) w/ Yamaha 90TLR 2 stroke + trailer	\$14,995

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Fishermen To March on Washington, DC

In a historic show of solidarity, recreational and commercial fishermen will gather together on the steps of the Capitol on February 24, 2010 from noon until 3 p.m. in an organized demonstration against the unintended negative impacts of the Magnuson Stevens Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the federal fisheries law which was revised in January of 2007.

"We need to let Congress and NOAA know that we are the collective voice of the recreational fishing community and the collective voice does not accept the current broken management system," said Jim Donofrio, Executive Director of the Recreational

Fishing Alliance.

Nils Stolpe, a consultant to the commercial fishing industry and columnist for SavingSeafood.org, said that over the past three decades since the original Magnuson Act was established, fishermen have been gradually phased out of the fisheries management process, regardless of sector. "The scientists have been put in charge, and as the list of closures and restrictions demonstrates, the Act has been turned into a weapon that is now being used against fishermen and fishing communities."

Some participants have questioned the timing of the march, coming in one of the coldest months of the year. "We can't let seasons stop the momentum, and if we wait any longer none of us will be fishing," said Donofrio. "Many members of Congress will be standing shoulder to shoulder with us"

Sea Bass Season Only Open for 2 Months in 2010

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) met in Wilmington, Delaware from December 8 through December 10, 2009. The Council met with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Board (Board) on December 8 and adopted the following 2010 recreational fishery management measures:

For the 2010 recreational black sea bass fishery, the Council and Board voted to adopt a 12.5 inch total length minimum fish size and maintain the current 25 fish possession limit. The season would be open June 1st through June 30th and September 1st through September 30th.



On October 20th, Kris Battaglini caught this 28.1 lb. striper on a flounder rig with cut spot while drifting a rip outside the Outer Wall. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Capt. Frank Pettolina



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Capt. Wade Lober



Skirt Chaser
42' Hatteras
Capt. Anthony Thomas



Fish Bonz
42' Ocean
Capt. Mark Radcliffe



Ranger
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Bills 4 Bills
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Capt. Mike Conner



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Capt. Dale Lisi



Reel Addiction
35' Carolina Classic
Capt. Greg Ignash



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Fishing with Light Tackle

by Mark Sampson



I know that to some folks the thought of pursuing fish with lighter than normal tackle makes about as much sense as going fishing without hooks. After all, most anglers just want to go out and "get the fish" so they can bring it home for dinner, and they prefer to do so using the most effective tackle possible. So if I made the argument that light tackle fishing would make their fishing experience more fun, exciting or rewarding, many folks would probably respond that they're already enjoying every minute of their time on the water and don't need to spice their fishing up with the hassle of light tackle.

During these times when closed seasons, smaller catch limits, and larger size limits seem to be making it harder all the time to bring home a catch, I'd also expect to hear from some anglers that the last thing they want to do is handicap themselves with light tackle. But to that note I'd contend that in times like this fishermen should find it all the more appealing to have light tackle be a part of their angling pursuits. After all, as regulations tighten, anglers are more likely to find themselves in situations where they are forced into catch-and-release either because the season is closed, they've caught their limit, or the fish are too small.

Consider our bluefin fishery. When the tuna are biting like crazy but folks can only keep one or two per boat, or the fall run of rockfish when it's quick and easy to catch a two-fish limit, or when schools of snapper bluefish invade the inlet. If you're hooked up to a fish that you can't or don't wish to keep anyway, why rush it to the boat on heavy tackle just so you can cast back out and repeat the process on another fish? I don't know about the rest of you, but for me that kind of fishing starts to get a little too repetitive, particularly when the fish are of all the same type and general size. Those are the times when just a slight change-up in tackle

can transform a very monotonous routine into a thrill from every fish.

Going light can spark new fun into "same-old-same-old" fishing action by providing anglers with the chance to milk an extra measure of enjoyment and challenge from fishing opportunities that they might otherwise not consider to be worth pursuing. As an added bonus, the lessons learned while rigging and using light tackle for everyday fishing adventures can pay big dividends later if anglers find themselves accidentally or purposefully doing battle with oversized opponents.

Here on Delmarva we have enough light tackle opportunities that anglers looking to add a little (or a lot) of zest to their fishing adventures shouldn't have much trouble finding an adversary that'll put their stamina and tackle to the test. Inshore and offshore, from bluefish to bluefin tuna, local anglers need only to pick a quarry, consider the circumstances, devise a strategy, rig their tackle, and execute their plan to experience the kind of challenge and fun that most just read about in fishing magazines.

So, what constitutes "light tackle?" Actually, there's no written standards that define when tackle is considered to be "light," it's pretty much up to the angler to decide for themselves, taking into account the weight of the line, size of the fish, the angler's own skill level, and environmental issues such as the sea conditions, depth of the water, or strength of current. There's so many variables. For instance, 10-pound test would certainly not be considered light tackle for catching 2-pound seabass in 15-feet of water. But put those same fish among a wreck with 200-feet of water above them and 10-pound test would surely qualify as light for the task.

Anglers may occasionally experience times when an unexpected bite from an unintended fish suddenly forces

them into an unplanned light tackle battle-royal, such as when a 400-pound thresher shark snaps up a strip of squid on a bottom rig with 20-pound test intended for seabass. Unfortunately such incidences seldom end well for the fisherman, not because the line is too light but because the rest of their tackle (hooks, leader, reel, etc.) will not likely be set-up to handle the forces of such a large fish. Compounding the problem, the crew probably doesn't have the boat rigged and ready to give quick chase. However, even using the same 20-pound line, anglers who choose to intentionally target such a fish can dramatically swing the odds of success in their favor with some advance planning and tackle preparation. Light tackle catches that make it into the record books seldom happen by accident, they start with a goal and end with the execution of a well-planned strategy to achieve the objective.

Choose a quarry. First things first - choose a quarry. It would be a mistake for someone to think that a good strategy would be to just grab some light tackle, head out on the water and "see what they can catch on it." To do it right, anglers should pick a species and then focus their efforts on that particular fish. Of course folks have to make sure they choose the right adversary. Light tackle fishing can mean a lot of lost fish so anglers should consider targeting species that are abundant and the opportunity for hook-ups are relatively great.

Some fish are not "doable." Anglers must also understand that some fish in some situations are simply not candidates for light tackle. For instance, giant bluefin tuna on 4-pound test just isn't going to happen because the breaking strength of the line will never allow the angler to exert enough pressure on the fish that it would even know that it's hooked - let alone wear it down until it could be brought to the boat. It would also be futile to use such tackle to try and catch tautog over relatively deep wrecks or reefs because before the angler could pull it away from the structure the fish would simply swim into a hole or around some debris and

break itself off.

Too deep. Extreme depth is also a major obstacle to the success of light tackle fishing because it often requires so much weight to get the bait or lure down to the fish. That weight, plus the added forces applied by water pressure on the line, can be too much for the line to take. When you factor in the pull of a fish, which probably doesn't even have to "pull" because at great depths a big fish could stop swimming altogether and its dead weight alone would be too much for the line to withstand, it's obvious that light tackle doesn't mix well with deep water.

Problems with currents. Since too much water pressure on a light line can pop it just as easily as a frozen drag, anglers will sometimes encounter situations where the current is so strong that there is no way to effectively fish light tackle, particularly if they are fishing from the shore and not able to move freely with the flow of the water as they could from a boat.

Too many fishermen - too many fish. Another obstacle is the presence of too many other fishermen. Because light tackle often has the fish taking a lot of line and the angler following it around with the boat or up and down the shoreline, the last thing that needs to be thrown into the mix is other fishermen with lines, anchors, boats, and anything else that might hinder the battle. Light tackle fishing requires that fishermen find a place away from everyone else where they can focus 100% on the task at hand. A similar problem can result from too many fish. When a fish is hooked from a school it will likely try to stay with the school during the fight creating a good opportunity for the line to be broken on a fin, a tail, or even in the mouth of another fish. This can also happen when anglers chum or chunk-up a bunch of fish up behind the boat.

Consider the health of the fish. Light tackle anglers must also take into consideration the health and survivability of their quarry. To the fisherman, a "break-off" might be just another lost fish and a chance to get lines back in the water to try again.

Continued on page 64



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But it's not such a good deal for a fish if it dies from physiological complications resulting from the stress and struggle or because it's left too weak to avoid becoming lunch for sharks or other predators. Also, what happens if the line breaks and the fish is left to swim around trailing leader and line until the hook eventually corrodes away? Anglers must take such things into consideration to determine if it's ethical to use light tackle in the first place. Of course, anglers looking to increase their fun without running the risk of killing the fish in the process have the option of dropping down just a single line class or two. A 50-pound tuna caught and released on 20-pound tackle is going to fair a lot better than one caught on 6-pound!

Devise a strategy. Most anglers will encounter times when, purely by accident, they find themselves in a light tackle situation; a huge blue marlin slurps down chunk bait intended for small dolphin, a 100-pound stingray bites a kingfish rig in the surf, or a giant

bluefin pounces on a lure intended for bluefish. Sometimes the angler will emerge triumphant from such encounters, but more likely the victor will be the one wearing scales. Then again, the record books are filled with incredible catches of fish weighing hundreds of pounds taken on line testing in the single digits. Such catches don't just "happen" because the angler got "lucky," they represent what's possible when anglers research a species, formulate and plan, prepare their tackle, and execute a strategy.

Have enough time to make it happen. When planning out a light tackle adventure, anglers should keep in mind how long it could take to land whatever fish they might be doing battle with. Hooking some big monster on sewing thread at the end of the day might not be such a good idea if the battle runs past sunset; light tackle battles get a lot more complicated in the dark, so too during periods of bad weather and rough seas. Light tackle anglers have enough adversities to overcome;

Continued on page 66



Bill Baker, Jr. showed that he is the "Top Striper Fisherman" at Bill's Sport Shop in Lewes, DE, catching this 34-inch on a live eel in the Valley, east of the #8 Buoy in the Delaware Bay.

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Some methods are just not doable. One of the first things anglers learn when they "go light" is that they cannot always employ the same baits, lures, hooks, or leaders that they are accustomed to using with heavier tackle because the light line cannot withstand the added pressure when the terminal tackle is cast, trolled, jigged, or drifted across the bottom. A green machine behind a bird simply cannot be snapped to 10-pound test and trolled at six knots because the line will break before the rig is towed ten feet. To fish smaller lures, lighter weights and thinner leaders effectively, light tackle almost always requires that some kind of concessions be made in the terminal tackle used. The silver lining to this imposition is that in many instances fish that might otherwise shy away from hitting big rigs with heavy leaders will more readily snatch up the lighter rigs.

Setting big hooks. It used to be that hook setting was an issue with light tackle because only so much pressure could be applied with the light line to plant the hook into the fish's jaw. But today with small but very strong laser or chemically sharpened hooks, getting a good hook-set is not so much of a problem with light tackle, particularly when circle hooks are used.

Use good knots, line and leader. Paramount for light tackle success is that anglers use good quality knots, line and leaders. While the line and leader part of this equation is simply a matter of buying top-notch materials, when it comes to knots there's no easy solution other than learning, practicing, and then being able to tie the proper knot as needed. Knots are typically the weakest link between fish and fisherman and during a long fight they are going to be stressed to the max. Anglers will find that when working with super light lines it can be hard enough just to see the line, let alone tie a smooth and effective knot, so as much rigging and knot tying as possible should be done beforehand in a stable and controlled environment rather than out on

the water. By making rigs, tying knots, and (most importantly) testing those knots before heading out to sea, anglers should be able to avoid a terminal tackle malfunction after hook-up. It's far better to have a knot fail while being tested by the fisherman than later on when tested by a fish.

Use the right tackle. Since light tackle hook-ups can result in long drawn out battles between man and fish, anglers should ensure that their tackle is in perfect working order and designed for the task. Drags should be properly set and silky-smooth, roller guides should all turn freely, and fishermen should know exactly how much line they have on their reels to work with. In fact, the two most important considerations when choosing a light tackle reel is drag and line capacity. For most inshore fishing where the water is relatively shallow, line capacity is less important because the fish won't likely have as much room to run. But anglers fishing the open ocean need to have a lot of line on their reels, because even if they plan on chasing the fish with the boat there's a good chance that it'll take many hundreds of yards of line before they can get the boat moving. While there are certainly times when spinning reels will do the job, to end up with right combination of line capacity and smooth drag, most light tackle fishermen, particularly in the ocean, usually end up fishing with conventional type reels.

Anglers should also know that they can't just take any reel, put light line on it and expect it to perform properly. Reel drags are designed to handle lines within a certain range. Slip out of that range and the drag won't perform properly. So loading a reel designed for 20-30 pound line with 8-pound test would be a mistake because, even though it would hold a lot of the lighter line, the drag would probably not do its job properly at the lower settings.

For the record books. If all this talk isn't enough to sell someone on the idea of using light tackle, maybe the thought of setting a world record might do the trick. The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) is

the one organization recognized around the world for properly qualifying, recording, and keeping records for most of the game fish caught around the world in both fresh and saltwater.

Records are maintained not just for heaviest "all-tackle" catches in each species, but also for "line-class" catches in 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 16, 20, 30, 50, 80, and 130 pound test line, fly-tackle records in 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 16, and 20 pound tippet, as well as junior-angler catches. Records are also broken down into men's and women's categories. So there may be over 20 individuals who hold world records at the same time for a given species of fish. You can bet that with so many species of fish in the world, there are not only a lot of records on the books, there's also a gang of potential records still waiting to be set.

To keep the world record process fair for the anglers, the IGFA has a trunk-load of rules that stipulate how fish must be landed, what type of bait and tackle may and may not be used, and what procedures must be followed after the catch to officially qualify it as a record.

All records are still "potentials" until IGFA receives a properly completed application, a sample of the fishing line and all terminal tackle used to catch the fish, as well as a barrage of photos showing the angler with the fish, the tackle, and the fish on a certified weigh scale. Finally, before qualifying a record the IGFA uses some kind of high-tech gizmo to check the true breaking strength of the line.

To many fishermen the thought of setting a "world record" might seem like such a longshot that it's pretty much dismissed as a dream that will never come true. That's probably because many assume that world records are set by anglers who just luck into an extra ordinarily large fish one day. Maybe sometimes it happens that way, but more times than not records are set by anglers who are specifically trying to set a record. They do their research and know what size and type of fish they have to catch, are very aware of IGFA tackle requirements and angling

rules, know ahead of time where they can weight their catch on a certified scale, and have all the extra necessities such as cameras, tape measures, IGFA forms, ready for action when the time comes.

With just a little research some folks might find that getting in the record books could be within their reach. I'm not saying it'll be easy - but it's certainly not impossible. The place to start is the IGFA website (www.igfa.org) where you can get all the details about what the organization requires for a record. Unfortunately, you have to be a member in order to access all their information, including the complete record list. But it's worth the \$40 membership fee just to stay abreast of all the record standings, not to mention all the stuff they send you.

Once you have the rules and all the record lists you can look-up whatever type of fish you want to pursue and see if there is a record in a line class category that you think you have a shot at beating. Then make sure all your tackle conforms to IGFA specifications and go fishing! Particularly if you're trying for a super light line category like #2 or #4, don't expect things to go your way - right away. Figure you're going to break off a lot of fish in the process but with each mishap you'll gain a little more experience that will hopefully get you closer to your ultimate goal of getting in the official IGFA record book.

A lot of fishermen will be quick to claim that they "aren't into that light tackle stuff," but sometimes Mother Nature will have other ideas and impale a big-old-something-or-other on the end of our line when we least expect it. While no one can be totally prepared to handle anything that might bite their line, having at least some knowledge of light tackle fishing could sometimes mean the difference between returning to the dock with a "one that got away" story - or a pose for the cover of the Coastal Fisherman.

Mark Sampson is an outdoor writer and Captain of the charter boat "Fish Finder", docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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2009 Ocean City Marlin Club Awards



At the 2009 Ocean City Marlin Club Awards, the crew on the "Billfisher" won top honors for "Most Billfish Released by a Charter Boat", "Most Billfish Released by a Charter Boat in 1 Day" and "Most Billfish Released During the 2009 Season". Pictured are Mate John Prather, Capt. Jon Duffie, Jon Duffie, Sr., Judy Duffie and Marlin Club President Franky Pettolina.



The crew on the "Predator" won top honors in four categories during the 2009 Ocean City Marlin Club Awards, winning "Heaviest Wahoo", "Most Billfish Released by a Private Boat 35'-46'", "Most Billfish Released by a Private Boat" and "Most Billfish Released by a Private Boat in 1 Day". Receiving their award from Marlin Club President Franky Pettolina were Bill Pino, Jul Airey, Donnie Moore and Capt. Howard Lynch.



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Most Tuna Caught in 2009-

Charter Boat

"Marli" (182)

Most Tuna Caught in 2009 -

Private Boat

"Reel Chaos" (45)

Heaviest Tuna

"Shadowfax" (249 lbs.)

Heaviest Dolphin

"Fish Bonz" 34 lbs.

Heaviest Wahoo

"Predator" (78 lbs.)

Heaviest Shark

"Nontypical" 876 lbs.

Top Junior Angler

Victoria Roberts (33 releases)

Jimmie Roberts III (7 releases)

John Horning (6 releases)

Top Lady Angler

Carol Speicher (33 releases)

Susan McCart (10 releases)

Gigi St. John (9 releases)

Top Gentleman Angler

Ed Dunn (47 releases)

Jeff Lessin (43 releases)

Richard Benn (19 releases)

Most Billfish Released

Private Boat - 34' and Under

"Fish Whistle" (46)

Most Billfish Released

Private Boat - 35' to 46'

"Predator" (103)

Most Billfish Released - Private

"Predator" (103)

Most Billfish Released

Private Boat in 1 Day

"Predator" (14 on 9/22/09)

Most Billfish Released - Charter

"Billfisher" (130)

Most Billfish Released

Charter Boat in 1 Day

"Billfisher" (16 on 9/21/09)

Most Blue Marlin Released

"D.A. Sea" (6)

Most Billfish Released

"Billfisher" (130)

First White Marlin

Terry Layton

"Nontypical"

6/10/09

First Blue Marlin

Clark Ensor

"Brother's Pride"

6/20/09

Edna Hodgens Award

Skip Johnston

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At the 2009 Ocean City Marlin Club Award dinner, Terry Layton (center) of Ocean City, MD is presented the award for catching the "First White Marlin" of the season on June 10th. Jim Hughes (left) also won top honors for landing the "Heaviest Shark" of the season, a state record mako weighing 876 lbs. Also pictured is Marlin Club President Franky Pettolina.

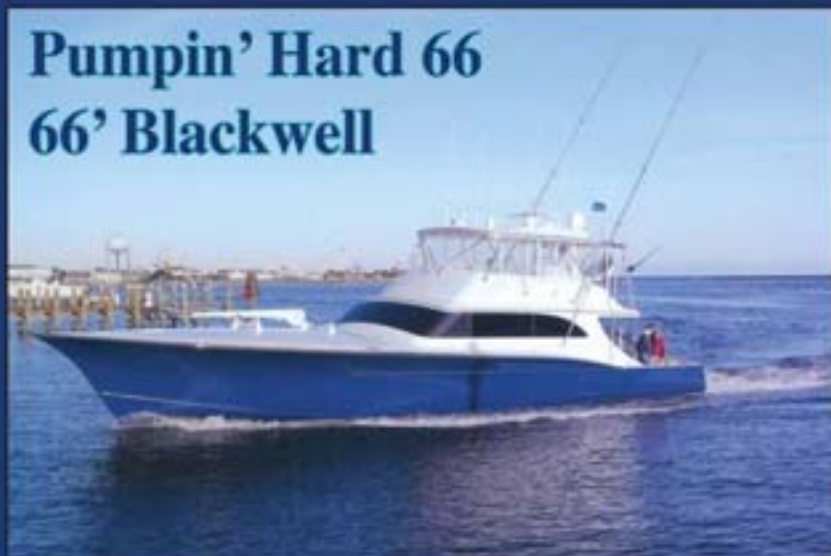


Victoria Roberts (center) won "Top Junior Angler" honors at the 2009 Ocean City Marlin Club Award dinner. Victoria released 33 billfish during the 2009 season. Her brother Jimmy came in 2nd place with 7 billfish releases. Presenting the award to Victoria is Barb Glinka from Sunset Marina and Ocean City Marlin Club President Franky Pettolina.

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On November 9th, Ed Moore of Showell, MD muscled in this 43-inch striped bass while tossing a Wind Cheater in the bay behind Assateague Island.



On the last day in October, Scott Costello of Millersville, PA, Drew Kohler of York, PA and Dave Jud of York, PA ended their day with a 30-inch striper and 8 tautog in the box. The guys were fishing on the "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente and Mate Ben Pollmeier. The striper was caught on a live spot near the Rt. 50 Bridge, while the tog were all hooked on green crabs at the South Jetty. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Logan Romberger was drifting a live eel on Little Gull Shoal when he hooked into his first striper while fishing with his dad, Tim Romberger in mid-December. The striper measured 41 inches and tipped the scales at 20 lbs. on the scale at Ake Marine.



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Maryland State Records



<u>Species</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Angler</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Longfin Albacore	74 lbs.	Victor W. Gardner II	07/17/05	Baltimore Canyon
Atlantic Spadefish	11 lbs. 6.5 oz	Noel Lohr	09/02/05	Triple Wrecks
Black Seabass	8 lbs.	Hayward Madison	1978	Jack Spot
Bluefish	23 lbs. 8 oz	Lillian Morris	10/30/74	Assateague Island
Cobia	72 lbs.	Chris Toner	07/25/09	Great Gull Shoal
Dolphin	67 lbs. 8 oz	Kim Lawson	07/21/85	53 miles off Ocean City
Black Drum	79 lbs.	Stanley Iiyas	09/07/85	Bass Grounds
Red Drum	70 lbs.	Robert Light	09/24/77	Assateague Island
False Albacore	22 lbs. 8 oz	Kevin Sheckells	06/25/95	Third Lump
Summer Flounder	17 lbs.	Anthony Vacari	10/03/74	Assateague Island
Winter Flounder	4 lbs. 7 oz.	Jeremy Kuhn	08/03/06	Ocean City
King Mackerel	47 lbs.	Gerald Kauffman	10/18/85	Big Gull
Kingfish	2 lbs. 8 oz	Grace Walker	10/01/75	Assateague Island
Porgy	6 lbs. 3 oz	Pearl Hoppie	07/04/66	Fenwick Shoal
Blue Marlin	1,062 lbs.	Bob Farris	08/07/09	Baltimore Canyon
White Marlin	135 lbs.	George Pierson	08/29/80	Poorman's Canyon
Black Tip Shark	193 lbs.	Brian Zysk	08/04/91	Ocean City
Blue Shark	280 lbs.	Martin Waltman	09/13/97	Ocean City
Dusky Shark	469 lbs.	Jim Liberto	07/01/82	Ocean City
Great White Shark	467 lbs.	Jack Holmes	06/11/92	Ocean City
Scalloped Hammerhead	254 lbs.	Jamie Gill	08/05/09	Massey's Canyon
Smooth Hammerhead	375 lbs.	George Wilson Ford V	06/17/04	Parking Lot
Mako Shark	876 lbs.	Jim Hughes	06/20/09	Poorman's Canyon
Sand Tiger Shark	334 lbs.	Billy Leidner	09/08/83	Ocean City
Sandbar Shark	235 lbs.	Mark Sampson	07/08/83	Ocean City
Spadefish	11 lbs. 6.5 oz.	Noel Lohr	09/02/04	Triple Wrecks
Great Northern Tilefish	62 lbs.	Steve Doctor	10/22/09	Baltimore Canyon
Spiny Dogfish Shark	11 lbs. 8 oz	Meyels Sampson	05/17/93	Ocean City
Thresher Shark	642 lbs.	Brent Applegit	06/19/09	Fingers
Tiger Shark	1,210 lbs.	Grace Czerniak	07/09/83	Ocean City
Sheepshead	17 lbs. 8 oz	Raymond Daniel	07/25/04	Ocean City Inlet
Speckled Trout	13 lbs.	Jack Miller	08/21/73	Sinepuxent Bay
Striped Bass	57.2 lbs.	Gary Smith	05/06/06	Assateague Island
Tautog	20lbs. 11 oz.	Sam Beauchamp	03/11/07	Ocean City
Bigeye Tuna	375 lbs. 8 oz	Cecil Browne	08/26/77	Ocean City
Blackfin Tuna	32 lbs.	Bob Zang	09/20/98	30 fathom line
Bluefin Tuna	625 lbs.	James Daniels, IV	08/03/75	45 miles off Ocean City
Yellowfin Tuna	236 lbs. 8 oz	Mark Bennett	09/22/02	Washington Canyon
Wahoo	111 lbs.	Christian Tiller	10/08/03	Poorman's Canyon
Weakfish	16 lbs.	Donald Cannon	09/11/76	Ocean City Inlet

Note: all records recognized as of December 7, 2009

2009 - The Year of the State Record

Mako Shark
June 20, 2009
876 lbs.
Jim Hughes



Blue Marlin
August 5, 2009
1,062 lbs.
Bob Farris



Scalloped Hammerhead
August 5, 2009
254 lbs.
Jamie Gill



Thresher Shark
June 19, 2009
642 lbs.
Brent Applegit



Cobia
July 25, 2009
72 lbs.
Chris Toner



Great Northern Tilefish
October 22, 2009
62 lbs.
Steve Doctor



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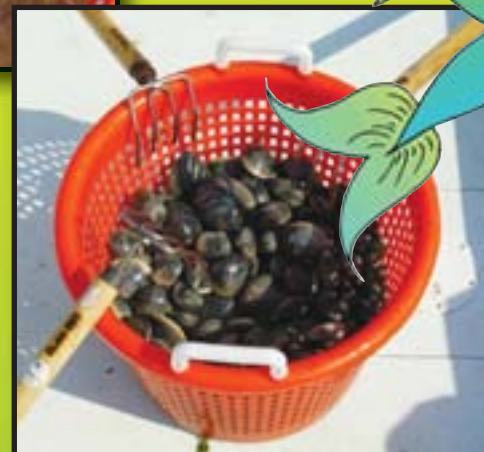
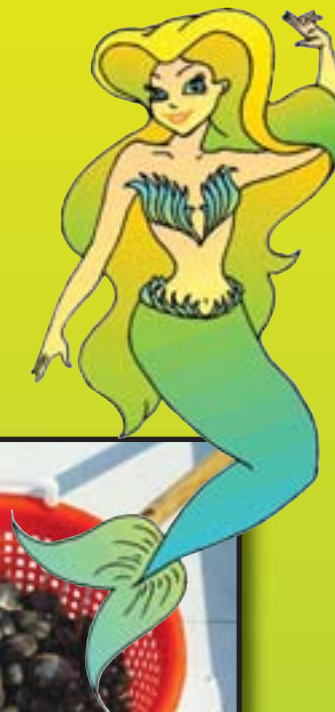
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Charlie Schleyer decked this 32.5 lb. striped bass while fishing on the "Angler" with Capt. Ted Moulinier. The bass was caught on a live eel in the Valley at the mouth of the Delaware Bay in early November.

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Delaware State Records

Species	Weight	Angler	Date	Location
White Marlin	120 lbs.	William Garner, Jr.	09/25/72	Baltimore Canyon
Blue Marlin	820 lbs.	Bruce King	07/08/86	Poorman's Canyon
Shark	825 lbs.	Brent Thomas	07/11/81	Atlantic Ocean
Tuna	873 lbs.	Dan Dillon	07/02/05	Sausages
Black Drum	115 lbs.	Kenneth H. Smith	05/20/78	Delaware Bay
Channel Bass	75 lbs.	James Vandetti	06/15/76	Not Recorded
Cod	44 lbs. 10 oz	John Osborne	01/25/75	Five Fathom Bank
Dolphin	52 lbs. 12 oz	Charles Ciociola	08/18/03	Hotdog
False Albacore	17 lbs. 9 oz	Scott A. Werner	08/31/80	30 Fathom Line
Bluefish	21 lbs. 15 oz	Bill Thoroughgood	10/27/80	Rehoboth Beach
Flounder	17 lbs. 15 oz	William Kendall	10/07/74	Indian River Inlet
Tautog	21 lbs. 4 oz.	Glenn Cave	06/18/05	Delaware Bay
Seabass	7 lbs. 6 oz	Steve Samluk	09/09/88	Fenwick Shoal
Trout	19 lbs. 2 oz	William E. Thomas	05/20/89	Delaware Bay
Porgy	5 lbs. 5 oz	Herman Schmidt	05/31/79	Not Recorded
Kingfish	4 lbs.	Billing Hastings	10/13/73	Bethany Beach
Atlantic Mackerel	3 lbs. 5 oz	Ricky Yakimowicz	04/02/85	Delaware Bay
King Mackerel	48 lbs. 9 oz	Gordon Harris	09/19/92	"B" Buoy
Wahoo	106 lbs.	Will Stahlgren	09/22/07	Atlantic Ocean
Croaker	5 lbs. 3.5 oz	Catherine Simpson	09/12/80	Indian River
Swordfish	276 lbs 12 oz	Albert E. Scott	08/20/78	Delaware Bay
Longfin Albacore	80 lbs.	David Francella	09/15/87	Atlantic Ocean
Mako Shark	975 lbs.	Thomas Barnes	07/22/00	Poorman's Canyon
Striped Bass	51 lbs. 8 oz	Betty Roseu	12/1978	Indian River Inlet
Sheepshead	13 lbs. 15 oz.	Theresa Hilley	10/17/07	Haystack
Grey Triggerfish	5 lbs. 14.6 oz.	Clint Willman	10/19/07	Ocean Wreck

Note: all records recognized as of December 8, 2009

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The Galley

by Mama Jock



Shrimp and Scallop Scampi with Linguine

1 lb. linguine
12 jumbo shrimp, peeled and deveined
12 large sea scallops
Salt and pepper
3 1/2 TBSP unsalted butter
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 TBSP fresh lemon juice
1/2 cup dry white wine
1/4 cup torn fresh basil
2 TBSP chopped fresh parsley

Cook the pasta in salted water according to directions on box.

Meanwhile, heat a large skillet over medium-high heat.

Pat the shrimp and scallops dry; season with salt and pepper.

Add 1 1/2 TBSP of butter to the pan and cook the shrimp until golden on one side, about 3 minutes.

Turn the shrimp and add half of the garlic; cook until garlic is fragrant but the shrimp are still translucent, 1 to 2 more minutes.

Transfer shrimp to a plate.

Add the scallops to the skillet and cook until golden on one side.

Turn the scallops, add the remaining garlic and cook another 1 to 2 minutes.

Add the lemon juice and wine and bring to a boil, scraping up any browned bits with a spatula.

Cook until sauce is reduced by half.

Return shrimp to the pan, then add the basil and the remaining 2 TBSP. butter; season with salt and pepper.

Drain the pasta and transfer to a large serving bowl.

Toss with shrimp, scallops

and sauce; garnish with parsley and lemon.

Serves 4.

Striped Bass with Crispy Spuds

3 TBSP extra-virgin olive oil
16 boiled potatoes
Salt and pepper
4 striped bass fillets, skin on, 6 oz. each
12 roasted tomato halves

Preheat oven to 475 degrees.

Lightly oil a rimmed baking sheet.

Smash each potato with the base of your palm and place on sheet.

Drizzle with 2 TBSP of oil; season with salt and pepper.

Roast until crisp, about 20 minutes.

Roast tomato halves, about 10 minutes, watch closely.

Meanwhile, score fish skin in a few places; season with salt and pepper.

In a large nonstick skillet, heat 1 TBSP of oil over medium-high heat.

Add fish, skin side down; cook until browned and crisp, 6 to 8 minutes.

Reduce heat to medium; flip fish and cook until opaque, 2 to 4 minutes.

Serve fish with potatoes, tomatoes and your favorite sauce.

Serves 4.

Chesapeake Oyster Bisque

1 pint fresh oysters, drained, reserving liquid
1/4 cup celery, sliced thin
1/4 cup onion, chopped fine
2 TBSP butter
3 TBSP flour

1/4 tsp salt
1/4 tsp white pepper
2 cups milk
12 oz. can evaporated skim milk
2 TBSP snipped fresh chives

Chop oysters; set aside.

In medium saucepan, cook celery and onion in butter until tender.

Stir in flour, salt and white pepper.

Cook over low heat 1 minute, stirring constantly.

Gradually stir in milk and evaporated milk until smooth and slightly thickened, stirring constantly. DO NOT BOIL.

Add oysters, reserved liquid and chives.

Heat over low heat until thoroughly heated.

Serves 4.

Flounder Sandwiches with Caesar Mayo

1/4 cup milk
1/4 cup cornmeal
2 TBSP flour
1 TBSP grated Parmesan cheese
1/2 tsp. dried oregano
1/4 tsp. garlic powder
1/4 tsp. each salt and pepper
2 flounder fillets
1 TBSP butter, melted

Caesar Mayo

4 tsp. grated Parmesan cheese
4 tsp. mayonnaise
4 tsp. olive oil
1 TBSP lemon juice
1 TBSP Worcestershire sauce
3/4 tsp. garlic powder
1/2 tsp. ground mustard
1/4 tsp. hot pepper sauce

Sandwiches

2 kaiser rolls, split and toasted
1 small tomato, sliced thin
2 slices sweet onion
2 lettuce leaves

Place milk in a shallow bowl.

In another bowl, combine

the cornmeal, flour, cheese and seasonings.

Dip fish in milk, then the cornmeal mixture.

Place on a greased broiler pan; drizzle with butter.

Broil 4 in. from heat 8 to 10 minutes or until fish flakes easily with a fork.

Combine the mayo ingredients; spread over rolls then layer the fish and other sandwich ingredients.

Replace tops.

Serves 2.

Grilled Sea Bass Almondine

4 sea bass fillets
1/2 cup sliced almonds
1 1/2 tsp. coriander seeds
Salt and pepper
Fresh orange slices with peel intact
Olive oil
Nonstick foil

Drizzle 2 sheets of nonstick foil with olive oil.

Sprinkle each with 1/4 cup sliced almonds and 3/4 tsp. crushed coriander seeds.

Brush the fillets with more olive oil; season with salt and pepper.

Place each fillet, skin side down on top of nuts.

Top with a few orange slices, then add another fillet, skin side up to form a sandwich.

Sprinkle with more almonds and coriander seeds.

Fold up the foil sheets and grill over high heat until fish is just cooked through and almonds are toasted, 8 to 10 minutes.

Carefully loosen the almond crust from the bottom of the foil with a spatula; slice in half and serve.

Serves 4.

If you would like to share your favorite seafood recipes with Coastal Fisherman readers, you can email them to coastalfisherman@comcast.net or mail them to Coastal Fisherman, 12748 Sunset Avenue, Ocean City, MD 21842.



Jon Munn from Boise, ID flew in to fish with his dad, Sherill Munn from Calvert County, MD. The guys caught 3 stripers and 4 tautog while fishing on the "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente and Mate Seth Hetherington. The largest striper measured 37-inches and was caught on a live spot in the Inlet, while the tog were caught on green crab, also in the Inlet. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Earl Gill boated this 30.4 lb. striper while fishing on the "Top Fin" with Capt. Pete Haines. The big linesider ate a live eel at the Valley. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



PRESS TIME

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Capt. Willie Zimmerman and Mates Justin Hart and Rob Skillman hold up the results of a great day of marlin fishing between the Washington and Norfolk Canyons in late September. The crew from Laney Construction Group of Bel Air, MD chartered the "Playmate" for the day and ended up with 16 white marlin releases, all hooked on trolled ballyhoo. Pictured on the bow of the "Playmate" at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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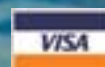


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Tackle Shop

by Larry Jock



Each year, all the big-wigs in the fishing tackle industry gather in Las Vegas at the ICAST show to display their products and introduce a host of new ones that they hope will be selected as a "Best of Show" winner in its category.

I picked a few of the winners from the 2009 show.

Best Fishing Accessory

If you are like me, your key ring looks like a weapon, with car keys, boat keys, dock box keys and numerous other keys. These products are the first codeable locks, meaning that you determine what vehicle key you want to use to open the lock. For example, if you want to use your truck key, all you do is insert your key, turn it once and the lock learns your key. Very simple and very convenient.



In their Codeable Lock Series, DuraSafe offers a receiver lock, padlock, cable lock, motorcycle disc brake lock, spare tire lock and a swing away tongue trailer lock.

All of the locks are made with a solid zinc core and have the highest rating for corrosion resistance.

The locks have a MSRP of \$27.95. At press time, I hadn't received a sample of this product, but it looks fairly simple and is probably an idea that is long overdue. For more information, log on to www.durasafe.com.

Best Fishing Line

Berkley spent four years designing their new Trilene TransOptic fishing line which is a nylon monofilament line

that captures UV rays to physically change the line's color, making the line a hi-visibility gold above the water and transparent below the surface where the UV rays are filtered out.



The line comes in 220-yard spools in 4-25 lb. test and has an MSRP of \$8.85 to \$10.95.

For more information you can log on to www.purefishing.com.

Best Saltwater Reel

The Daiwa Saltist Lever Drag Reel won the award for best new saltwater reel at the ICAST show.



The reel comes in single and 2-speed models and offers:

- Fast, one touch gear shift that takes you from high power to high speed (2 speed models)
- Stainless steel gears
- Seven corrosion resistant ball bearings
- A drag system with dual carbon discs
- Infinite Spin free spool for maximum casting of live baits and lures
- A main shaft bearing stabilizer that prevents excess side pressure on spool

bearings regardless of drag tension

- Dual system Infinite Anti-Reverse (single speed models)
- One piece aluminum frame and left sideplate for added strength

- Aluminum rod clamp

The Saltist preset lever drag allows easy drag adjustment where you can push the lever past the stop and aggressive cam takes you to maximum drag for near-boat fish control.

The Daiwa Saltist series comes in six 2-speed models and six single speed models, ranging in price from \$179.00 for the single speed reels up to \$250.00 for the 2-speed "big game" reels.

For more information, log on to www.daiwa.com.

Best Electronics

The winner of the best new electronic product was the Lowrance HDS-10 Fishfinder/GPS Chartplotter.



The unit takes advantage of high-definition technology and comes with a 10.4-inch Super VGA display that the company claims provides excellent clarity even in direct sunlight and outstanding wide-angle viewing.

In addition to the high definition display, the HDS-10 offers:

- Built-in Broadband Sounder
- Internal 16-channel GPS Antenna
- Built-in High Definition Mapping Options
- Largest selection of Chartcard options
- SIRIUS Satellite Weather and Stereo-Quality Radio Capability

When I checked online, the Lowrance HDS-10 retails for around \$2,500.

For more information, log onto lowrance.com.

Best Apparel

I've always been a big fan of Costa Del Mar sunglasses, owning multiple pairs of their Hammerhead model.



This year, the company introduced their "Zane" frame which features a medium large lens size in a large nylon frame, Costa's signature 3-hole venting system to alleviate fogging and no-slip Hydrolite nose pads. The CR-39, Costa 580 or glass lenses are available with the Zane frame. Frames come in matte black, silver or tortoise.

The suggested retail price for the Zane glasses are \$139.99 with the CR-39 lenses and \$239.99 with the Costa 580 lenses. Big price difference and I'm personally not sure it is worth it. Check out the 580 lenses for yourself and make the call on whether they are worth the extra \$100. In any case, you can't go wrong with Costa Del Mar sunglasses. The company stands behind their product. They are great on the water at cutting down glare and they look good.

When it comes to trolling for striped bass, a good pair of outriggers really comes in handy. My boat has an 8-foot beam, so by placing a pair of outriggers on the boat, I pick up an additional 14 feet of width to my trolling spread.

If you are unfamiliar with outriggers, they are typically metal tubes welded into an "L" shape. The bottom part sticks into your rod holder and the top section is where you place the butt of your fishing rod so your rod points directly off the side of your boat.

Unfortunately, the stress placed on the fishing rod from the weight of the fish or even

Continued on page 90

marlin ➤ tuna ➤ dolphin ➤ wahoo ➤ shark
bluefish ➤ rockfish ➤ deep dropping

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just the tension from the lure can make it difficult to get your rod out of the tube.

Tournament Grade Tackle came up with a great set of outrodders that are much easier to use. They call theirs the TGT Rod Rigger.



The red rod rigger goes into your port side rod holder and the green rod rigger slips into your starboard side rod holder. The neat thing about these outrodders is how easy it is to get your fishing rod out of the outrodder. Instead of having to reach over the side of your boat and pull the rod out of the tube, with the TGT Rod Rigger you simply use one hand to lift the foregrip up and use the other hand to

push the butt end down. Then you simply slide the rod out of the Rod Rigger. It really is that easy.

Another excellent feature of the Rod Rigger is the patented Z Notch that locks the Rod Rigger into the rod holder. Anybody who has owned the traditional outrodders I'm sure has experienced their outrodder almost falling into the water as they were trying to remove their rod during a hook-up. The Z Notch will prevent this from ever happening.

The set is made from marine grade stainless steel and has rubber pads to protect your reels while they are sitting in the Rod Rigger. Each Rod Rigger comes with a safety strap to secure your rod and reel.

TGT's set costs \$289.00 which is more expensive than your traditional outrodders that typically run around \$150 to \$200, but they are definitely worth the money.

If you like to troll, and you

want to add some space between your lures, then give these Rod Riggers a try. I think you will like them.

For more information, log on to www.tgttackle.com.

Back in December, I swung into Lewes Harbour Marina to pick up some pictures for the Winter Issue. As you see in this issue, some really nice stripers were caught in the Delaware Bay. Several of them were caught while trolling. I asked Joe Morris, owner of Lewes Harbour Marina, what the "hot" trolling lure was this past fall and he showed me a Stretch 30 Cabo Sunset. Wow! What a good looking lure. I have always been a fan of Mann's Stretch 25's and 30's, and have caught a good number of stripers and bluefish on them. I immediately bought the last two that Joe had and tried them a couple of days later.



Well, needless to say the first time out of the box the lure produced. I caught 18 good size striped bass and easily 6 or 7 were caught on this lure and another 2 came loose during the fight. I trolled the 11-inch lure on 60 lb. braid line with a 4-foot monofilament leader.

The Cabo Sunset also comes in a Stretch 25 model that is 8-inches in length and weighs 2 oz.



A lot of anglers troll Stretch 25's and 30's, and I'm sure there are several others that work well. All I know is that the Cabo Sunset has become a mainstay in my spread, right along another Stretch product that always produces for me, the Stretch Imitator Dolphin.

This past fall, I purchased new boots for fishing at Foot Management in Pittsville, MD. I ended up buying a pair of Muck Scrub Boots and I absolutely love them. They are light, waterproof, warm and extremely comfortable.



The boots have a rubber bottom with a neoprene top. The rubber bottoms are reinforced in the toe, heel, achilles and shank areas. The neoprene upper is seamless, waterproof and actually extends down into the boot for a warm, comfortable feel. The sole is a ribbed tread that really grips the deck of my boat. I haven't had any problem with slipping, which is always a good thing. The boot even has a kick rim so you slip your boots off without using your hands.

The boots retail for around \$75. Foot Management really does a great job fitting you with the boot and carry a bunch of sizes. They are located just off Rt. 50 on Friendship Rd. in Pittsville.



Another product that enhances the comfort of the boot, and any other shoe you would wear, are the new Action Arch Marine Insoles. Quite honestly, I now have a pair of these insoles for every shoe I own. They are that comfortable.

I can really feel the difference in my legs after a long day of running around the ocean. My legs aren't as tired and they definitely aren't as sore. These inserts in the Muck boot really make a great combination.

The insoles retail for \$20 and can be found in local tackle shops.

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Colin Hurley of Catonsville, MD was bluefishing at Fenwick Shoal when he caught and released this big striper in mid-November. Colin was fishing with his grandfather, Pat Hurley, of West Ocean City, MD.



Bee Linzey was drifting live spot at Overfalls Shoal in the Delaware Bay when he hooked into this 30.1 lb. striped bass. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Anglers experienced an incredible run of large bluefish, both on the inshore lumps and just off the beach. Christopher Rozsas of Bishopville, MD landed this big bluefish while trolling a Stretch 30 at Isle of Wight Shoal with his dad, Tom Berry during the first week in November.



At the end of November, Baron Daiker was fishing with his dad, Rich when they boated 3 stripers and 2 bluefish at Little Gull. The stripers measured 30, 39 and 41-inches and were caught on the troll.

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&
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DURING SODA BLASTING



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paint and gelcoat failure – not a pretty sight. But most important the hull integrity and the operating performance of the boat is diminished due to a rough bottom surface and the added weight of water, which wicks into the fiberglass.

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Dylan Weitkamp from Airville, PA, along with George and Lucy Miller from Felton, PA caught some big tautog during a trip aboard the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Mike Kinder and Rich Silvani. The tog were caught on an artificial reef while using green crabs for bait. Dylan also released a 43-inch striper during the trip. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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George Jarman was trolling an umbrella rig off the beach when he hooked into this 42-inch, 21 lb. striped bass. Weighed at Capt. Mac's Bait & Tackle in Fenwick Island, DE.



On November 29th, Billie Jo Hunter caught this 8 lb. 13 oz. flounder while drifting a live spot at Reefsites #10 in the Delaware Bay. Billie Jo was fishing on the "Lil' Angler" with Capt. Chet Harer and weighed her catch at Lewes Harbour Marina.



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In October, Anne Marie Gee captured this 40-inch black drum while drifting for flounder in the Indian River Inlet. Anne Marie was fishing with her husband, Richard.



Tommy and Bruce Chandler, along with Phylicia Schwartz, arrived at the dock with 3 stripers after fishing at the Valley in the Delaware Bay. Phylicia outfished the guys, landing a 26.7 pounder. Not bad for the first saltwater fish she has ever caught. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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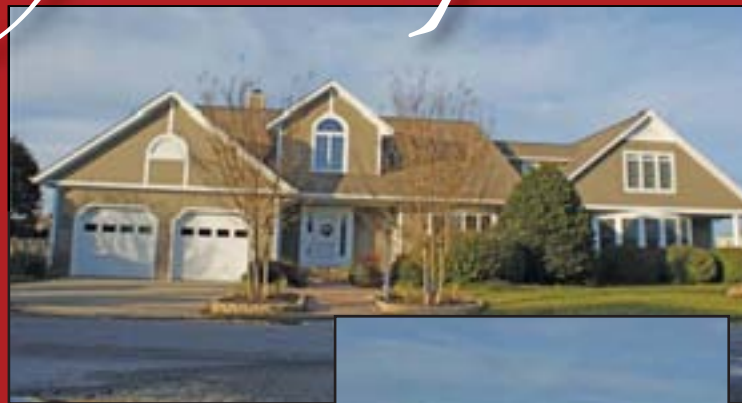
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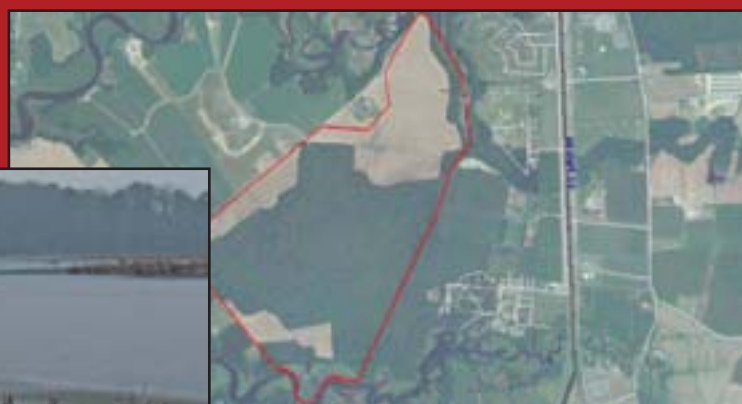
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2010 TOURNAMENTS

APRIL

20th Annual Capt. Zed's Spring Flounder Tourn.
April 16-25 • Wachapreague, VA • 757-789-3222

27th Annual MSSA Spring Tournament
April 30 - May 2 • M.S.S.A • 410-255-5535

MAY

1st Annual Bluefish Tournament
May 29-30 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

JUNE

14th Annual Mid-Atlantic Mako Mania
June 4-6 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7473

52nd Annual Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament
Ladies Event - June 11 • Tournament - June 14-19
Morehead City, NC • 252-247-3575

30th Annual South Jersey Shark Tournament
June 10-13 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

30th Annual Ocean City Shark Tournament
June 17-19 • O.C. Fishing Center • 410-213-2442 or
410-213-1121

31st Annual Small Boat Tournament
June 26-27 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

21st Annual MSSA Tuna-Ment
June 25-27 • Sunset Marina • 410-255-5535

JULY

28th Annual Canyon Kick-Off
July 2-4 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

21st Annual Ocean/Viking Showdown
July 8 & 10 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

23rd Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament
July 9-11 • O.C. Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

9th Annual Mid-Atlantic Tuna Tournament
July 15-17 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

6th Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic
July 17-18 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

Branch Kreppel Memorial Blue Marlin Tournament
July 23-25 • Sunset Marina • 410-255-5535

2nd Annual Marlin Club Ladies Tournament
July 30-31 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

**3rd Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce
Flounder Tournament**
July 31 • Ocean Pines Yacht Club • 410-641-5306

AUGUST

37th Annual White Marlin Open
August 2-6 • Harbour Island Marina • 410-289-9229

17th Annual Capt. Steve Harman's Poor Girls' Open
August 12-14 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7473

19th Annual Mid-Atlantic \$500,000
August 16-20 • Cape May, NJ & Ocean City, MD
609-884-2400

SEPTEMBER

52nd Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament
September 3-5 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

3rd Annual Wahoo Rodeo & Flounder Round-Up
Date TBA • Sunset Marina • 410-213-9600

5th Annual Flounder Pounder
September 12 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7473

32nd Annual Challenge Cup
September 17-18 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

OCTOBER

Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament
October 1-31 • Lewes, DE • 302-645-6227
www.coastalfisherman.net

31st Annual Mid-Atlantic Surf Fishing Tournament
Date TBA • Ocean City, MD • 410-213-0646

6th Annual A.M.S.A. Surf Fishing Tournament
Date TBA • 443-235-2609

11th Annual Rocktoberfest Tournament
October 16-17 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7473

Lewes Harbour Marina Striper Tournament
October 23 - November 23 • Lewes, DE • 302-645-6227

10th Annual South Jersey Big Bass Open
October 30 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

NOVEMBER

18th Annual MSSA Chesapeake Bay Fall Tourn.
November 20-21 • MSSA • 410-255-5535

4th Annual Black Friday 550 Rockfish Tournament
November 26-28 • Ocean City Fishing Center
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41' 2005 Luhrs	\$249,000
41' 2000 Tiara	\$225,000
43' 2007 Egg Harbor	\$450,000
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In late October, Randy Doyle muscled in this 275 lb. mako shark during a trip aboard the "Skipjack" with Capt. Chris Thurman and Mates David Walker and Steve Moore. The mako was caught during an overnight trip to the Baltimore Canyon and weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina in Lewes, DE.



Robert Martin, Bradley Martin, Jr. and Bradley Martin, Sr. of Sykesville, MD fished hard for 2 straight days and ended up with 1 striper and 25 tautog. The striper was caught off the beach on Assateague Island while the tog were caught at the South Jetty. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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LEWES HARBOUR STRIPER TOURNAMENT



Evan Falgowski of Lewes, DE took home first place honors in the Lewes Harbour Striper Tournament, decking this 49-inch, 44.8 lb. striped bass while trolling a Stretch 25 at Overfalls Shoal. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Jeff Gardniner won 3rd place in the Lewes Harbour Striper Tournament with a 33.1 pounder caught while trolling a Stretch 25 at Overfalls Shoal in the Delaware Bay.



Second place in the Lewes Harbour Striper Tournament was won by Grant Aulenbach with a 35.4 lb. striper caught while drifting an eel at Overfalls Shoal. Grant was fishing on the "Top Fin" with Capt. Pete Haines and weighed his catch at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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- \$5 Fried Oyster Sandwich • \$5 Homemade Oyster Stew

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RFA Sues NOAA Over Closure of Black Sea Bass Fishery

In a 40-page legal challenge submitted before the U.S. District Court of New Jersey on November 4, the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) and industry allies have officially brought legal action against the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke due to the recent recreational closure of the Atlantic recreational black sea bass fishery. The challenge contends that the recent closure is not only unprecedented for a

fish whose stocks are considered rebuilt and not overfished, but that the action is also based upon "misapplication and misuse of a fatally flawed angler survey which NMFS itself has acknowledged is not to be used for this type of decision."

Filed for a dozen specifically named plaintiffs, the official complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief requested expedited consideration in hopes of reversing the six-month sea bass closure as quickly as possible on behalf all saltwater anglers and fishery dependent businesses. According to Capt. Tony Bogan, plaintiff of the United Boatmen, the recent closure of sea bass is only a part of the legal equation. "This goes way behind sea bass," Bogan said of the legal argument, adding "it addresses the potential action by

NMFS in the future to arbitrarily close fisheries on a whim or because of survey trends or ideology.'

By closing a recreational fishery based on the fatally flawed recreational survey (MRFSS), the suit contends that the government violated numerous provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Administrative Procedure Act, and National Standard guidelines issued by NMFS. Additionally, it charges the defendants with ignoring countervailing information and for failure to consider less severe alternatives.

Herb Moore, Jr., RFA co-counsel said the disregard for the spirit and intent of the Magnuson Stevens Act is one thing, but the clear disregard for the legal requirements of the federal fisheries law is something that leads him to be cautiously optimistic. "These cases are very hard to win, but I think we've got some very strong arguments," Moore said, adding "NMFS was extremely arrogant with their sea bass decision and we're calling them out on this one." Moore charges that NMFS was very deliberate in their actions, explaining "they purposely chose an insular approach designed to block public scrutiny by claiming that they had good cause to waive prior notice and the opportunity for public comment."

To view full legal challenge submitted on behalf of the

www.coastalfisherman.net recreational fishing community, visit the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) homepage at www.joinrfa.org (see RFA Legal Defense Fund - The Fight For Angler's Rights.) Anglers and business owners interested in joining the coalition and supporting the legal challenge are encouraged to look for the Donate button on the RFA homepage. Donations may also be mailed to:

RFA Legal Defense Fund
PO Box 3080
New Gretna, NJ 08224

As of the court filing date, \$18,855 in donations have been collected towards the initial challenge, though the plaintiffs expect that the real fight is now set to begin.

"This is the beginning of the battle, not the ending by any means," said Moore.

Ex-Navy Destroyer To Be Sunk at Del- Jersey-Land Reefsite

As part of the first multi-state reefing effort, Delaware soon will take title to the decommissioned Navy destroyer Arthur W. Radford to have the former warship sunk in 2010 at a new artificial reef off the Indian River Inlet.

The Radford, at a length of 563 feet, will be the longest vessel ever reefed in the Atlantic, with the sinking to take place at the Del-Jersey-Land inshore site located 26 miles southeast of the Indian River Inlet.

The sinking is expected to take place in spring or summer of 2010, over the jointly-developed Del-Jersey-Land reef, which is equidistant from fishing ports in Indian River, DE, Cape May, NJ, and Ocean City, MD. The reef is a collaborative effort of the three states and comprises an area of about one square mile with a depth of 120-130 feet.

This will be the first multi-state reefing effort since the site was permitted in 2006 with the purpose of joint development by the three states' reef programs. Funding for the ship's transportation, clean-up, preparation, sinking and monitoring will be shared among the three states and the Navy.

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Henry Busby of Coatesville, PA caught this 31-inch bluefish on cut finger mullet at the end of October. Photo courtesy of Oyster Bay Tackle.



In early October, Steve Schonberger of Finksburg, MD took advantage of a good red drum bite off the coast of Ocean City, releasing this 44-incher at McCabe's Slough, south of the Inlet. Steve was fishing on the "Just Add Sauce" with Scott Hoffman.

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At the end of September, Joshua Perry from Ocean City, MD caught this yellowfin tuna while fishing on the "Invincible" at the Hot Dog.



Bobby Parker and Joe Hasselhan, both from Millsboro, DE took a trip to the Bay Bridge Tunnel and returned with 26 lb. and 33.5 lb. stripers. Both fish were caught on live eels. Photo courtesy of Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.

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In early November, Gary Morningstar, Jr. of Baltimore, MD was drifting a live spot in the Ocean City Inlet when he hooked into this 40-inch striper. The fish weighed 20 lbs. on the scale at Oyster Bay Tackle.



Fred Todd of Frankford, DE caught this 13.4 lb. sheephead while fishing on the "Get Sum" with Eric Zupan from Bear, DE, Chad Morris and Shawn Welch from Newark, DE, Tom Parker from Smyrna, DE, Rob Bochanski from Frankford, DE, Capt. Nick Clemente and Mate Jeff Kowalski. The crew also ended up with 16 tautog in the box, all caught on green crab at the South Jetty. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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A few local boats headed to North Carolina for some fall/winter giant bluefin tuna fishing. Here, Garth Bossey boated this 500 lb. bluefin while fishing on the "Restless Lady" with Capt. Sean Welsh and Mate Chuck Damman. The big bluefin hit a trolled ballyhoo in 63-feet of water off the coast of Morehead City, NC.



Kyle Falgowski (left) caught a 27.6 lb. striper, while Jacob Webb landed himself a 22.2 pounder, both while trolling Stretch 25's at Overfalls Shoal at the end of October. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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- 27 Parts Drops throughout our territory
- 12 regional authorized marine parts dealers
- Web based ordering via Parts Store
- 24 hour emergency Parts Ordering
- 2 Marine Parts & Service locations - Elkridge & Ocean City
- 13 Operational Facilities to pick up or order parts



We Deliver Uptime!



Ocean City facility with dock

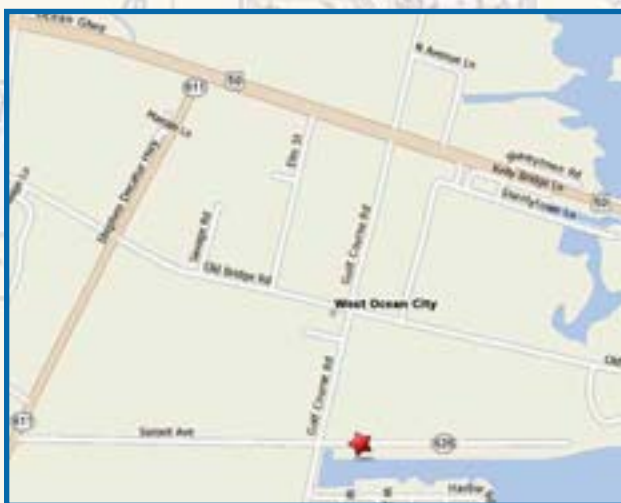
- Top End & Full Engine Overhauls
- 20+ factory trained field technicians
- 20 fully equipped field service trucks
- 24 hour emergency service Hotline
- Techs equipped with State-of-the-art tooling

SERVICE

- Dedicated Marine Team
- Cat Engine Repowers
- Engine Surveys
- Scheduled Maintenance

Alban has always had a commitment to outstanding service. Our field-service technicians are supported in high-tech fashion. Communication is instant through cellular phones and laptop computers for real-time troubleshooting and speedy parts ordering and repairs. We operate a fleet of 20 service vehicles ready on short notice. For emergencies, road service is available nights and weekends. Keeping your boat up and running is our top priority.

Service ... A #1 Priority



Ocean City Facility

12904 Sunset Ave
Ocean City, MD 21842

- parts
- shop service
- slips available
- field service

Alban Engine Power Systems

www.albanecat.com

Ocean City, MD 410-213-9373
Elkridge, MD 410-796-8000

Marine Service Hotline

When you need parts or service in a hurry,
call Alban's Marine Service Hotline.
24 hrs a day ~ 7 days a week!

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877-363-6446

**From the C&D Canal to the mouth of the Chesapeake...
Nobody covers the Mid-Atlantic like we do!**



BILL'S SPORT SHOP STRIPER TOURNAMENT



First place in the Bill's Sport Shop Striper Tournament was won by Harry Aiken with a 45.85 pounder caught in the northern Delaware section of the Delaware Bay. The 50.5-inch striper had a 32-inch girth and was caught on a bunker head. Harry took home \$1,500 for his first place finish. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop.



Emma Buchanan of Dover, DE caught a 39.4 lb. striper to win 2nd place in the Bill's Sport Shop Striper Tournament. Emma was fishing with live bunker in Blake's Channel and won \$1,000 for her catch. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop in Lewes, DE.

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AIR CONDITIONING • DVD • PENN TACKLE

CAPTAIN DEAN METCALFE

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DOCKED AT BAHIA MARINA



Kelvin Smith landed this 45-inch striper that tipped the scales at 38.3 lbs. while fishing with live bunker in Blake's Channel. The catch was good enough to win 3rd place in the Bill's Sport Shop Striper Tournament and earned Kelvin \$750 in award money. Pictured at Bill's Sport Shop in Lewes, DE.

Bill's Sport Shop

18388 Coastal Hwy • Lewes, DE 19958



Tax-Free Shopping!

OPEN YEAR ROUND

Brand new store in a new shopping center located southbound Route 1 between Lewes and Rehoboth Beach

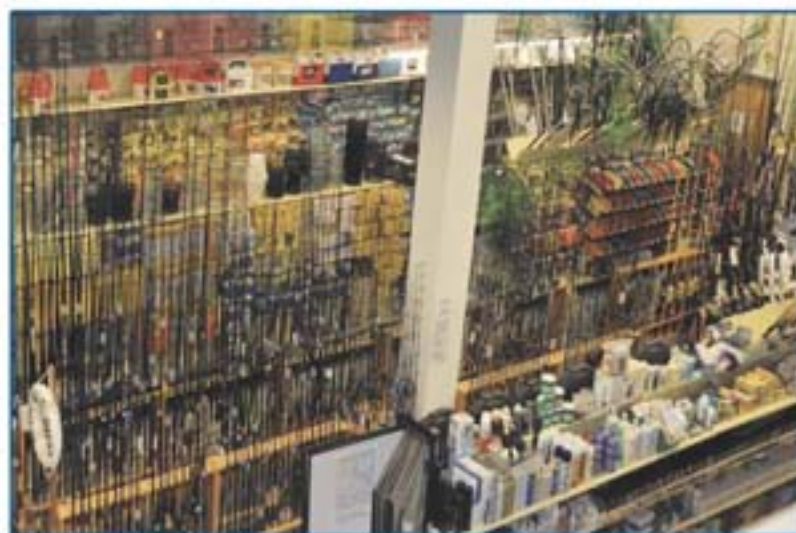
Here is a tackle shop you will want to check out!

One of the largest inventories on the Eastern Shore!

Fully stocked for the surf fisherman, jetty jockey, bay fishing inshore and off shore



Join the traffic at Bills - stores available for lease!



OVER 2,500 FISHING RODS

Penn, St. Croix, Daiwa, Tica, Ande, Fenwick, G. Loomis, Shimano, Lamiglass, Okuma, Sea Striker, Ugly Stik, Star, Tsunami

HUNDREDS OF FISHING REELS

Fin-Nor, Abu-Garcia, Avet, Penn, Daiwa, Shimano, Okuma, Van Staal, Quantum

LARGE SELECTION OF FISHING APPAREL FOR ADULTS AND KIDS

Hats, Boots, Rain Gear, Footwear, Shorts and Tees - Calcutta, Guy Harvey, G. Loomis, Pelagic, St. Croix, Aftco

VEHICLE ROD HOLDERS & PIER AND SURF CARTS

SUNGLASSES

Calcutta, Costa Del Mar

CLAMMING AND CRABBING SUPPLIES

Coolers, Fillet Knives, Landing Nets, Gaffs, Fishing Line, Hooks, Rigs, Tackle Boxes and Charts

Mark your calendar for the date of our annual flea market on April 10th from 6 a.m. 'til 10 a.m. Gather together all of your fishing stuff you would like to sell and come set up in our parking lot. There is no charge to set up your display!

302-645-7654 www.BillsSportShop.com billsss@comcast.net



LEWES HARBOUR TOG TOURNAMENT



Herbie Shorthose won 1st place in the Lewes Harbour Tog Tournament with a 9.98 pounder caught on a box crab at the Ice Breakers. Herbie was fishing on the "Crab Man Do" and weighed his fish at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Second place in the Lewes Harbour Tog Tournament was won by Mike Newsham of Lewes, DE for his 9.54 lb. tog caught on a wreck at the mouth of the Delaware Bay. Mike was fishing on the "Phoebe Anna" and hooked his fish on a green crab.



LEWES HARBOUR MARINA
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OUTFITTERS

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Rods by Star, Seeker, St. Croix, Tsunami,
G Loomis and Shimano

Reels from Shimano, Penn, Avet and Fin-Nor

Sportswear and Foul Weather Gear











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Michael Osberg won 3rd place honors in the Lewes Harbour Tog Tournament with an 8.92 pounder caught while fishing with crabs at the Outer Wall. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Garrett Catts of Rehoboth, DE caught this 29-inch striper while fishing with live spot off the rocks at the Indian River Inlet. Photo courtesy of Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.

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edwardsmarine@comcast.net

"Always outstanding quality with dependable service."
 - Capt. Steve Selander, Hot Rod Charters

"Very nice to deal with a family run business who is always there and willing to help."
 - Capt. Jeff Eutsler, Tony & Jan

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\$1,752,366



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June 11-19, 2010

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BOAT FOR SALE
17' SeaPro CC, 70 HP Force,
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trailer. Many upgrades, clean and
ready to fish! (240) 876-9054

BOAT FOR SALE
17' Boston Whaler, 90 HP
Johnson, trailer. \$5,500
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OCEAN CITY, MD
35-50 Boat Slips. Seasonal slips
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\$2,500 - \$4,000 May thru Sept.
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Release 130 lb. class fighting chair.
New, never on a boat. Pedestal
included. \$7,500.
Call Ron Callis (410) 726-4829

SOUTH JERSEY TOURNAMENTS 2010 FISHING CALENDAR

30th Annual South Jersey Shark Tournament
June 10-13
*The Richest Shark Tournament in NJ
(2009 available prize money \$298,670)
Plus \$50,000 Monster Shark Bonus*

21th Annual Viking/Ocean Showdown
July 7-11
Viking & Ocean owners go head-to-head in the "War Offshore"

9th Annual Mid-Atlantic Tuna Tournament
July 14-17
*The Main Event for Tuna Fishermen
(Average purse of \$250,000 plus!)*

19th Annual Mid-Atlantic \$500,000
August 15-20
*Boat for boat, the richest marlin & tuna tournament in the world!
(2009 total prize money \$1,761,202)*

10th Annual South Jersey Big Bass Open
October 29-30
Presented by SJ Marina & the American Striper Association

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Bob Foster of West Ocean City, MD is all smiles after releasing this 49.5-inch red drum off the Virginia Coast. Bob was fishing with Wilson Cropp.



Donna Guthridge caught and released her first red drum while fishing a 1/2 mile off the beach with Tim Kane on the "Salti". The fish measured 47-inches with a 28-inch girth and was hooked on a strip of fresh croaker at the Mud Hole.

3B's Captains School

★★ Coast Guard Approved ★★
No Test At Coast Guard

January 3	Kent Island, MD	OUPV (6 PAK)	Weekdays
January 8	Ocean City, MD	Masters Upgrade	One Weekend
January 8	Wilmington, DE	OUPV (6 PAK)	3 Weekends
January 8	California, MD	OUPV (6 PAK)	3 Weekends
January 15	Easton, MD	OUPV (6 PAK)	3 Weekends
January 21	Kent Island, MD	Assistance Towing	
January 22	Kent Island, MD	Masters Upgrade	One Weekend
January 22	Highland, NJ	OUPV (6 PAK)	3 Weekends
February 7	Kent Island, MD	OUPV (6 PAK)	Weekdays

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2009 WBS Championship, Los Sueños, Costa Rica
1st Place Angler Tom Russell, aboard
"Cerveza" Capt. Butch Davis, Mate Jon Meade
Squidnation Mini Chuggers



Angler Gunnar Zorn
78 lb. Wahoo, caught on the "Predator" using
Squidnation Teaser Chains & Dredges



3rd Place Angler, 2009 WBS Championships
Los Sueños, Costa Rica
Angler Tim Hake, Capt. Howard Lynch, Mates Carlos and Alacran
Squidnation Daisy Chain



2009 Mid Atlantic 500
1st Place Tie, Tuna Division "Predator"
Angler Donnie Moore, Capt. Howard Lynch,
Mate Jul Airey. \$55,000 won in prize money.



2009 Canyon Kickoff
1st Place Wahoo
Angler John Timmons, "Tuna Vision"
Caught on Blue & White Squidnation Big Heavy



2009 OCMC Season Awards
"Predator" with Captains Howard Lynch,
Donnie Moore and Jul Airey
Squidnation Squid Dredges & Teaser Chains



2009 Poor Girls' Open
1st and 3rd place dolphin on the "Predator" with
Captain Howard Lynch and Jul Airey
using Squidnation Dredges and Daisy Chain teasers

Available at:

- Alltackle
- Whalebone Tackle,
Manteo NC
- Bass Pro Shops
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30% OFF
ONE ENTIRE ORDER

(excluding Big Heavy and Mini H)

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The "Predator"
exclusively used Squidnation Squid Dredges...they never once pulled a mullet dredge!
"Predator" also uses Squidnation Teaser Chains

1st place Most Billfish on a Private Boat 103
1st Place Most Billfish on a boat 35-46 ft. 103
1st place most billfish in one day on a private boat - 14
1st place Biggest wahoo - 78 lbs.

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2010 TIDE TABLES

Indian River Inlet, DE add 25 min. for high. Wachapreague Inlet, VA add 4 min. for high, 21 min. for low. Quinby Inlet, VA subtract 6 min. for high.

Tides are corrected for Daylight Savings Time -  1st Quarter Moon  Full Moon  New Moon  Last Quarter Moon



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TOURNAMENT

Yacht Sales

*Call us for your next purchase or sale.
Inventory Changes Daily!*

66' Paul Spencer 2004
65' Paul Mann 2005
65' Paul Mann 2006
64' Paul Spencer 2003 (2)
63' Ricky Scarborough 2007
62' Paul Spencer 2001
62' Titan Custom 2004
61' Paul Spencer 2006
60' Paul Spencer 2006
59' Paul Spencer 2005
58' Dean Johnson 2005
57' Island Boat Works 1996
57' Gillman Marine 2000
57' Dean Johnson 2005
55' Buddy Canady 1995
55' Gwaltney 2000
55' Ocean Super Sport 1986
54' Paul Spencer 2004
54' Vicem Custom 2006
53' Sunny Briggs 1985
52' Ricky Scarborough 1991
52' Paul Spencer 2004
51' Crown Marine 2004
50' Viking Convertible 1995
48' Cabo Flybridge 2003
48' Custom Marine Mgmt 1977
48' Ocean Sportfish 1988 (2)
47' Daytona Sportfish 1962

46' Bertram Sportfish 1995
45' Chris Craft Commander 1978
45' Ricky Scarborough 1992
45' Rose Bros. Carolina 1974
44' Garlington Express 1991
43' Cabo Convertible 2005
40' Cabo Express 2004
40' Luhrs Tournament 1987
40' Luhrs Convertible 2004
40' Ocean SS 2000
38' Ricky Scarborough 1982
38' Stolpher Express 1996
38' Topaz Sportfish 1989
36' Ricky Scarborough 1991
35' Bertram Convertible 1974
35' Cabo Express 2006
35' Cabo Express 2002
35' Carolina Classic 2001
35' Vernese Custom 2001
34' Blackfin Fish Around 2009
33' Bertram Convertible 1979
33' Bertram Flybridge 1984
33' Grady White Express 2003
33' Wellcraft 3300 Coastal 1997
32' Luhrs Convertible 2001
31' Bertram Exp Cruiser 1963
31' Boston Whaler 1989
31' Mako OB w/tower 2002

31' Sportcraft 3010 HT 2001
30' Albemarle 305 Exp 2002
30' Albemarle 305 Exp 1998
30' Grady White 300 Marlin 1999
30' Hydra-Sports Vector 1999
30' Pro-Line Walk Around 2004
30' Rampage Express 2004
30' Rybo Runner Rybovich 1983
29' Cruisers Sea Devil 1985
29' Phoenix Convertible 1988
28' Albin Express 1994
28' Grady White Sailfish 2004
28' Ricky Scarborough 1978
27' Albemarle Express 1994
27' Albemarle Express 1990
27' Albemarle Express 1986
27' Baha Cruisers 2003
27' Contender CC 2005
26' Century 2600 2000
26' Grady White Express 2002
25' Seafox 257 CC 2000
24' Albemarle 242 CC 2005
24' Bimini Express 2007
24' Grady White Offshore 1989
23' Polar/Dynasty 2004
23' Seacraft Custom 1983/2005
22' Sea Ray 2004
17' Boston Whaler Maunkauk 2004

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Jamie VanWinkle
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