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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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For the second year in a row, anglers on the "Mate Trix" brought back the first bluefin tuna of the season. On April 23rd, Josh Ensor and Jeff Rosenkilde ventured 80 miles offshore where they found a 57-64 degree temperature break between the Baltimore and Wilmington Canyons. Only 30 minutes after lines were in the water they boated this 133 pounder after hooking it on a skirted ballyhoo. Last year, Josh boated the first bluefin out of Ocean City on May 8th in the Wilmington Canyon. Pictured back at the dock at Sunset Marina.



Ron Harrigan took advantage of some large, chopper bluefish roaming the bay this spring, nailing this beast while tossing a soft plastic lure near the Rt. 90 Bridge.



In early February, Carl Meyr ventured down from New Jersey to take a trip on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. Carl made the most of his trip, muscling in this 16.6 lb. tautog after hooking it on a green crab in 80 feet of water on an artificial reef.



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On April 24th, Nick Rhoetter of Wilmington, DE was fishing off Port Penn, DE in the upper-Delaware Bay when he caught this 46-inch, 31 lb. 15 oz. striped bass while using fresh bunker for bait. Nick is pictured with Bob Ashley.

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Nancy Cox of Ocean City, MD shows off 2 of the 6 flounder caught while fishing with her husband, Danny Cox in Wachapreague, VA. All 6 of the flatties were hooked on minnows and ranged in size from 16 1/2 to 18 1/2-inches. The largest weighed 2 lbs. 8 oz.



Frank Candeloro, Thad Bittner and Jimmy Parrot had a great day tautog fishing at the African Queen, ending their day with 11 keepers in the box and many fish released. All of the tog were fooled with green crabs, including their largest that tipped the scale at an even 12 lbs.

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Ocean City Fishing Report

by Larry Jock



It's great to be back with everyone for another season of fishing off the Delmarva coast. So far, fishing in 2016 has not been up-to-par, starting with the worst striper season we have seen in many years. High water temperatures kept the fish up north for longer than expected and then a very fast and sharp decrease in water temperature either moved the fish outside the ridiculous 3-mile line or sent them right on by us. That,

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On March 31st, Billy Powell of West Ocean City, MD landed the first black drum of the year in Ocean City while casting sand fleas off the beach on Assateague Island. Billy hooked 2 black drum during the outing, releasing one estimated at 40 lbs. and keeping this 24-inch, 7 lb. 10 oz. fish.

coupled with a very windy fall/winter left a lot of boats and frustrated striper snipers at the dock.

Speaking of stripers, last weekend, especially on Sunday, the action off Assateague really picked up. The late morning bite produced good catches of both short and keeper striped bass for anglers tossing bunker into the suds. This is a change from what we have been seeing from the beach where anglers have been tangling with chopper bluefish, skates and some black drum.

If the improved striper bite holds, than they seem to be right on time. Last years

spring run was not a very good one, but historically the first half of May produces some quality catches for those who are willing to put their time in on the beach. Bunker is the bait of choice for anglers

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fishing from the coast, but sand fleas are also enjoyed by linesiders as well.

The one thing that has always perplexed me is why more anglers don't troll along the beach in May. You obviously don't want to troll close enough to the shoreline to interfere with surfcasters, but with large fish hugging the beach during their northern migration, I would think trolling in the spring would be more productive than trying to hook them inside 3-miles during their run back south in the fall.

Short stripers continue to be caught in the Ocean City Inlet, around the Rt. 50 Bridge and up by the Rt. 90 Bridge. Keepers are extremely rare with most fish measuring 20 to 24-inches.

As you can see from the photo on the left, the first black drum of the season was caught by Billy Powell on March 31st. This is 17 days earlier than the first one landed in 2015.

For most of the spring, bluefish have been mainly caught by surf fishermen, but for a short time in early April we saw choppers roaming the bay behind Ocean City. A few are still being picked up around the bridges.

Last year, the bluefish run was spectacular. It was so good that you really didn't bat an eye when a 10 pounder hit the dock because you were so used to seeing fish weighing in the mid-to-high teens. Water temperature along the coast and in the Inlet are hovering in the mid-50's, so the timing is right for solid

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bluefish action but I have a feeling we have already seen the best of it. There have been reports of large schools running north along the 20 fathom line and the bite in Jersey has really turned on.

Tautog have been the star of the show this season with nice fish being caught on several ocean reefs and wrecks. It seemed to get off to a slower than normal start, with colder water temperatures making for sluggish fish, but over the last 3 weeks the bite has gotten noticeably better. That's not to say we didn't see some large fish caught. All you need to do is look through this edition and you will see some whoppers. It was just hit and miss. At this time, we are also seeing smaller fish caught around the South Jetty and along the rocks on the southern end of the West Channel (Martha's Landing). Green crabs are the bait of choice with sand fleas coming in a close second.

Flounder fishing hasn't gotten rolling yet, but we did see the first confirmed flattie of the season caught on April 16th by Hannah Johnson while fishing on the charter boat, "Lucky Break". Hannah was fishing with minnows in 9-feet of water near the Assateague Bridge. This time of year, when the flounder bite

starts turning on, the area around the Rt. 90 Bridge always seems to be one of the top places to fish. You may also want to try drifting, or power trolling over the flats north of the Thorofare or down by the Assateague Bridge. Live minnows or Gulp! Swimming Mulletts are good baits to fool a keeper flattie.

Offshore, the big news was the first bluefin tuna of the season being caught on April 23rd, over 2 weeks sooner than the first one caught in 2015. Josh Ensor and Jeff Rosenkilde on the "Mate Trix" took a trip 80 miles from the inlet to between the Baltimore and Wilmington Canyons where they found a 7-degree temperature break (57-64 degrees). It only took the duo 30 minutes to hook a 133 pounder on a skirted ballyhoo before they headed back to the dock to beat the building seas. Several times this spring, warm water eddies made their way into the canyons but rough seas prevented boats from taking advantage of the opportunity.

That about wraps it up this week. Although bad weather is in the forecast for most of this week, hopefully we will start to see some stretches of sunshine and calm winds so folks can get out on the water.

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Local Ocean City angler, Charlotte Sampson holds several world records and on this beautiful day she was happy with this challenging catch and release of a bonefish while fly-fishing off Summerland Key, Florida with her husband, Capt. Mark Sampson.

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Hey Cheech, man....
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On April 25th, Big Bird Cropper and Dave Leizear had a blast casting Roy Rigs just outside the Ocean City Inlet where they caught 4 chopper bluefish measuring between 30 and 33-inches and weighing up to 9 lbs. 12 oz. After boating the bluefish, the duo headed to the Rt. 50 Bridge where they released a dozen striped bass.



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In early March, Rich Seagraves of Milford, DE caught this 14 lb. tautog on a crab and shrimp combination while fishing on an ocean wreck aboard the "First Light".

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At an artificial reef site, Kill Song used a white crab to fool this 12 lb. 5 oz. tautog during a trip in early February aboard the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley.



Even though it was the worst striped bass season in many, many years, Connor Metz from Sundance, WY managed to catch a beautiful 46-inch while trolling a white tandem parachute rig at Little Gull Shoal. Connor was fishing on the "G-FORCE" with his dad, Eric Metz of Manheim, PA, Capt. Tony Diesel and mate Seth Obetz. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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Chum Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson



The 2016 fishing season seems to be off to a good start, and just like most anglers, I'm very optimistic that this is going to be a great year for fishing! For some folks, it might even end up being their best ever. But before we get too far into it, this might also be a good time to think about last season and what you have to show for it.

I'm guessing that by now most of our freezers don't have much from last year's harvest, so as far as physical evidence of what we caught, there's probably not much left to go on. This pretty much leaves anglers with only their own memories and whatever photographs or videos were taken throughout the season. But memories will fade over time, leaving our photographs

as the only lasting and accurate account of our special times on the water, so never



underestimate the importance of recording your fishing adventures!

With the popularity of social media and the fact that

these days almost everyone carries in their purse or pocket some kind of device that's capable of taking high quality photos and videos, now - more than ever, a batch of good fishing photos at the end of the day that anglers can share online with friends,

the dock, getting shots out on the water can allow for incredible images of the catch still alive and wearing its natural colors with a backdrop that shows the environment where it was caught.

It can be helpful to assign one person in the crew the responsibility of recording the day with the understanding that they will share the photos with other anglers when the trip is over. Challenges of getting good photos can vary depending upon the layout of the boat, sea conditions, attitude of the fish, agility of the photographer and other variables. Anglers and crew should recognize and acknowledge the importance of having good photos of the catch and other fishing activities and be accommodating to the person with the camera rather than getting upset when they try to move in close to the action during times of frantic activity.

When possible, the photographer should first try to get the angler and the fish in the photo while the fish is still in the water. Because it's not uncommon to lose a fish at the boat, photos should be taken as soon as possible and a good photo might be the only evidence that the fish was ever on the line.

Jumping fish are the subjects of some of the most exciting fishing photos, but they can also be tough to shoot without good timing and the proper equipment. The camera in my phone has a 2-second delay from the time I

family and the world have become just as important as a cooler full of fish. Long after the fillets have been eaten-up and memories have clouded over, fishing photos and videos will continue to allow anglers to relive the fun and excitement of their adventures on the water.

But taking quality "on-the-water" fishing photos isn't easy. It takes advance planning, the right equipment, cooperation by everyone on the boat and certainly a fish that's willing to hold still long enough to put everything and everyone together in the same frame long enough for a few clicks of the camera. Even if you plan on taking photos at

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press the button until it actually takes the picture making it totally useless for capturing a fish in the air. All I get is a splash. For those type of photos I switch to a real camera with an adjustable shutter speed. Timing is everything and knowing when and where the fish is going to jump can be a challenging task for a photographer.

When trying to get airborne shots, anglers should expect the majority of fish to do most of their jumping soon after it's hooked and later whenever it finishes a fast run. So when the reel starts singing – get ready to shoot! Also when possible, try to be in a position behind the angler so that when the fish breaks the surface you can get a shot that includes the person on the rod which can prove to be a much more telling photo than just a jumping fish out in the open water.

Unless the camera has a good optical zoom lens, try not to use the camera zoom at all or it could blur the final image. Instead of the zoom, try to move the camera closer to the subject.

It's good to take a lot of photos and videos because those that don't turn out can simply be deleted. But be mindful about battery life, particularly when taking

videos, which will drain batteries more quickly than photos. Also, if using your smart phone camera remember that cell service rarely extends more than about ten miles offshore. Beyond that your phone will be searching for service all day which quickly drains the battery unless they are put in "airplane mode" to preserve the power. It's always a good idea to have a way to charge your phone on the boat either by using a car charger or a battery pack type charger. They even have ones now that are solar powered.

I've found that, unless you're really good at editing, taking a lot of videos is better than taking one long one. Let's say you're trying to video a half hour fight with a fish. On the boat, at the time, it's all going to seem exciting and fun, but later when you or anyone else sits down to watch the video, if 20-minutes of it is just someone cranking on a reel, there is going to be a lot of fast forwarding going on to get to the good part when the fish is finally at the boat. It's fine if you want to film the entire fight so you don't miss anything, but making ten short clips by simply stopping and restarting the camera will give you the ability later to more easily locate and delete long sections of dead-time.

Some of those sections can even be deleted on the boat if disk storage space becomes an issue.

During the fight, the person on the camera should be prepared to constantly move around the boat so they're always in the best position to get a shot of the fish and angler at the angle you're looking for. When the fish is to the boat, the angler can often maneuver it with the rod to a place that will facilitate the best photo. Other times this might require the captain to turn the boat to a position that helps put the fish where it needs to be for the best photo.

May 4, 2016 Coastal Fisherman Page 13

Sometimes you just have to face the fact that some people have the talent for taking good photos and some don't. If you have the choice, leave the photography duties to someone aboard who has a bit of a creative-eye and is eager to go the distance to get that all important and ever popular on-the-water fishing photo.

Capt. 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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Right after the *Coastal Fisherman* Winter Issue hit the street, Mike Zeigler of Dillsburg, PA and Tom Lane from Germantown, MD caught some nice fish during a trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mate Dan Iacangelo. Mike caught a 27-inch flounder and a 30-inch bluefish, both on bucktails tipped with squid. Tom used a jig to fool his 28-inch gator. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Anglers on the "C-Boys" will fish out of Sunset Marina this summer but they got a jump on the season last week by entering the White Marlin Round-Up in Boat Harbour, Bahamas where Jamie Prather caught a 79.6 lb. white marlin, the heaviest boated in the tournament. Jamie was fishing with Paul Crampton, Jr., Paul Crampton, III, Lance Crampton and Capt. Luke Blume.



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It may not have been a big one, but it was the first one. On January 1st, Dave Moore of Cherry Hill, NJ landed the first tautog of the season during a trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mate Dan Iacangelo. Dave hooked the blackfish on a crab while fishing on ocean structure. The "Morning Star" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	Tuna:		
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lbs. or 32"
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 36"	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"
Red Drum *	36"	45"	Bigeye ***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"
Sailfish *	Any Size	-	Bluefin ***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"
Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	Yellowfin ***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"
Speckled Trout	24"	-	White Marlin **	Any Size	Any Size
Striped Bass	40"	30 lbs. or 40"			

* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program

*** Use curved-fork-length measurements

** Only released fish are eligible in MD and DE programs

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May 4, 2016 Coastal Fisherman Page 17

Openings still available for new DNREC Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police's Summer Youth Academy

If you are a Delaware student aged 12 to 15 with an interest in natural resources and law enforcement, DNREC's Division of Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police still has openings for a new summer youth academy that can take you inside both worlds for experiencing the roles and responsibilities of a Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police officer.

The week-long program will run from Monday thru Friday, July 18-22, and meet daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ommelanden Hunter Education Training Center, 1205 River Road, New Castle, DE 19720. The NRP Youth Academy is free of charge, and open to all Delaware youth aged 12 to 15, with lunch provided for all participants.

The academy is limited this year to the first 20 qualified applicants, with priority given to those who have not already completed a hunter safety course or boating safety course. Applications also must include a 250-word essay on why the applicant wants to take part in the academy and what Delaware's natural resources mean to him or her. The application deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, May 13.

Participants chosen for the Natural Resources Police youth academy will learn about various aspects of natural resources law enforcement; receive instruction in hunting and boating safety and participate in field activities similar to those experienced by an NRP officer. Youth who complete the program will receive both hunter and boating safety certifications.

Applications for the Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police Youth Academy are available at <http://de.gov/fwenforcement>, and at DNREC's licensing desk, 89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE 19901. For more information, please contact Lt. Brian Pollock at 302-365-8703.



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Agitator wins Los Suenos Signature Triple Crown Series



Congratulations to Captain Jon Duffie and the anglers on the local boat, "Agitator". The team took first place in the prestigious Los Suenos Signature Triple Crown Series, a 3-leg, 9-day tournament held in Los Suenos, Costa Rica that is fished by all the top guns in the world. The "Agitator" went into Day 3 on the final leg of the tournament sitting in 1st place and really turned it on, catching 30 sailfish on the final day to pull away from the field to win Leg #3 and the entire series. For the tournament, the team scored 24,600 points with 246 sailfish releases, giving them a comfortable winning margin over the 2nd place finisher, "Pelese" with 21,100 points. The "Agitator" performed consistently throughout the tournament, finishing in 2nd place in Leg #1 and winning Legs #2 and #3. Congratulations to another local boat, "Real Joy" who finished the Tournament Series in 14th place with 17,400 points. Pictured are "Agitator" anglers Danny Gough, Judy Duffie, Jonathan Duffie, Jeremy Duffie, Billy Gerlach, Capt. Jon Duffie and mates Chris Hornung and Marlon Apu. Also pictured are Amy Gough, Meg Gough and Jessica Ross. Photo taken by Pepper Ailor, LosSuenos.com.

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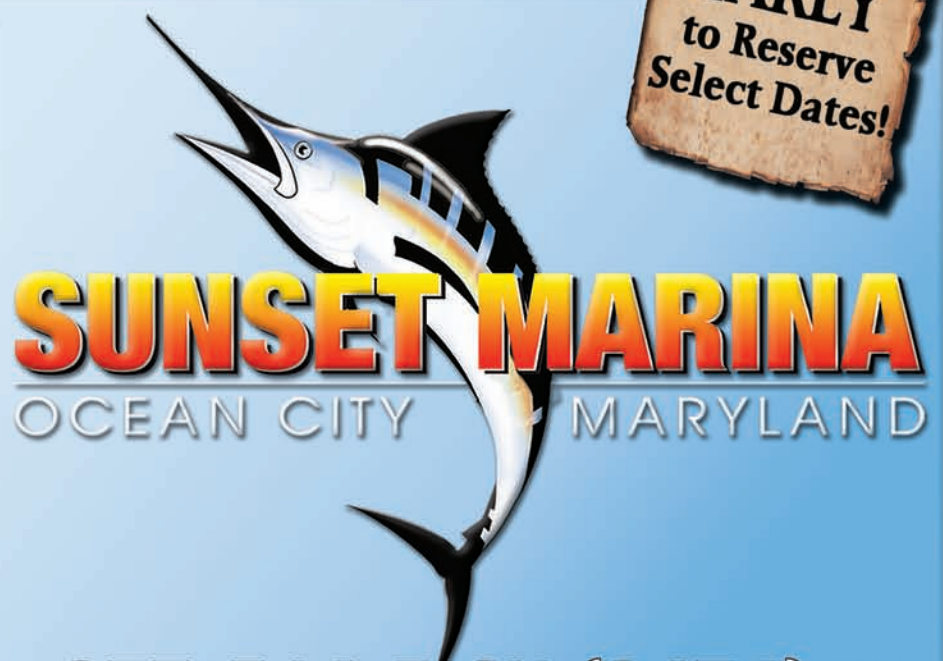
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On April 22nd, Caitlyn Dunkelberger of Elizabethtown, PA tossed a bottom rig tipped with cut finger mullet from the beach on Assateague Island and hooked this chopper bluefish during the outgoing tide.



"Morning Star" regular, Alex Levantovsky showed why he is considered a tautog slayer, catching and releasing this 10 pounder while fishing at the African Queen wreck with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mates Dan Iacangelo and Wes Pollitt. Alex also released a 14+ lb. tog after hooking it on a crab. The "Morning Star" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Prior to the sea bass season closing at the beginning of the year, Jason Wanex of Secretary, MD shows off a pair of knotheads caught while dropping squid at an ocean wreck. Jason's largest knothead weighed 4 lbs. and was caught while fishing on the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mate Rich Fouts.



While fishing on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mate Dan Iacangelo, Chan Park took top honors on the trip with this 10 lb. tautog caught while fishing with crabs on ocean structure.

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Kevin Twilley, mate on the charter boat, "Fish Bound", cuts bait, nets fish, cleans the deck and even finds time to land a 13 lb. tautog while fishing with Capt. Kane Bounds back in January. Kevin fooled the big blackfish with a green crab on an ocean wreck in 35 feet of water. The "Fish Bound" is docked at Bahia Marina.



Luke Sampson from Wellsboro, PA ventured down to the Florida Keys to fish with his uncle, Capt. Mark Sampson on the "Fish Finder" and was rewarded with this permit that was caught and released off Sugarloaf Key. The "Fish Finder" is docked during the summer season at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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The Spring Rockfish Trophy Season on the Chesapeake Bay has started off strong as shown by this group of Lewes, DE anglers who fished on the charter boat, "Marli" in mid-April. Like most boats trolling in the bay this time of year, Capt. Mark Hoos and mate Mark Stephens had a large selection of tandem parachute rigs spread out on planer boards and hooked the big rockfish in 95 to 105-feet of water off Cove Point. Fishing on the "Marli" were Sam Connors, Harry Kane, Dayton Moore, Danny Baker, Kevin Loughheed and J.P. Turonsky. This time of year, the "Marli" can be found fishing out of Solomons, MD.



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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Way Wan from Germantown, MD is all smiles after hooking this 17-inch tautog on a bloodworm while fishing from the Oceanic Pier.



Local anglers Ken Thompson (pictured), Bruce Brown, Trent Brown and John Paterson took a trip to the famous Tropic Star Lodge in Pinas Bay, Panama where they released 6 black marlin and a blue marlin in addition to catching 4 mahi weighing between 60 and 65 lbs. and yellowfin weighing up to 100 lbs. During the trip, Ken released a pair of black marlin, including his first that was estimated to weigh around 500 lbs.

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On April 16th, Riley Sherman from Rochester, MA joined up with Bill (not pictured), Shannon, Brianna and Jenna Lynch from Mattapoisett, MA for a tautog fishing trip aboard the charter boat, "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente and mate Bill Kelly. The group ended their day with 3 tog in the box after hooking them on green crabs along the rocks on the south end of the West Channel. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Local angler, Hannah Johnson of Berlin, MD recorded the first confirmed flounder catch of the year on April 16th when she boated this 20 1/4-inch while fishing south of the Assateague Bridge in 9-feet of water. Hannah hooked the flattie on a white Gulp! Swimming Mullet during a trip aboard the charter boat, "Lucky Break" with Chris Lynch, Sierra Payne, Stacy Payne, Capt. Jason Mumford (pictured) and mate Hugh Cropper. The "Lucky Break" is docked at Frontier Town.

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After fishing on the “First Light” with Capt. Chuck Cook, Rich Seagraves of Milford, DE weighed this fat 28-inch, 13 lb. 13 oz. tautog at Rick’s Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE. Rich caught the tog while fishing with shrimp on ocean structure.



Delaware Regulations

State Waters Only



 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 12.5” minimum 15 per person/day 5/15 - 9/21 & 10/22 - 12/31</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH No minimum size 10 per person/day</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16” minimum 3 per person/day</p>	 <p>COBIA No limit</p>
 <p>CROAKER 8” minimum No creel limit</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 20” - 27” minimum 5 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD No limit</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 12” minimum No creel limit</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 2 per person/day 28” - 37” or 44” or greater 1/1 - 6/30 20” - 25” 7/1 - 8/31</p>	 <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 16” minimum 4 per person/day</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 15” minimum 3 per person/day 4/1 - 5/11 5 per person/day 7/17 - 8/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 13” minimum 1 per person/day</p>

AN INTERVIEW WITH...

CAPTAIN MONTY HAWKINS

Ocean City Reef Foundation



It would be hard to argue that when it comes to an organization that has significantly impacted fishing off the Delmarva coast, the Ocean City Reef Foundation would have to be at or near the top of the list.

I recently had an opportunity to talk to Captain Monty Hawkins, President of the Reef Foundation, about the past, present and future of the organization.

When did the Ocean City Reef Foundation get started and who was involved in the start-up?

Back in 1997, The Maryland Department of Natural Resources dropped their reef program. We were building cable reefs like crazy and could easily see how effective reef building was. Charles and Ray Nichols took the initiative and, along with DeWitt Myatt, who was building reefs off South Carolina and Bob Mason from the Town of Ocean City, formed a 501(c)(3) and named the organization The Ocean City Reef Foundation.

Who is currently involved with the organization?

Gail Blazer heads-up the Town of Ocean City's Army Corp. of Engineering permit compliance efforts. We could

not build anything without her efforts. Greg Hall is the Past President & still active in the organization. I'm the current President/Secretary. Our

"cabinet consists of Ted Green, Rick Younger, Jeremiah Kogon, plus occasionally Nick Caloyianis and Clarita Berger, all from the dive community. Dan Stauffer, a charter boat captain, is also frequently asked to give input. Heather Bahrami & Wes Pollitt are currently working with Amanda Shick for fundraising at this year's Reef Dinner on May 15th at the Marlin Club.

How many locations are contained in the OCRF system?

We have 9 active marine reefs from 800 yards offshore out to 19 miles. We also have 1 coastal bay reef, the Bob Mason Reef along 3rd and 4th Streets, but that permit is expired.

What is your philosophy on creating sites?

Building new reef habitat allows fish to flourish by expanding spawning grounds.

How do you determine where to create a site?

Some reef permits are from the early 1950's. I do not know how they were selected. In the late 1990's I began working with the Maryland trawl

community to expand our permitted reef building areas. Dave Martin was essential in helping me choose areas that were already ill suited to trawling and so well suited to reef building. Though mostly small boxes around existing shipwrecks, such as Jack & Sue Power's Reef at the Jackspot or Sue Foster's Reef at Isle of Wight Shoal, our efforts also created a 4.5 square-mile permit at the Bass Grounds.

How do you determine what material to drop on a site?

In the mid-2000's Maryland developed Artificial Reef Guidelines that spell out what you can and cannot use for material. It is really basic, common sense stuff; we have to clean steel boats & cannot use small fiberglass boats --- NO MORE TIRES.

What organizations do you partner with or lean on to get a site created?

The Town of Ocean City and the Army Corp. of Engineering hold the keys. If we get permitted, we'll generally partner with individuals and family foundations such as the Gudelsky or Nichols Family Foundations for funding. Both have been extremely generous.

That said, we did spend \$50,000 from a Maryland bond bill received last year from the Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative (MARI). We are ALWAYS hoping to expand funding opportunities.

Will you be partnering with neighboring states on upcoming sites?

Sure would like to. Our free-dive community, which has been especially generous, would really like a site at Fenwick Shoal. That means partnering with Delaware. I'd really like to stitch together the artificial reef footprint along our coast with a large reef site just east of Fenwick Shoal, but inshore of the Shipping Lanes. We could create a lot of fishery production there in a short amount of time.

Then too, the very same opportunities present themselves at Winter Quarter Shoal to our south, where we would have the same situation with the state of Virginia.

How was the Ocean City Reef Foundation involved in the big Del-Jersey-Land Reef Site?

My boat, the "Morning Star", contributed \$3,500 to that specific reef. The Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative contributed a lot more, but nowhere near a full third of cost. Delaware takes their reef building seriously. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is supposed to contribute sonar surveys in the future, but I'm unsure of the promise's actuality.

What is your oldest reef site?

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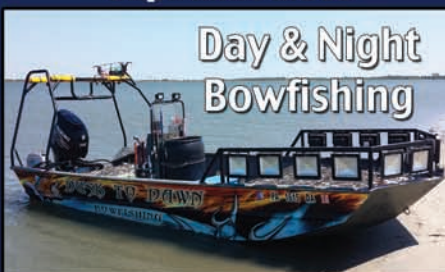
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"An Interview with" continued:

Apparently welds weaken in saltwater and the very thin skin is ripped away in storm swells. The bases do remain and have already been used by an incredible number of reef fish to feed, shelter from predators, grow to maturity and spawn.

The skins are made of sheet metal and are a royal pain in the neck for commercial trawlers. I wish we'd foreseen it.

We have all heard stories about the old days when white marlin were caught at the Jackpot or as close as Great Gull Shoal. Have you seen an influx of larger fish on some of your reef sites?

I can think of a growing list of examples, like the tiger shark I saw that was longer than my transom is wide, or the small pod of white marlin at the Great Eastern Reef when there was a shot of blue water. We also see bluefin tuna every year at the Jackpot & Great Eastern reefs along with sand tiger sharks on all our inshore reefs. I've also seen some good size cobia and amberjack.

What are the short-term and long-term goals of the Ocean City Reef Foundation?

Our primary goal is to turn contributions into coral. We have dropped a lot of concrete on the ocean bottom during the last couple of years. Because of our recent successes, we're seeing more support from the fishing and diving communities.

How does someone become a member of the Ocean City Reef Foundation and what is the annual cost?

By IRS rules, we are not allowed to have "members." We do have sponsors, about 400 of them right now. While we'll accept any amount, those that donate at least \$50.00 receive a set of charts and we have a variety of gifts for donors of all levels. Some folks prefer a simple "thank you" and want all of their money put to work. This is a young effort. We'll take all the help we can get. You can join on our website or you can swing by the Coastal Fisherman office where you can also pick-up your Reef

Chart book.

How often are the Reef Charts updated?

I have combed through the charts over the last few years. They are highly accurate and brought up to date each February.

Do charter and headboats that utilize the reefs have special contribution opportunities? Are they all members?

I refer you to the poem "Two Kinds of People" by Ella Wheeler Wilcox, the one about lifters and leaners. One thing's a fact, more and more are helping as they see our successes.

When is your popular annual OCRF dinner fundraiser this year?

The dinner will be on May 15th at the Ocean City Marlin Club. The event has really grown. As always, Chef Mike will have a great spread and there will be plenty of nice things to win in live and silent auctions. In fact, I'm confident that Heather Bahrami is going to assemble our best auction yet!

What does the future hold for the OCRF?

It all depends on funding! Nobody receives a salary in the organization. We do spend a little on fundraising and permit compliance monitoring but the rest goes overboard in reef material, especially pre-cast concrete!

We hope donors realize how expensive this project is. More contributions means more concrete, which creates more coral and more fish!

In coming years, our recent efforts will begin to truly shine. In 2016 we put over 100 tractor-trailer loads of concrete on the bottom. It will all grow coral. If the Ocean City Reef Foundation could do that every year, we'd make a dramatic improvement in fishing off the Delmarva coast.

In addition to being President of the Ocean City Reef Foundation, Capt. Monty Hawkins can be found at the helm of the headboat, "Morning Star" docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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Delaware Fishing Report

by Larry Jock



Welcome back to another season of fishing in Delaware. The action is off to a slow start but it probably is attributable to the weather more than anything else. We just haven't strung enough nice days together to get folks excited about bending a rod, but you can feel it in the air. Nice weather and good fishing are right around the corner.

The news that had everyone excited this spring came on April 21st when anglers on the "Reel Life" returned with the first bluefin tuna of the season. The bluefin was caught in 500 fathoms between the Baltimore and Poor Man's Canyons where the trio also released some small yellowfins and skippies during their trip. Throughout the spring, there have been shots of good looking water spinning into the canyons, but unfortunately, rough seas prevented boats from getting out there to capitalize on the opportunity.

We had a good run of chopper bluefish heading up the coast, but at this time, the best action has already moved up into New Jersey. However, good size bluefish are still being caught along the Delaware coast from Fenwick Island up to Herring Point. Whole mullet on mullet rigs are doing the trick, but choppers will snap at almost everything.

Reports have come in about acres and acres of rolling bluefish in 20 fathoms, but the



On April 21st, Joe Cantianelli, Jeff Rosenkilde and Dan Sheppard ventured out in the 28-foot "Reel Life" to 500 fathoms between the Baltimore and Poor Man's Canyons where they captured the first bluefin tuna of the year, a 63 pounder, in addition to releasing a pair of small yellowfins and some skippies. The anglers found whales and birds at a 5-degree temperature break and hooked the fish in 64-degree water. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.

weather has been snotty enough to keep folks from heading out there to get in on the bite. We have seen a few nice gators caught by anglers tossing lures

off the South Jetty in the Indian River Inlet where a 12 pounder was caught the other day in addition to several fish weighing over 9 lbs.

The best bluefish action in Delaware looks to be from around the Henlopen Pier. Andrew Stuchlik from Millsboro, DE hooked into a 17.7 pounder while walking the beach near the Pier on Sunday. Quite a few anglers have been having success on the stroll while tossing cut bait or spoons from the sand. Bill at Lewes Harbour Marina did say that the bluefish action around the Pier has only been for an hour or two each day and has not been tide driven.

Surfcasters are also reporting good numbers of nice size puffers, up to 14-inches, being caught on bloodworms.

We haven't seen the large schools of migrating linesiders heading up our coastline yet, but with reports of fish being caught in the surf off Virginia lately, the historically good spring bite shouldn't be far off.

Not many stripers have been landed off the rocks in the Indian River Inlet, but there was a 40-incher caught and released on Saturday night. Other than that, short stripers have dominated the action from anglers tossing small plugs and swim shads. The upper reaches of the DE Bay have seen stripers on the move, particularly north of Slaughter Beach.

Tautog fishing has been the savior this spring with nice size fish being caught on various ocean reefs and wrecks. Site 10 has been particularly productive, but again, weather has kept most from getting out there. In the bay, tog are being hooked around the Inner and Outer Walls. Tog season closes on the 11th, so when the weather is nice enough to get out on ocean structure, *carpe*

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A few black drum are being fooled by anglers fishing with clams along the beach from Fenwick Island up to around the bend at Cape Henlopen.

One last note, if you would like to submit a picture for publication in the *Coastal Fisherman*, all you need to do is email it to coastalfisherman@comcast.net. Include the anglers name, town, species, length and/or weight, location of the catch and any other information of interest. Because of the way newspapers are laid out, vertical pictures have a better chance of being published and please make sure you send the picture at the highest resolution possible. Usually, when you email a picture it gives you a size option. Always select the largest size possible!

I'm looking forward to the 2016 season. The inshore action of ocean structure keeps getting better and better, so I am expecting to see a lot of big tog, flounder and sea bass coming in from off the rubble.

Until next week, tight lines!



This is going to be a tough one to beat for heaviest bluefish caught this season. Last Sunday, Andrew Stuchlik of Millsboro, DE was walking up the beach, casting near the Henlopen Pier when he hooked into this 36-inch, 17.7 lb. chopper. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.

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

Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
Sea Bass 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Mako Shark <i>100 lb. minimum</i> 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Tautog 	February 1, 2016 Chol Chang "Morning Star" 17 lbs.	March 1, 2016 Rich Seagraves Ocean Wreck 14 lbs.	Thresher Shark 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Striped Bass 	No Weights Reported	April 24, 2016 Nick Rholetter Upper DE Bay 31 lbs. 15 oz.	Bluefin Tuna 	April 23, 2016 Josh Ensor Wilmington Canyon 133 lbs.	April 21, 2016 Joe Cantianelli Baltimore Canyon 63 lbs.
Weakfish 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Yellowfin Tuna 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Cobia 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Longfin Tuna 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Flounder 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Bigeye Tuna 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Bluefish 	April 25, 2016 Big Bird Cropper Outside OC Inlet 9 lbs. 12 oz.	May 1, 2016 Andrew Stuchlik Henlopen Pier 17.7 lbs.	Dolphin 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Sheepshead 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Wahoo 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Black Drum 	March 31, 2016 Billy Powell Assateague Surf 7 lbs. 10 oz.	No Weights Reported	White Marlin 	Most Releases in One Day No Releases Reported No Releases Reported	

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



During a January trip aboard the charter boat, “Fish Bound” with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley, Jimmy Lee caught and released this 13 lb. female tautog after hooking it on a green crab in 90-feet of water.



Brandy Timmons was fishing with sand fleas from the Delaware surf when she caught and released this black drum, estimated to weigh 30 lbs.

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Spirit is a sweet boy and true to his name he is full of spunk! He is 3 years old, affectionate and still plays like a puppy. Spirit will need a family who can help him learn his leash walking behavior. He would also love a family who will stay committed to helping him get his exercise.

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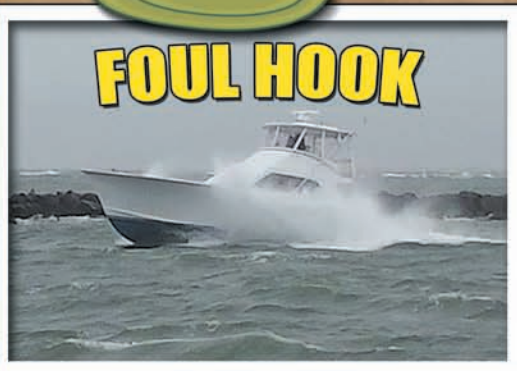
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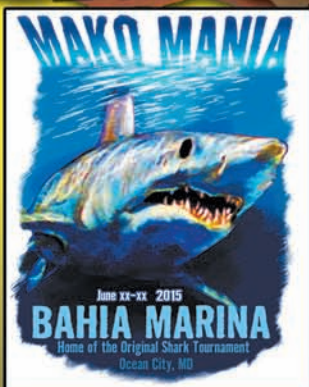
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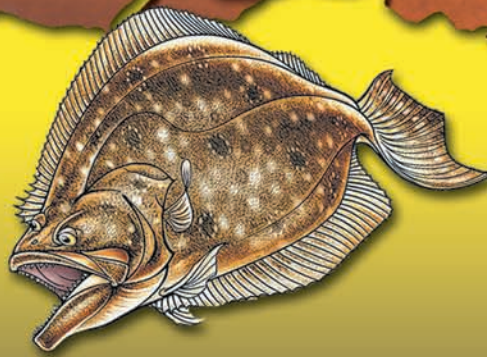
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In early February, this group of togaholics had a memorable day fishing on the headboat "Morning Star", landing some big tautog while fishing with crabs on ocean structure. Joining Capt. Monty Hawkins and mate Dan Iacangelo were Adam Keller, Alex Levantovsky, Darrell Doupnik, Chol Chang, Chan Park, C.J. Jung and Frank Graziano. Chol Chang (back right) captured the largest fish of the day, a beautiful blackfish that tipped the scales at 17 lbs.

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- Have the angler face into the sun to minimize shadows
- Make sure the side of the fish is facing flat towards the camera
- Set your camera to the best quality and largest picture size available
- If you are using a cell phone, make sure it is taking photos at the largest setting possible
- Shoot vertical photos
- Smile!

As always, we do our best to run the pictures we receive; however, we are sometimes unable to run all of the pictures due to space restrictions and other circumstances.



On opening day of Capt. Zed's Spring Flounder Tournament in Wachapreague, VA, Danny Cox of Ocean City, MD and Greg Volpitta from Parkton, MD battled the winds and ended their day with 5 flounder in the box. The fish measured 16 1/2 to 19 1/2-inches and were caught while drifting minnows. Their largest flattie tipped the scale at an even 3 lbs.

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We are back for another great season of the *Coastal Fisherman* and I am excited to share some wonderful recipes with all of our readers. I love getting feedback and really enjoy the positive comments I receive from those who have tried the recipes. I am always looking for new dishes or cocktails to feature in The Galley and would love to share your favorite recipes with our readers, so if you have one that gets rave reviews from family and friends, all you need to do is email it to me at maureenjock@comcast.net. We'll make you famous!

Mama Jock

Hearty Fish Chowder

- 2 medium potatoes, finely chopped (2 cups)
- 1 cup chopped onions
- 3 cloves garlic minced
- 1 can condensed cream of celery soup
- 1 (10 oz.) box frozen whole kernel corn
- 1 (10 oz. box) frozen baby lima beans
- 1 1/2 cups chicken broth
- 1/3 cup dry white wine or chicken broth
- 1 tsp. lemon-pepper seasoning
- 1 lb. of any whitefish fillets
- 1 can stewed tomatoes, undrained
- 1/3 cup nonfat dry milk powder

In a 4 quart slow cooker, combine the first 9 ingredients.

Cover and cook on low-heat setting for 6 to 7 hours or on high-heat setting for 3 to 3 1/2 hours.

Place fish, in one piece on the mixture in the cooker.

If using low-heat setting, turn to high-setting and cook for 1 more hour.

Add undrained tomatoes and dry milk powder to the cooker, stirring gently to break up the fish.

Serves 6.

Asiago-Parmesan Flounder

- 1 lb. flounder fillets
- 1 TBSP. lemon juice
- 1 to 2 TBSP. mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese
- Pepper to taste
- 4 TBSP. Asiago cheese (add after fish bakes)

Heat oven to 425 degrees.

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Coat a 13x9 glass dish with cooking spray.

Combine lemon juice, mayonnaise, parmesan cheese and pepper in a bowl.

Place fillets in the glass dish; top with the mayonnaise mixture, covering the fish.

Bake 10 to 12 minutes.

Top the baked fillets with the asiago cheese and bake 5 more minutes.

Serves 4.

Linguine Pasta with Shrimp and Tomatoes

- 2 TBSP. olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 cups diced tomatoes
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 2 TBSP. butter
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 lb. package linguine pasta
- 1 lb. peeled and deveined medium shrimp
- 1 tsp. Cajun seasoning
- 2 TBSP. olive oil

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Heat 2 TBSP. of olive oil in a large saucepan over medium heat.

Stir in the garlic and cook for 2 minutes.

Add the tomatoes and wine.

Bring to a simmer and cook 30 minutes, stirring frequently.

Once the tomatoes have simmered into a sauce, stir in the butter and season with salt and pepper.

Fill a large pot with salted water, bring to a boil and add the pasta.

Cook uncovered until it is still firm to the bite, about 11 minutes.

Drain well.

Season the shrimp with the Cajun seasoning, salt and pepper.

Heat the remaining 2 TBSP. of olive oil in a large skillet.

Stir in the shrimp; cook until pink on the outside, about 5 minutes.

Stir the shrimp into the pasta sauce, then stir the sauce into the linguini to serve.

Serves 4.

Rockfish Baked with Apples and Zucchini

- 1/4 cup butter or olive oil
- 2 cups thinly sliced zucchini
- 1 cup peeled, cored and thinly sliced crisp apple
- 1 cup sliced onion
- 1 tsp. minced fresh thyme or 1/4 tsp. dried
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1 lb. rockfish fillet, cut into 1 1/2-inch chunks

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Smear 1 TBSP. of the butter or oil onto the bottom of a baking dish.

Layer the zucchini, apples and onion in the dish; dot with a little more butter, and sprinkle with the thyme, salt, and pepper.

Bake, uncovered for about 30 minutes.

Remove baking dish from



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Page 44 Coastal Fisherman May 4, 2016
the oven and raise the heat to 450 degrees.

Pour in the wine and place on top of the vegetables.

Season with more salt and pepper, dot with remaining butter and roast until the fish is tender, 15 to 20 minutes.

Serves 4.

Rockfish with Tomato and Basil

- 4 plum tomatoes, quartered
- 1/4 cup plus 2 TBSP. extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- Kosher salt
- Black pepper
- 2 sprigs thyme leaves
- 3 cups basil, loosely packed
- 1/4 cup Greek yogurt
- 1 tsp. honey
- 2 TBSP vegetable oil
- 2 TBSP. unsalted butter
- 2 rockfish fillets

Heat oven to 215 degrees.

Place the tomatoes, skin side down on a baking sheet and drizzle with 2 TBSP. olive oil.

Sprinkle with 1/2 tsp. of salt, 1/2 tsp. pepper and thyme and bake for 2 to 3 hours until the tomato juices have mostly evaporated. Set aside.

For the sauce, combine basil leaves, 1/4 cup olive oil and 1 tsp. salt in a food processor and blend until smooth.

Mix in the yogurt and honey.

Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Heat vegetable oil and butter in a nonstick pan over medium-high heat.

Season fish on both sides with salt and pepper.

When the oil is hot, cook fillets 4 to 5 minutes on each side until golden brown and cooked through.

Remove from heat and let rest for 2 minutes.

Serve the fillets with the reserved tomatoes, a drizzle of

oil and a dollop of the yogurt-based sauce.

Serves 2.

Tex-Mex Shrimp and Grits

•Ingredients for Grits•

- 2 (32 oz.) cartons chicken broth
- 1 1/2 cups quick-cooking grits
- 1/2 cup half-and-half
- 1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese with peppers
- 1/2 tsp. ground chipotle chili pepper

•Ingredients for Shrimp•

- 2 TBSP. all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 lbs. large fresh shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1/4 cup plus 2 Tbsp. butter, divided
- 1 jalapeno, seeded and minced

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- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 plum tomatoes, chopped
- 1/2 cup green onion, sliced
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. ground chipotle chili pepper

In a large saucepan, bring broth to a boil. Slowly whisk in grits, reduce heat, and simmer, stirring occasionally for 15 minutes, or until thickened.

Stir in half-and-half, and cook, stirring occasionally for 3 minutes.

Stir in cheese and chipotle pepper.

In a large bowl, stir together flour and next 3 ingredients.

Add shrimp, tossing to coat.

In a large skillet, melt 1/4 cup butter.

Add shrimp and cook,

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stirring occasionally for 2 to 3 minutes or until just pink.

Using a slotted spoon, remove shrimp from skillet.

Melt remaining 2 TBSP. butter in a skillet.

Add jalapeno and garlic; cook 2 minutes.

Add tomato and green onion; cook 1 minute.

Stir in broth and lime juice; cook 1 minute.

Stir in cilantro, salt, chipotle pepper and shrimp.

Cook until sauce is slightly thickened.

Serve immediately over grits.

Serves 6.

Spanish Rice with Clams

2 lbs. littleneck clams
(about 24), scrubbed
1 TBSP. extra-virgin olive oil
1 fully cooked chorizo sausage, sliced 1/2-inch thick
1 leek, halved lengthwise

and sliced
1 red bell pepper, finely chopped
4 cloves garlic, minced
2 bay leaves
1 cup arborio rice
2 cups low-sodium chicken broth
1/2 cup fresh parsley
1 cup frozen baby lima beans, thawed

Place clams in a large pot with 1 cup water.

Cover and cook over medium-high heat until the clams start opening, about 5 minutes.

As the clams open, transfer them to a bowl using tongs.

Discard any unopened clams.

Add the cooking liquid to the bowl with the clams, being careful of sand.

Use a paper towel sieve if necessary.

Cover to keep warm.

Wipe the pot clean and reduce heat to medium.

Add the olive oil and chorizo.

Cook, stirring occasionally until lightly browned.

Add the leek, bell pepper, garlic and bay leaves.

Cook until the vegetables are tender.

Add the rice; cook until lightly toasted, about 2 minutes.

Add chicken broth and 1 cup water; bring to a boil, then reduce heat to medium.

Cook, simmer, stirring occasionally until rice is tender.

Discard bay leaves.

Puree the parsley with 1/3 cup water in a blender until smooth.

Stir in lima beans, parsley puree and the clams and their juices into the rice mixture.

Cook 3 to 4 minutes.

Serves 4.

Flounder with Jalapeno Peppers

4 flounder fillets
2 TBSP. olive oil
1 tsp. garlic salt, or to taste

May 4, 2016 Coastal Fisherman Page 45

1/2 tsp. black pepper
1 to 2 jalapeno peppers cut crosswise into 1/8-inch thick slices
2 lemons, cut crosswise into 1/8 inch thick rounds

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Rinse fillets, pat dry, and place each on its own large sheet of foil (14"x12").

Rub with oil and sprinkle with garlic salt and pepper.

Top each with 3 or 4 jalapeno slices and squeeze juice from ends of lemons over fish.

Arrange 3 or 4 lemon rounds on each fillet.

Fold foil and carefully seal edges to make packets. (Don't assemble packets more than 20 minutes ahead because the lemon juice can alter the fish's texture).

Bake until fish flakes with a fork, 10 to 12 minutes.

Serves 4.

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While fishing from the Oceanic Pier in downtown Ocean City, Chris Miester of Baltimore, MD caught this 18-inch tautog while tossing sand fleas from the end of the Pier.



Michael Avara from Berlin, MD caught and released this bonefish while fly-fishing in Ascension Bay off the coast of Mexico. During his trip in March, Michael hooked 10 bonefish and some jacks after fooling them with shrimp flies.

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Bob Pino (left) of An Optical Galleria in West Ocean City took some time off to head to Florida this past winter and caught a barracuda while fishing off the Content Keys with Capt. Mark Sampson on the "Fish Finder".

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Bucktails to Ballyhoo

by Capt. Lance Smith



I hate winter. I am still trying to figure out why most of us die-hard fisherman live here in the Mid-Atlantic when we probably all belong in Florida. Think about it, all the old retired people just sit down there in their air conditioning. If they like it so cold, why did they move there? If we like it so warm, why are we staying here? Whatever the answer may be, I am not moving to Florida anytime soon and most likely, neither are you. Thankfully spring is here and the fish are biting. Soon enough we will all be looking for some shade or A/C. In the meantime, don't miss this season's opportunity to load up on some quality fish.

The first fish of the season that we need to talk about is the lowly tautog. It seems like less than ten years ago that no one even bothered fishing for these tasty, crab-eating wrasses. Tog, as most of us call them for short, have always been one of my favorite fish to catch in Ocean City. They can be caught from anywhere in the back bay where there is structure, all the way out to about 120-feet of water off the coast. The problem with tog is that they suck. I mean, they literally will suck the bait off of your hook before you ever detect a bite! This can make tautog fishing for the beginner very frustrating, if not downright

impossible. Firstly, you must be able to cast to (or preferably drop straight down on) some sort of structure. Be it inlet rocks, bridge pilings, bulkheads or mussel beds, if you aren't getting any bites in the first ten minutes you may as well move. Tog are like old drunks in their favorite bar. Once they find a place they like, and a chair to claim, they aren't moving. So either they are there or they are not.

Now, sometimes tide and water temperature will play a factor into the tautog snagging equation. When I set anchor over what I think is productive structure, the first thing I like to see is someone get snagged. Sounds strange right? Well, if you don't get snagged every now and then you are definitely not fishing in the right location. Tautog, much like grouper in the south, will test your strongest braid and your finest knots while trying to get back into their hiding holes. While fishing for tog in the bay, I generally prefer 40 lb. monofilament over braid for its ability to stretch and give a bit when a tog tries to lock you up. In the ocean, stick with braid as it will help you detect the subtle bites more easily in deeper water.

Putting away your flounder rods when togging in the back bay is another good suggestion.

While you may land a few keepers on your lighter outfits, there will always be that one fish that leaves you wondering. For this reason, I have a set of freshwater musky rods with small-medium sized baitcasting reels on them that are strictly devoted for tog fishing. When you first start togging you will be amazed at how many times you think you have a keeper, only to reel up a ten-inch fish! No fish in the bay (except for maybe bluefish) fights harder pound for pound.

As for bait, all you need to know is that you must use crabs. What kind of crab is completely up to you and every tog fisherman has their preference. The easiest to acquire and the most affordable is the green crab. Please, if you go to a tackle shop and all they have is frozen green crabs or frozen sand fleas, try a different shop! The fresher the crab the better and sand fleas can be dug off the beach on certain tides for free. Once you have bait and a proper rod, the great thing about tog is that you don't even need a boat to fish for them. In my younger years I fished for tog from the jetty on the north side of the Ocean City Inlet, the Route 50 Bridge and off the bulkhead that runs from 2nd through 4th Street. Funny thing is, I still fish the same places, but from an anchored boat now!

As for terminal tackle, a 2 to 4 ounce sinker (depending upon the tide) that allows you to hold bottom, with a pre-snelled blackfish hook 6-12 inches above it is all you need. This is bottom

fishing in its most simplistic form. Just be ready to re-tie often and wait for that third tap before you set the hook.

If you want to learn from some of the best toggers in town, try the "Lucky Break" or the "Get Sum" for bay charters. As for going offshore a bit and fishing for the behemoths, you absolutely cannot beat Captain Monty on the "Morning Star," Captain Kane Bounds on the "Fish Bound," or Captain Chris Mizurak on the "Angler". These men are the best at what they do and every trip you board with these professionals could give you a shot at the world record (which an angler on Capt. Bounds' boat currently holds!).

Alright, enough with these ugly wrasses. Let's get to the bread and butter of Ocean City's bay fishing, the summer flounder. Now, there are two ideas we need to discuss when it comes to flounder fishing; the old school (my father's method) and the new school (my method). Trust me when I tell you that my father has not used the old school method for about ten years now. You see, flounder are not the lazy bottom dwelling feeders that most people think they are. In fact, they are one of the most voracious and unsatisfied fish in our coastal bays. I have caught flounder in the spring with bellies so full you wouldn't believe they could move for another meal. Once, we landed a 5 pounder that had a pair of 10-inch mantis shrimp in its stomach that had not even begun to digest!

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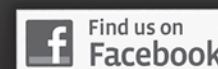
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The old school method, which still works just fine, is to use a frozen shiner or a live bull minnow with a strip of squid attached as bait. These baits are most often rigged with an egg sinker, 12 to 18 inches above the line with enough weight to drag the bottom according to the drift speed. This method usually involves longer drifts through the channels while waiting for a bend in your rod. This way of fishing has, and always will, produce some decent catches of flounder. Many, many years ago, a friend and I (while renting a Bahia Marina skiff), discovered in the very early season that flounder would absolutely pounce on a bucktail with a strip of squid if you vertically jigged it. We came back to Bahia that early April day with the floorboards covered in big keeper flounder! Then came GULP! and their incredible scented Swimming Mullet. Everything changed as we all began to jig with these bio-degradable baits, either on plain jig heads or as a bucktail trailer. Rigged in tandem, with one bait about 14-inches above the first, it is my opinion that there is no better flounder bait in the world.

I have personally watched flounder, in over 8-feet of water, follow and eventually attack these baits right at the surface. This is spring though, so there is no reason to fish in 8-feet of water. If you really want to catch some early season flounder you will want to concentrate on water shallower than this, even down to about 2-feet or so.

The first flounder to enter the bay are cold and they are hungry. Being cold-blooded, they must first warm their body temperatures to a point where it is viable for them to feed. It doesn't take much water to hide a supremely camouflaged flounder and I have caught 5 pounders in less than 2-feet of water in the spring. On an outgoing tide, look for these early flatties to stack up at the shallow mouths of small channels anywhere from the 611 Bridge to the Route 90 Bridge. As back bay waters warm over their muddy bottom, they flow toward the ocean on ebbing tides and this is when flounder fishing peaks. I will take a warm and sunny April or May day over anytime of the year to catch a limit of flounder. Much like the

bluefish that have already entered the bay, these fish are ravenous! Jigging shallow, warm waters will elicit amazing strikes from big and hungry doormats as the larger fish are usually the first to enter the bay.

Speaking of bluefish, they are another early visitor to our coastal bay system that can really make for a fun day of fishing. When schools of blues begin devouring bait beneath flocks of diving birds, it is time to cast out anything you can find (on a wire leader of course) and retrieve it through the school as fast as possible. Bluefish are the ultimate predator, often noted to regurgitate food simply to keep killing and feeding. Bucktails and shiny spoons are the best options but stay away from soft plastics as more often than not you will retrieve nothing but a leadhead and a small piece of what was formerly your bait. There are quite a few fisherman on the East coast with missing finger parts, complements of Mr. Chopper. Always be careful when unhooking these guys, especially in the middle of a blitz where the action is non-stop.

Contrary to popular belief,

May 4, 2016 Coastal Fisherman Page 49

bluefish of all sizes are actually quite tasty. Here is the secret. As soon as you catch a bluefish that you want to keep for dinner, take a knife and completely slit their gills (throats) and make cuts just above the tail on either side. Then, stick the fish headfirst into a bucket of fresh seawater and let it bleed out until it stops kicking and red clots form in the water. When you filet the fish, cut out the bloodline running down the center as you would a tuna and you will have flaky, white filets no matter how you prepare them.

Fishing from shore is an option for all three of these species but your chances will increase exponentially if you can get out on a boat. If you have your own boat get out there as soon as possible before all of the jet-skiers and goofballs show up. If you don't, please look into one of the many inshore charters available here in the pages of the *Coastal Fisherman* for a memorable spring day of catching.

Lance Smith is an outdoor writer and Captain of his family's boat, 'Longfin'.



Ocean City Marlin Club

2016 Tournament Series

7th Annual Memorial Day Tournament* <small>To benefit Catherine & Charles Kratz Memorial Foundation and Scholarship Fund</small> Registration: May 27, 6:30 PM Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 28 & 29 Awards Banquet: May 29, 6:30 PM	37th Annual Small Boat Tournament* Registration: June 17, 6:30 PM Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 18 & 19 Awards Banquet: June 19, 6:30 PM	34th Annual Canyon Kickoff* FREE TO ALL OCMC BOAT MEMBERS Registration: June 30, 6:30 PM Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 1, 2 & 3 Awards Banquet: July 3, 6:30 PM	12th Annual Kid's Classic* <small>To benefit Wish-A-Fish Foundation</small> Registration: July 15, 6:30 PM Fishing Days: (1 of 2 of 2) July 16 & 17 Sunday Carnival & Awards: July 17, 5:00 PM	8th Annual OCMC Ladies' Tournament "Heels & Reels"* <small>To benefit the OCMC Auxiliary Scholarship Fund</small> Registration: August 4, 6:00 PM Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 5 & 6 Awards Banquet: August 6, 6:30 PM	58th Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament* FREE TO ALL OCMC BOAT MEMBERS Registration: September 1, 6:30 PM Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 2, 3 & 4 Awards Banquet: September 4, 6:30 PM	38th Annual Scott Smith & Charles Kratz Challenge Cup Registration: September 14, 7:00 PM Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 15, 16 & 17 Italian Night: September 16, 6:30 pm Awards Banquet: September 17, 6:30pm	4th Annual OCMC Rockfish Tournament* <small>To benefit the Jimmy Fund</small> Registration: December 2, 6:00 PM Fishing Days: (5 of 9) December 3-11 Awards Banquet: December 11, 6:30 PM
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A group of Ocean City Marlin Club members ventured over to Wenona, MD for a striper fishing trip aboard the "Kingfisher II" and ended their day with 7 spawned out female stripers in the box. The anglers caught the linesiders while trolling parachute rigs off Haines Point in the Tangier Sound. Pictured are Jim Kramer, Colin Campbell, Jim Giles, Jim Rooney, Ed Dorang and Dale Withers.



On April 23rd, John Papathakis from Baltimore, MD teamed up with his dad, Matthew for some tog fishing at the South Jetty and the duo ended up with 5 keepers caught on green crabs. Their largest fish measured 19-inches.



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Paul Turner of PT's Marine in West Ocean City escaped the cold weather in mid-March and headed for the Keys where he caught and released this bonefish during a trip aboard the "Fish Finder" with Frank Goodhart and Capt. Mark Sampson.

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DE Division of Fish & Wildlife seeking entries for annual photo contest

DNREC's Division of Fish & Wildlife invites anglers and photography enthusiasts to enter the 2016 Delaware Fishing Photo Contest. The winning photo will be featured either on the cover or in the 2017 Delaware Fishing Guide to be published early next year.

A judging panel comprised of DNREC staff will be looking for photos that best portray this year's contest theme, "Fishing with Friends or Family," by depicting anglers enjoying fishing in the great outdoors with their friends or family. Judges also will be looking at technical criteria including resolution, clarity and composition.

The contest is open to Delaware residents of all ages, with a maximum of three entries per person. To be eligible, photographs must have been taken in Delaware. Portrait orientation is preferred; landscape photos, if chosen among contest winners, may be cropped for presentation.

The contest opens Sunday, May 1. Entries may be mailed to DNREC's Division of Fish & Wildlife Photo Contest, Attention: Jennifer Childears,

89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE 19901. All entries must be postmarked or delivered by Saturday, Oct. 31, and must include a completed and signed entry form and photo release form if the photograph contains images of children.

Photos must be submitted as 8 x 10 photo quality prints, with no frames or mats and no markings or signatures on the front or back. Winning entries must be made available in a digital version with resolution of 300 dpi or greater (when blown up to 8 x 10 inches).

Normal processing of RAW image files, minimal cropping and minor adjustments to color and contrast are acceptable. HDR and focus stacking are permitted as long as manipulation is disclosed upon entry. Nothing should be added to the image or, aside from dust spots, taken away. The entrant must hold all rights to the photograph and must not infringe on the rights of any other person. Images that involve unlawful harm to fish or damage to the environment should not be submitted and will not be accepted. Entries will not be returned.

For more information, including entry forms, please visit Fish & Wildlife photo contest or contact Jennifer Childears at 302-739-9910, or jennifer.childears@state.de.us.



Last Saturday was a soggy day and seas were rough but that didn't stop Terry Harford of Pasadena, MD from surfcasting off Assateague Island. Terry hooked this 35-inch bluefish on a whole mullet during a trip with Michele Trotter of Ocean City, MD.



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Jimmy Lee hooked some big tog this past spring including a 16.1 pounder caught and released on a green crab in 90 feet of water on natural rocky bottom. He also released tog weighing 10 lbs. and 11.8 lbs. during a trip aboard the charter boat "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley.



Brice Hickman of Bethany Beach, DE (right) caught and released his first sailfish during a trip to Los Suenos, Costa Rica. Brice fished on the "Tuna Bite" with Paul Daisey, Ralph Short, Jason King and Capt. Howard Lynch. The anglers went 50 for 74 on the day.

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Federal Fishery Management Measures approved for Blueline Tilefish in the Mid-Atlantic

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council has approved measures to establish management of blueline tilefish in Federal waters off the Mid-Atlantic and New England coasts. The Blueline Tilefish Amendment includes a suite of measures that will incorporate blueline tilefish as a managed species in the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan.

Blueline tilefish are managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council from Florida to North Carolina, and there are currently no regular federal regulations north of the North Carolina/Virginia border. Last year, after catches of blueline tilefish off the Mid-Atlantic increased markedly, the Council requested that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) implement emergency measures to constrain landings of blueline

tilefish in the Mid-Atlantic. These measures, which include a commercial trip limit of 275 pounds (gutted) and a recreational bag limit of 7 fish per person, are set to expire on June 3, 2016.

If approved by the Secretary of Commerce, the amendment would establish a separate blueline tilefish management unit in Federal waters north of the North Carolina/Virginia border extending up to the boundary with Canada. The management objectives for blueline tilefish would be the same as for golden tilefish, with the addition that "management will reflect blueline tilefish's susceptibility of overfishing and the need for an analytical stock assessment."

Based on the recommendation of its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), the Council adopted an Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) of 87,031 pounds for 2017. The Council voted to allocate 73% of total allowable landings to the recreational fishery and 27% to the commercial sector. This allocation was based on the median of annual commercial-

recreational catch ratios from 2009-2013.

For the commercial fishery, the Council adopted a trip limit of 300 pounds gutted weight (head and fins must be attached). In addition, the amendment would require a joint golden/blueline tilefish open access commercial permit to retain blueline tilefish, subject to the applicable trip limit. Standard reporting of catch would be required for commercial vessels and dealers landing blueline tilefish.

For the recreational fishery, the Council recommended an open season from May 1st to October 31st, when blueline tilefish are available to most anglers throughout the Mid-Atlantic. Recreational bag limits would be set at 7 fish per person for inspected for-hire vessels, 5 fish per person for uninspected for-hire vessels, and 3 fish per person for private vessels. In addition, the Council recommended mandatory permitting and reporting of golden and blueline tilefish for both for-hire and private recreational fishing in order to develop better information on

recreational tilefish landings in the Mid-Atlantic.

"One of the challenges with developing this amendment has been the lack of data about the abundance and historical landings of blueline tilefish in the Mid-Atlantic," said Council Chairman Rick Robins. "As we transition from emergency management to regular management of the fishery, it will be important for us to seek continual improvement in information on the status, productivity, and catch of blueline tilefish off the Mid-Atlantic. The Council will be working to encourage progress on the research needs identified by our SSC and will also be highly engaged in developing new information through the upcoming SouthEast Data, Assessment, and Review Assessment (SEDAR) for blueline tilefish."


The public will have an opportunity to comment on the measures recommended by the Council during the comment period associated with the NMFS proposed rule. Publication of the proposed rule is expected this summer.



Virginia Regulations



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 BLACK SEA BASS 12.5" minimum 15 per person/day 5/15 - 9/21 & 10/22 - 12/31	 BLUEFISH No minimum size 10 per person/day	 BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day	 COBIA 37" minimum 1 per person/day
 CROAKER No limit	 RED DRUM 18" - 26" 3 per person/day	 SHEEPSHEAD No minimum size 4 per person/day	 SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 5 per person Only 1 fish may be greater than 24-inches
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www.coastalfisherman.net

Maryland adopts "Every Kid in a Park" pass program

In recognition of the National Park Service's Centennial celebration, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton announced that the Maryland Park Service will honor the national "Every Kid in a Park" program. Through this initiative, which provides complimentary national park admission to fourth grade students and their families, Maryland will accept the pass for admission to state parks.

The Maryland Park Service will accept the National Park Service's "Every Kid in a Park" pass now through Aug. 31 at all 72 state parks. The purpose of the national program is to

increase accessibility to public lands and waters for children - primarily 9-10 years of age - and their families. The pass will provide free admission to Maryland state parks but will not cover additional amenities, such as camping, boat rentals or staff-led tours.

"This program will cultivate, develop and engage the next generation of environmental advocates, leaders and stewards," Secretary Belton said. "Educating and engaging our students and youth about our natural world is critically important, especially during this developmental period. Connecting more children with nature is and will remain a top priority for the department as we continue to look for innovative ways to enhance and increase public access to our lands and waters."



Gavin Zimmer (right) and his dad, Joe Zimmer took a trip to Puerto San Jose, Guatemala and released 100 Pacific sailfish (out of 143 bites) on conventional tackle and went 2 for 4 on fly rods. The anglers were fishing on the "Makaira" with Capt. Jason Bryce.



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How is this year looking for sales? "Great! We are way ahead of last year and have a great deal of inventory in stock and on order. Our most popular seller is the newly designed 252 CC. We have four in stock on the lot that just came in last week and eight more on the way between now and May 30th, plus forty other Tidewater Boats of every model."

Captain Glen: "With this much inventory on the lot and on the way, WE NEED CASH so WE ARE MAKING CRAZY DEALS on every model offered by Tidewater Boats, so call NOW! These prices will not last much longer."

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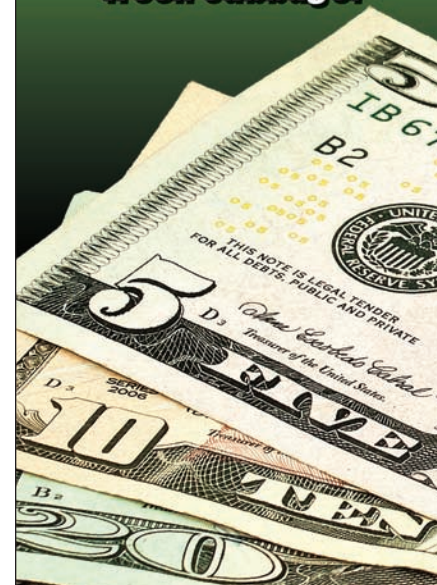
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Tides & Moon Phases

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Wed. May 4	Low 12:02 am Low 12:20 pm	High 06:17 am High 06:48 pm
Thurs. May 5	Low 01:00 am Low 01:10 pm	High 07:10 am High 07:43 pm
Fri. May 6 New Moon	Low 01:55 am Low 01:59 pm	High 08:03 am High 08:38 pm
Sat. May 7	Low 02:48 am Low 02:48 pm	High 08:57 am High 09:32 pm
Sun. May 8	Low 03:41 am Low 03:37 pm	High 09:49 am High 10:24 pm
Mon. May 9	Low 04:35 am Low 04:29 pm	High 10:41 am High 11:17 pm
Tues. May 10	Low 05:31 am Low 05:24 pm	High 11:34 am High -----
Wed. May 11	Low 06:31 am Low 06:23 pm	High 12:12 am High 12:30 pm
Thurs. May 12	Low 07:30 am Low 07:26 pm	High 01:12 am High 01:31 pm
Fri. May 13 1st Quarter	Low 08:27 am Low 08:29 pm	High 02:15 am High 02:39 pm
Sat. May 14	Low 09:21 am Low 09:31 pm	High 03:21 am High 03:47 pm
Sun. May 15	Low 10:13 am Low 10:32 pm	High 04:20 am High 04:47 pm
Mon. May 16	Low 11:03 am Low 11:29 pm	High 05:07 am High 05:35 pm
Tues. May 17	Low 11:47 am Low -----	High 05:46 am High 06:16 pm

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

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

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 252-216-6913



Charley Pereira
 252-216-6291



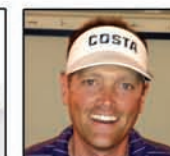
David Fields
 561-779-0759



Ronnie Fields
 561-762-0096



Alan Fields
 561-346-4605



Scott Smith
 704-905-4125

NEW TO MARKET



CHASIN TAIL - 2008 67' Bayliss
 Call Jimmy Fields

NEW LISTING



REEL PUSHY - 2008 70' Spencer Yacht
 Call Jimmy Fields

PRICE REDUCED



PUSHY - 2001 102' Destiny Motor Yacht
 Call Jimmy Fields

JUST LISTED



ARGUS - 2009 58' Middleton
 Call Jimmy Fields

NEW PRICE



SOUTHPAW - 2009 57' Spencer Yacht
 Call Jimmy Fields

PRICE REDUCED



1988 58' Monterey
 Call Jimmy Fields

ANOTHER PRICE REDUCTION!



MASS TRANSIT - 1996 57' Island Boatworks
 Call Jimmy Fields



REEL MACHINE - 2014 35' Calyber
 Call Jimmy Fields

NEW PRICE



SUSHI - 2014 57' Island Boatworks
 Call Jimmy Fields



KILLER WHALER - 2008 34' Bost. Whaler
 Call Steve Trattner



LOW PROFILE - 2000 55' Gwaltney
 Call Jeff James



8 LURES - 2006 41' Luhrs Convertible
 Call Steve Trattner



BLACK WIDOW - 1999 45' Ocean
 Call Steve Trattner



PEGASUS - 1998 48' Ocean
 Call Steve Trattner



HALCYON - 1989 48' Viking
 Call Steve Trattner



RAKFIN - 1996 35' Blackfin
 Call Steve Trattner



OUTCAST - 2002 34' Luhrs
 Call Steve Trattner



PERSISTENCE - 1994 35' Luhrs
 Call Steve Trattner



SEA NOTE - 2001 32' Luhrs Convertible
 Call Steve Trattner



MIGHTY MAZE - 2000 30' Grady White
 Call Steve Trattner

2008 4-STROKE YAMAHAS



JACKED UP - 2002 30' Pursuit
 Call Steve Trattner

NEW LISTING



2008 22' Grady White Dual Console
 Call Steve Trattner



MISS ALEX - 1999 30' Grady White CC
 Call Steve Trattner

NEW LISTING



ISLANDER - 1964 36' Custom Carolina
 Call Steve Trattner

Ocean City, MD • Palm Beach, FL • Outer Banks, NC

