

Priceless

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# COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME 45 NUMBER 16 • • • SEPTEMBER 23, 2020



Photo Credit: Sunset Marina

The uniquely named "Sea Hag" ventured out to near the Washington Canyon last Thursday in pursuit of billfish. Capt. Charlie Duerr set the spread for white marlin in the morning and then turned to deep drifting in the afternoon. They were in 150 fathoms using squid and an artificial eel for bait when they hooked up on the second drift. This 422.5 lb. swordfish gave the crew of Eddie Hoffman, Kenny Bruce and mate Matt Murphy a workout taking 1.5 hours to get to the boat. Once at the cleaning table they found out this was a 'pumpkin sword' having pink colored meat! Pictured at Sunset Marina's upper scale.



Even when you're in the industry, there are still firsts to achieve! Owner of Lewes Harbour Bait & Tackle, Amanda Morris, went out on the charter boat "Grizzly" last week and caught not only her first sheephead, but two others. The biggest was a 9.18 lbs. and the others around 7.5 lbs. A very exciting day and she deserves a 'Girl Power'!

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It was Swordfish Day last Thursday with several brought to the docks at Sunset Marina! Tim Sexton, Bobby Ambrose, Clay Jones and Joe Unparsky headed to the Baltimore Canyon with Capt. Jimmy Daniels on the "Double Shot" and landed this 166 lb. swordfish in 1200 feet on an artificial lure.

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# THE OFFSHORE REPORT

by Larry Budd



## This Week Last Year

- The final few weeks of the season were hampered by bad weather.
- The Ocean City Marlin Club squeaked out a victory over the Cape May Tuna and Marlin Club by recording 38 white marlin versus Cape Mays 37!
- Anglers were finding large catches of small to medium size dolphin in the Baltimore Canyon before the weather turned.
- Several nice wahoo were caught on the "No Quarter", "Reel Chaos", "Blue Eyes" and "Primary Search"

This is the last weekly issue of the Coastal Fisherman magazine until our traditional Winter Issue arrives in late December, so I wanted to take this time and space to say thanks to so many who helped make this first season happen.

Over the last few months, despite the pandemic, I have been able to meet so many amazing and supportive people. They offered their help and guidance and were tolerant of my many mistakes this season!

First on the list would have to be the Jock Family. This transition would not have been possible without the incredible support

technically and emotionally from them, especially Larry's widow Mary and his brother Tom. I think they knew more about running this business than they realized and that was invaluable in the absence of Larry. I also want to thank Larry himself. While I did not have the chance to know him personally, I feel I have grown to know him from his organization and systems at the paper as well as the many stories shared by his brother Tom and almost everyone I have met this summer! There was a lot to learn and we got off to a slow start in May, but I am proud of the papers we published this year.

Special thanks go to our contributors who week after week met their deadlines mostly on time (Franky...). I don't think people understand the effort those require, especially since Capt. Franky Pettolina, Capt. Mark Sampson, Capt. Steve Katz and Capt. BJ Pietryak have other jobs and responsibilities! They did a great job bringing interesting, useful and often entertaining information to our readers. I look forward to having their columns again the Coastal Fisherman in 2021.

The tournament organizers

www.coastalfisherman.net and sponsors have also been very gracious with their support and help to the new guy, especially in a season of such chaos.

Franky Pettolina, Amanda Shick and the individual tournament chairmen at the Ocean City Marlin Club have been amazing to work with during the many events they organized this season. Rolfe Gudelsky, Brian Tinkler and Jennifer Blume helped me through my first big commercial event, showing me the ropes during the Ocean City Tuna Tournament. The Lewis family of Lloyd, Stephen, John and Kristin along with Brian Roberts were great to work with during the largest Big Fish Classic tournament to date, and the crazy weigh in schedule that followed! The entire Motsko family from Jim to Andy, Madelyn and Shasha made my first White Marlin Open one to remember for their unconditional support of the paper and unique 7 day schedule! Rick Weber with Jeff Merrill and Aaron Hoffman made the The MidAtlantic Tournament a great event and place to be for both Christine and me.

My thanks also to the many tournament weigh masters, marina employees and especially dock hands and mates who had to wait for us to position fish and groups of tired and sometimes intoxicated anglers with their catch to get the perfect shot and catch report details!

Recognition and my personal thanks are also due to the many charter



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**LARRY BUDD • EDITOR AND PUBLISHER**  
**CHRISTINE BUDD • VICE PRESIDENT**  
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and private boat captains who shared fishing details for our weekly reports and called us to the docks to get some of the great pictures you see in our paper. They put up with my questions with great diplomacy! This group also includes the bait and tackle shops who week after week also share information and pictures even though most were shorthanded and working their butts off!

Most importantly I want to thank our advertisers. So many people have thanked me for continuing the great tradition of the Coastal Fisherman, but it is really the advertisers support that enable us to bring this 'priceless' paper to our readers. To them, especially this year, I thank you for your support and belief in a new and untested publisher. It may seem obvious, but I would ask all of our readers to continue to support of our advertisers and share that you saw their ad in our paper!

There are also countless individuals who have helped along the way... Steve Soulas, Hugh Cropper, Dave Messick, and Brendan Hanley are just a few of the many.

My final thank you is to my wife and tournament helper Christine. I don't think we were fully ready for the journey of this summer when we started the process in May! She has been patient with the long hours and taking care of the family in my absence.

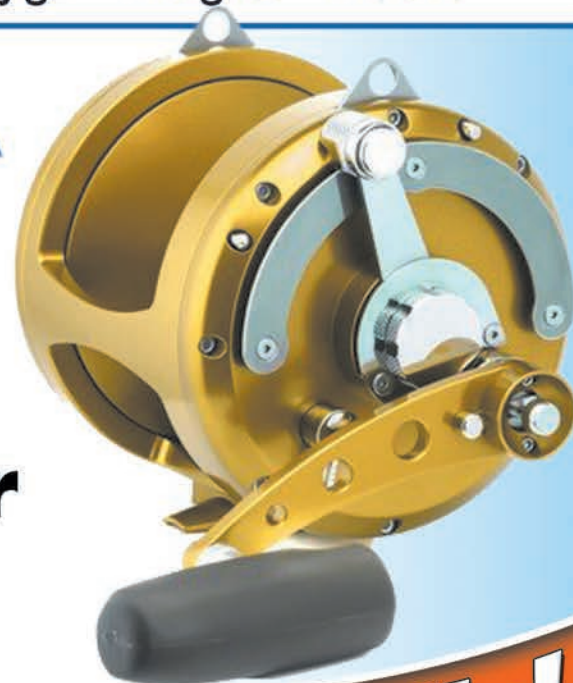
If you have gotten this far, I give my thanks to you for your commitment! Until we meet again stay safe, keep friends close and let us know what you have been catching! We will be looking for pictures for the Winter Edition so please continue to email us at [coastalfisherman@comcast.net](mailto:coastalfisherman@comcast.net) or share on our Facebook page. \$



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A very excited Frederick Slack came to our office in the rain last Thursday with his wife Christina. He had landed two large sheephead, one a 21¾ inch, 8.75 lb. fish. They caught the pair just 20 minutes apart off the Ocean City Inlet Jetty on the outgoing tide using 1 oz. #5 hooks with green crab. Good thing they brought the big net that day!

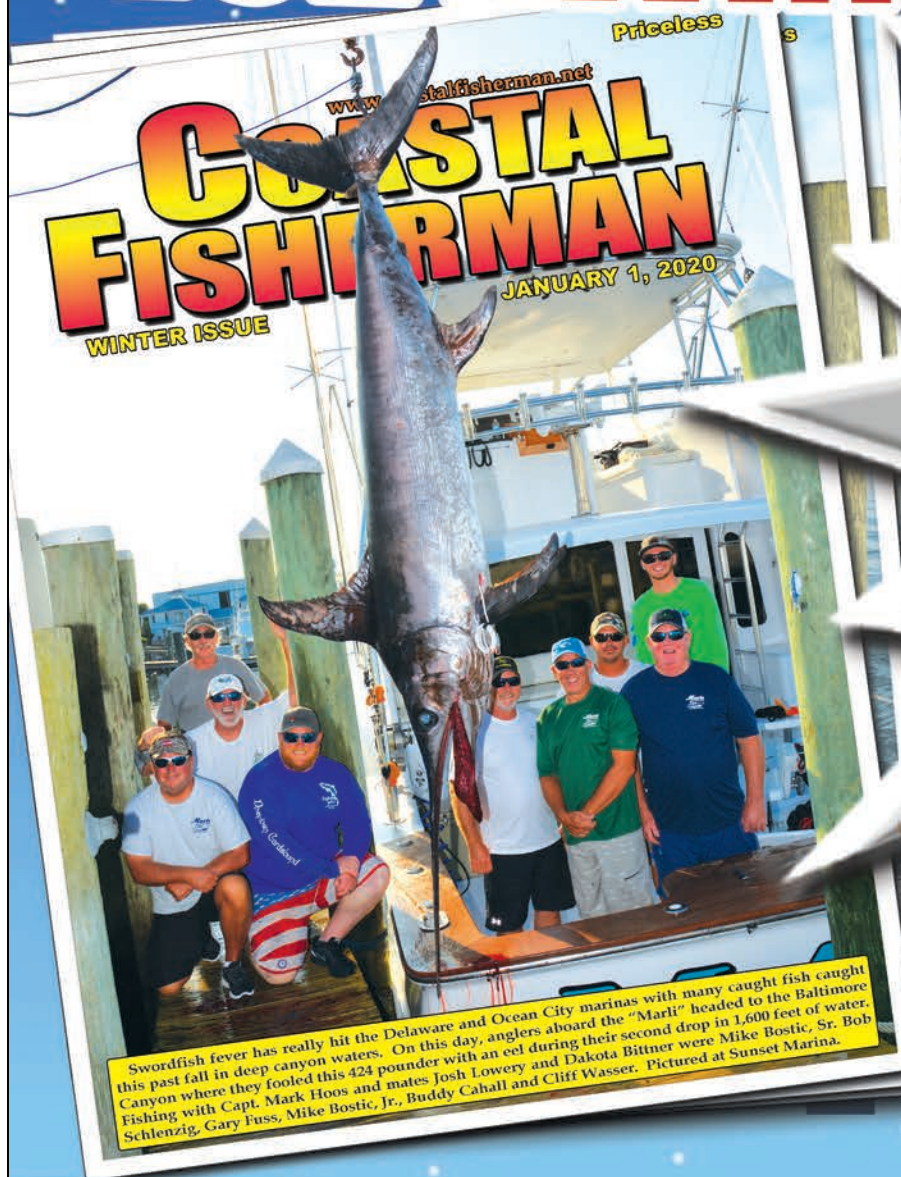
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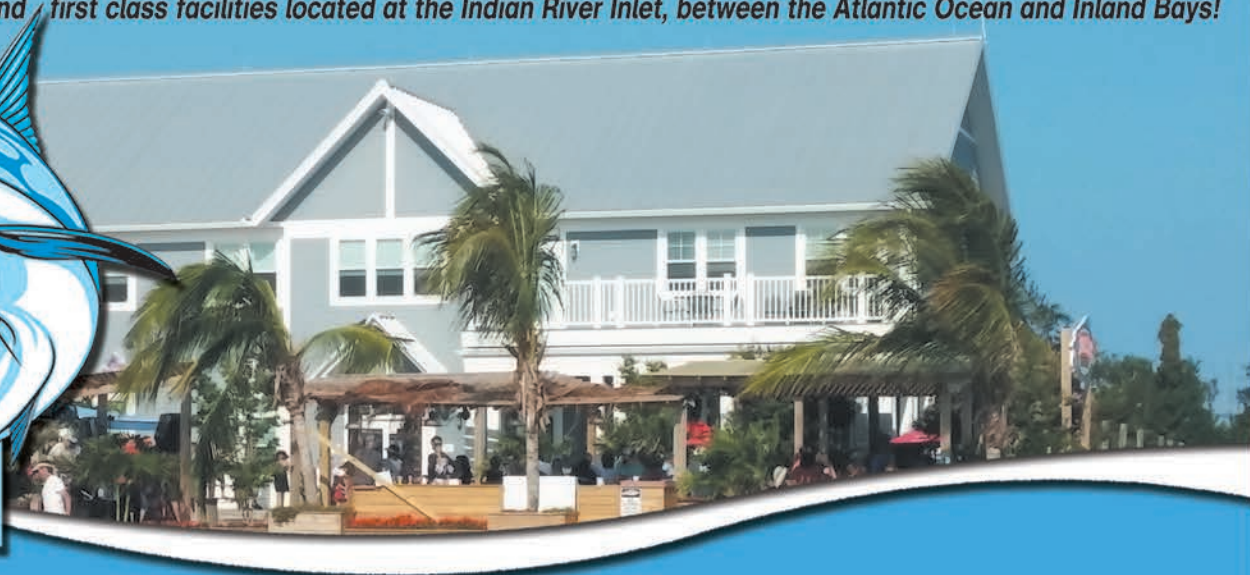
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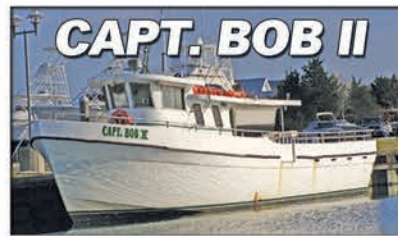
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# FISH STORIES

by Capt. Franky Pettolina

The outrigger baits were skipping nicely in our wake. Our boat speed was just right. We must have been making a very natural presentation was all that I could figure. At least the gulls seemed to think so.

For several minutes I watched Mr. Evans cranking furiously and cussing profusely as he tried to keep our ballyhoo baits from getting beaked! Special guest crew member Capt. Ryan Freese, of "A Salt Weapon III" fame, was trying to deter the winged bait snatchers by shouting and cat-calling at them. I turned into the wind and subsequently with the wind. Neither worked to discourage the flying foursome that had posted up over our baits.

Then the right short rigger

popped out of the clip and the drag started to sing! In all my years I have never met a bird that could pull drag against a Penn 50W International. Something had snuck up on us while we were bird watching, actually more like bird battling. Mr. Evans handed the rod to our good friend and client, Brooke Duvall, and the fight was on.

For the first minute or so of the fight there was some discussion as to what the identity of the sneak attacking species might be. The de-bait was quickly decided when ol' Whitey came up jumping behind the "Last Call". I was quite pleased. It was early in the day and we were hooked up to our primary target for the day. A great start to the day.

Shortly thereafter Mr. Evans was able to grasp the leader and make our catch official. Much to our surprise, the fish was sporting some bling! A bright orange ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas) tag was piercing the shoulder of our white marlin. Whether or not fish actually have shoulders is a discussion we can save for another time! Mr. Evans held on to the marlin's snoot and Mr. Freese (guest crew members get honorary titles of respect as well) deftly removed the tag. The marlin was successfully revived and released. The baits were again deployed.

For those of you that are unfamiliar with ICCAT, there is a wealth of information to be found on the interweb. The Cliff's Notes answer is that it is an international organization tasked with the management and conservation of tunas and tuna-like species. Marlin, swordfish, and sailfish are somehow included in the definition of tuna-like species. Tuna-like species???? I guess we can save that topic for the follow up to the "Do Fish Have Shoulders? Talk Amongst Yourselves" (DFHSTAY for short) meeting to be held at the Ocean City Marlin Club this winter! I encourage you all to read up on ICCAT and form your own opinion on the group and its history.

Personally I have never been shy, or quiet, about my opinion of ICCAT. I will not go into that here, so as not to lend any bias to the forming of your opinion. Likewise I will hold my tongue and curb my keyboard when it comes to my thoughts on tagging. Over the years I have tagged many fish, and been involved in the recapture of many tagged fish. Somehow, however, this was the first tagged white marlin I have ever caught off of Ocean City. Brooke Duvall has been fishing with me since 1997 and his resume includes trips

www.coastalfisherman.net to Australia, Cabo San Lucas, Costa Rica, the Galapagos, Guatemala, Isla Mujeres, Kona, and Venezuela, along with all of the East Coast hot spots. This was his first tag recapture ever! We are both anxious to hear about the travels of this particular white marlin once ICCAT responds to our recapture correspondence. I will share that information in the Winter Issue of the Coastal Fisherman, along with some other tagging stories...

Winter Issue.... Wow. The fact that I am mentioning the Winter Issue means that the regular season issues are coming to a close. Another set of marbles have left my jar. The Summer of 2020 lived up to the rest of the year. Unpredictable and unprecedented. I never thought I would say that I missed having in-person Captain Meetings for tournaments! A few of my favorite tournaments were canceled out of Covid cautionary measures. The town was not quite as crowded, and the docks were sometimes empty. We didn't gather at the watering holes to swap fish stories. Ocean City just didn't feel like Ocean City many times this summer.

But then again..... The tunas bit like crazy for a good portion of the summer. I have never seen Spanish mackerel in such numbers. There were plenty of marlin and some monster mahi. The bay fishing might have been a little hit or miss, but Big Bird Cropper and Neighbor Dave still popped up in just about every issue of the Coastal Fisherman. At the start of each charter I got to marvel at not one, but two, amazing ferris wheels as I ran out the inlet. The sun still popped up each morning in all its glory, welcoming a new day on the water. Old friends still came back and new friends showed up on the scene (Will we ever know the true identity of the Marlin Mauler???). Maybe Ocean City still felt just like



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I would like to thank Christine and Larry Budd for carrying on the tradition of the Coastal Fisherman, and keeping me in the fold. I want to send my love to Mary, Tom, Little Larry and Mrs. Jock. When I wrote my first column this season I had tears in my eyes thinking about my buddy Jocko. Tonight I have different tears (yes tonight, Thursday night, I am late for deadline again). Tears that are still about LJ, but they are tears that are sentimental because the Coastal Fisherman survived through 2020 and will continue on in the future. That is what Larry would have wanted. Stay the course everyone. Stay Safe. There are wondrous days ahead. Thanks for reading. God Bless you all, and God Bless the USA... §



Pat Dougherty, Jason Stokes and Bob Stokes show off a few of the flounder they caught while jigging at the Great Eastern Reef. They got their limit of 12 fish ranging from 18 to 24 inches. Time to check the Coastal Fisherman Galley section for dinner ideas!

# KEEP SENDING YOUR FISH CATCH PHOTOS!

**The upcoming big “Winter Issue” is just around the corner, so be sure to keep sending in photos of your catches. Whether it’s a photo here in the Delmarva area or maybe some nice catches elsewhere, send them along to us for review.**

**Who knows, you just may find yourself gracing the pages of the Coastal Fisherman turning you into an instant ROCKSTAR!**



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- Have the angler facing into the sun to minimize shadows
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Lou Nicoletti from Philadelphia, PA and Pot Nets, DE is tickled pink with this 2.6 lb. pompano he caught at the Indian River Inlet. He was fishing on his boat "Red Rover" when this fella took his pink Gulp Swimming Mullet and squid combo! Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.

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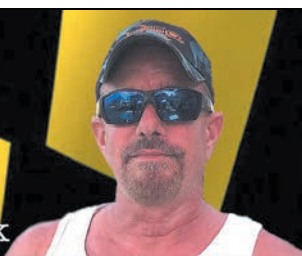
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# OCEAN CITY

## FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This week anglers were met with fierce northeast winds and rough waters. For those brave enough to venture out, the fish were very willing to bite. Many reports of big sea bass, keeper rockfish, and several blues in the surf shows that our fall season should be a good one.

### Sea Bass

Sea bass, which has been the best I've seen in years, continued to be strong this week. I received several reports from both anglers as well as the various headboats that the deeper wrecks are holding some nice knotheads. Target wrecks in the 120ft. range for the best chance at some of these big fish. The fall season means cooler water

and these fish should begin to move inshore to wrecks in the 40-60 ft. range. This will make it much easier to target keepers sea bass. The fall season is also a great time to try your hand at jigging for these fish. The areas such as the African Queen site as well as the bass grounds should begin to really turn on in the next couple of weeks. Tog should also make a comeback as water cools. Salted clam and squid remain your go to baits. The bigger fish will hang tight to the wrecks so be prepared to lose a few rigs. The near shore wrecks are still holding some nice triggerfish as well as bluefish. As the water cools, the bluefish will begin targeting these inshore wrecks attacking your

catches as you bring them up, reel your fish in quickly to avoid these predators. Once you get attacked by bluefish or dogfish sharks the best method is to move to another wreck as these fish will be relentless in attacking your hooked fish. You can try waiting them out, but that usually takes about 30 minutes of non fishing and then there is no promise that they will not still be lurking around waiting on the next meal. Some of the inshore wrecks are also holding cobia and triggerfish but most of these fish seemed to have moved on. A few spade fish are also being caught on the wrecks. The head boats are reporting good catches of sea bass on their trips. Many of these

boats will be switching over to full day trips now that the summer season is over.

### Flounder

In shore and bay flounder has been fair to good depending on the day and wind conditions. In the back bays the keeper ratio is still about 8-1. Scott Sieglar caught a nice 4 lb. flounder near the Ocean City airport this week. The fish was weighed in at Fenwick Tackle. Craig Cropper reported that he caught some nice sea trout, bluefish, and rockfish on his Roy Rigs. The bluefish have been heavy near the fishing pier and inlet area. Many anglers fishing for flounder have been hooking small fish only to be attacked by bluefish. Make sure at this time of year to reel your fish in fairly quickly to keep them away from predators. On the near shore wrecks the flounder scene has been good, but a lot of sea bass have been staging on the



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wrecks making it difficult to reach the flounder on the bottom. Larger baits or live spot are the best baits for getting past sea bass and reaching the keeper flounder.

### Bluefish/Rockfish/Sharks

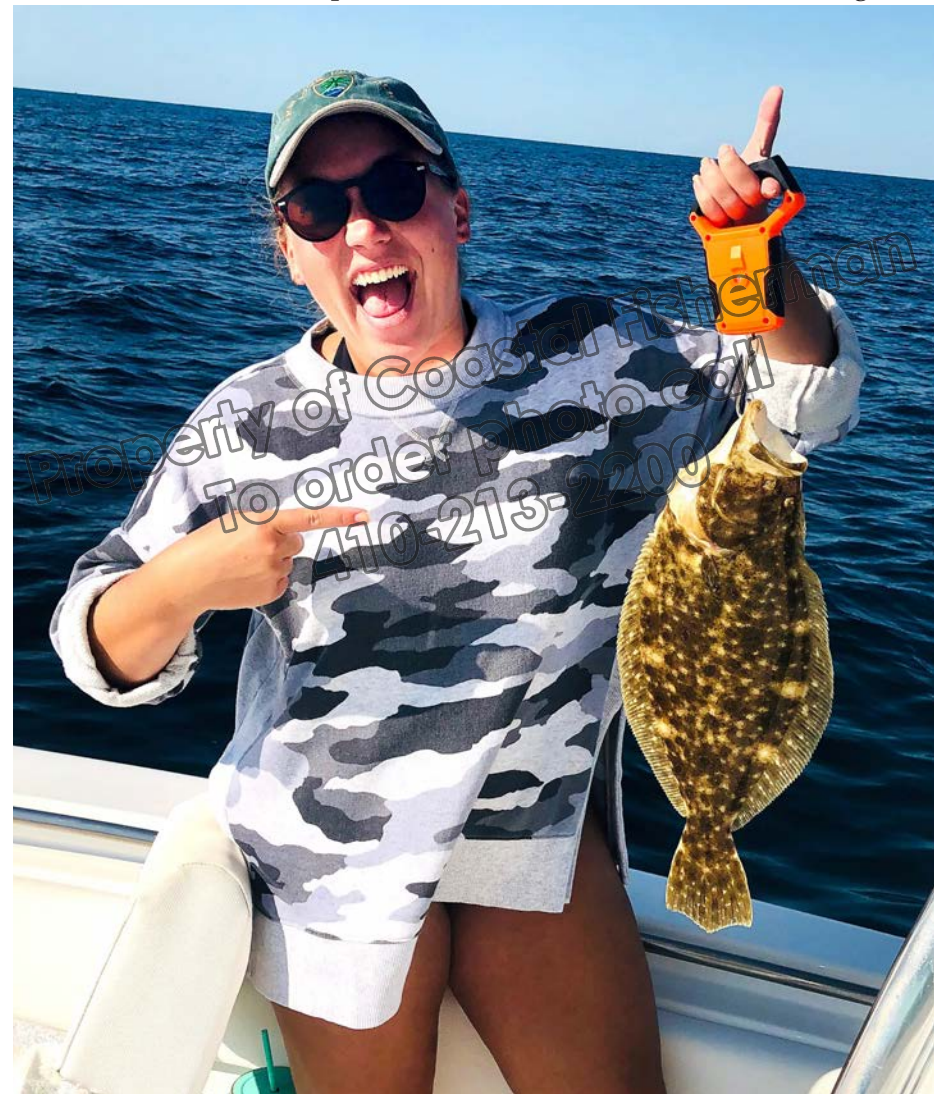
Dogfish sharks are beginning to stay on the near shore wrecks. This will soon become a problem for anglers targeting sea bass and tog. Reeling your fish in quickly will help keep these fish from attacking your hooked sea bass. In the bay areas bluefish can be found around the fishing piers. Craig Cropper caught double limits of bluefish this past week. Many anglers including myself do not regard bluefish as an edible fish however, many like bluefish baked and especially smoked. The smoked bluefish can be made into fish cakes or a smoked fish dip. Rockfish are also showing up all along the

bay entrance. Many of these fish are below keeper size. A few keeper rockfish in the 29-32" size were caught this past week. Most of these fish were caught on eel type jigs or live eels. Casting along the rocks of the inlet and allowing the baits to get near the bottom appears to be the best method for targeting striped bass. A few reports of rockfish near the Assateague Bridge are also coming in, but I didn't hear of any keepers from that area.

### Crabs and Clams

Crabbing remains some of the best we have had in years. Targeting water in the 6 ft. range seems to be the most productive. Bunker still is the best bait. Clams in the Assateague area remain strong although many areas are very picked over. Try going to deeper water to find untouched areas.

Tight lines and fins up! §



Megan Lawrence from Washington DC is one happy fisherwoman! She caught her first keeper flounder ever while fishing with her dad Dave on the family boat last week. She tricked her 19 incher at the Bass Grounds Reef on a Gulp & minnow combination. Nice job Megan!

# YIKES!

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**coastalfisherman.net**



Sue Foster was a long time contributor to the Coastal Fisherman and garnered a large and faithful following for her "Driftin' Easy" weekly articles. We still receive many requests for her old articles and some are still available on our website, CoastalFisherman.net. The issues with her articles would be from 2009 - 2014. In this issue we revisit one of her end of season articles that asks the question "What's biting in October, November and December?".

In addition we have a follow up to our last "The Vault" article that focused on exactly where were local Ocean City fishing spots. The graphic on the opposite page was published in 2014 and was requested by several readers. Enjoy!

#### **Driftin' Easy by Sue Foster** Sept. 18, 2013

#### **What's Biting in October, November, and December?"**

It's the last Coastal Fisherman of the season! Some anglers will feel lost without a paper every week.

"How do we know what's biting? How long will it all last? What will I read in the morning?"

Hang around any of the local tackle shops in town, and you'll hear plenty fish stories and reports.

"So when do the big fish get here?"

I get this question all the time. Big fish can be caught anytime, like the big run of red drum on Assateague is happening right now. The really nice run of stripers and big blues occur when the weather gets cooler and the water temperatures dip a bit. This generally happens in October and November for the stripers. Big blues can come in too, but sometimes wait as long as December to show in the surf. By then, it's all about weather conditions. The longer you wait to fish, the more likely you may catch a big fish. But if inclement weather gets you, you may catch nothing! Weigh all that in when you get a chance to go fishing. I would definitely come to Ocean City to fish somewhere between the first of

October and Thanksgiving and give it a whirl!

"What should we use in the surf?"

Whole finger mullet on a finger mullet rig is the rig for blues of any size, big or small. For stripers, get a single or double hook rig, no float, and use a nice big piece of meat on the hook. "Meat?" By meat we mean a chunk of mullet, bunker, cut spot, or cut bluefish. Fresh is best if it is available. If not, buy some good quality frozen bait.

"Are there still sharks in the surf in the late season?"

Sure, and they will take a big bluefish rig with a big chunk of meat or squid. Or use a whole head of any kind on a custom made shark rig with or without a float. A bunker head, kingfish head, spot or bluefish head all work good for sharks. The oilier the better!

"Are there any small fish in the surf that will take bloodworms or Fishbites?"

Yes, but do not totally depend on that. Sometimes there are kingfish, a croaker, or at night some red hake (ling cod). In the fall, these panfish will just as readily take a little strip of cut bait as they will a worm. Then you will also be set up for snapper blues or a stray puppy drum, trout, or flounder (legal in DE).

"Big blues and stripers are not just in the surf!"

The Inlets, Oceanic Pier, Ocean Pier, Route 50 Bridge, Homer Gudelski Park, Bulkhead at 2nd to 4th Streets and 9th Street Pier all see their share of bigger blues and stripers. Cut bait works by day in most of these places for larger fish. Anglers even use the whole finger mullet rigs with a finger mullet to catch these cruising bluefish in the bay and inlets. I've seen anglers catching small blues in the surf while anglers in the bay are catching 3 to 7 pounders! At the Inlets, anglers generally use lures when the fish are feeding. Cast bucktails with plastic worms, spoons, Got-cha Plugs or Swimming Shad lures. (Stripers feed best at night or at daybreak.)

"Should I even bother fishing in the bay since we can't keep flounder in Maryland?"

Yes, fish for bluefish, drum, stripers,

and tautog. You can also venture to Delaware and launch your boat and fish in the Indian River Inlet and even offshore. If you fish offshore you can fish through November though you have to weed through the skates and horn dog sharks! Don't be surprised to pick up a few flounder in the surf. Leave off the surf floats, and cast and slowly retrieve in a nice strip of cut bait.

"What about those tautog?"

Tautog fishing is usually great in October and November. Delaware was closed the whole month of September, and anglers have been chaffing at the bit to catch them in the fall right into early winter. Tautog fishing is like this. When they are biting really good in early October, they bite through the whole tide. Incoming, outgoing, slack tides. It doesn't matter.

The bigger fish are usually caught when the tide is slacking only because you can cast out a little further and find those deeper holes without getting snagged up. The bite continues on into November and right through Thanksgiving. Once the water temperatures get colder, the bite changes and the fish bite best on the slacking tides. The last of the low outgoing and the beginning of the high outgoing is when the best and biggest fish are caught. This is because the water temperatures are warmer on the outgoing tide. Combine one of these good tides with "before sundown" fishing and you can come up with a good bite. Tautog feed before the sun goes down, and then they become dormant at night.

In Ocean City, the early season bite is best at the bulkhead from 1st to 4th Streets, the end of the Oceanic Pier, and the Route 50 Bridge. As the season progresses, the Inlet becomes "hot." The nice part about fishing the places other than the "rocks" is that it is easier to fish and easier to get the fish out of the water! Anglers also do well in boats casting towards the rocks at the South Jetty.

"What's the bait for tautog?"

Sand fleas, live or frozen, and green crabs are the two baits that anglers buy in stores. Some anglers catch their own marsh crabs by turning over rocks in the bay at low tide, or smacking clams and conchs for

[www.coastalfisherman.net](http://www.coastalfisherman.net) bait. (A lot of work and those marsh crabs are really fast!) You can dig your own sand fleas on the beach at low tide too. The later you get into the season, the deeper they go!

"The rig?"

People use all kinds of rigs, but the main thing you need to do is KEEP IT SIMPLE. Forget the wire top and bottom rigs. All you want is a simple loose Octopus styled hook 2/0 or 3/0 looped thru an overhand surgeons knot into a length of 30-40 pound test leader material. Tie a loop at the very end of the leader for the sinker, tie a loop a couple inches long above the sinker and insert the hook. Then tie a barrel swivel to the other end of the leader material. Give yourself some extra leader material length (a couple feet) to deal with rock abrasion. Once the tautog bites it can take you into the rocks. You need to pull the fish out with some fast cranking and a tight drag. Pulling the fish out will fray your line, thus you need that heavier 40-pound test leader material if you're in rough bottom.

"I feel the fish on, but my sinker is stuck in the rocks!"

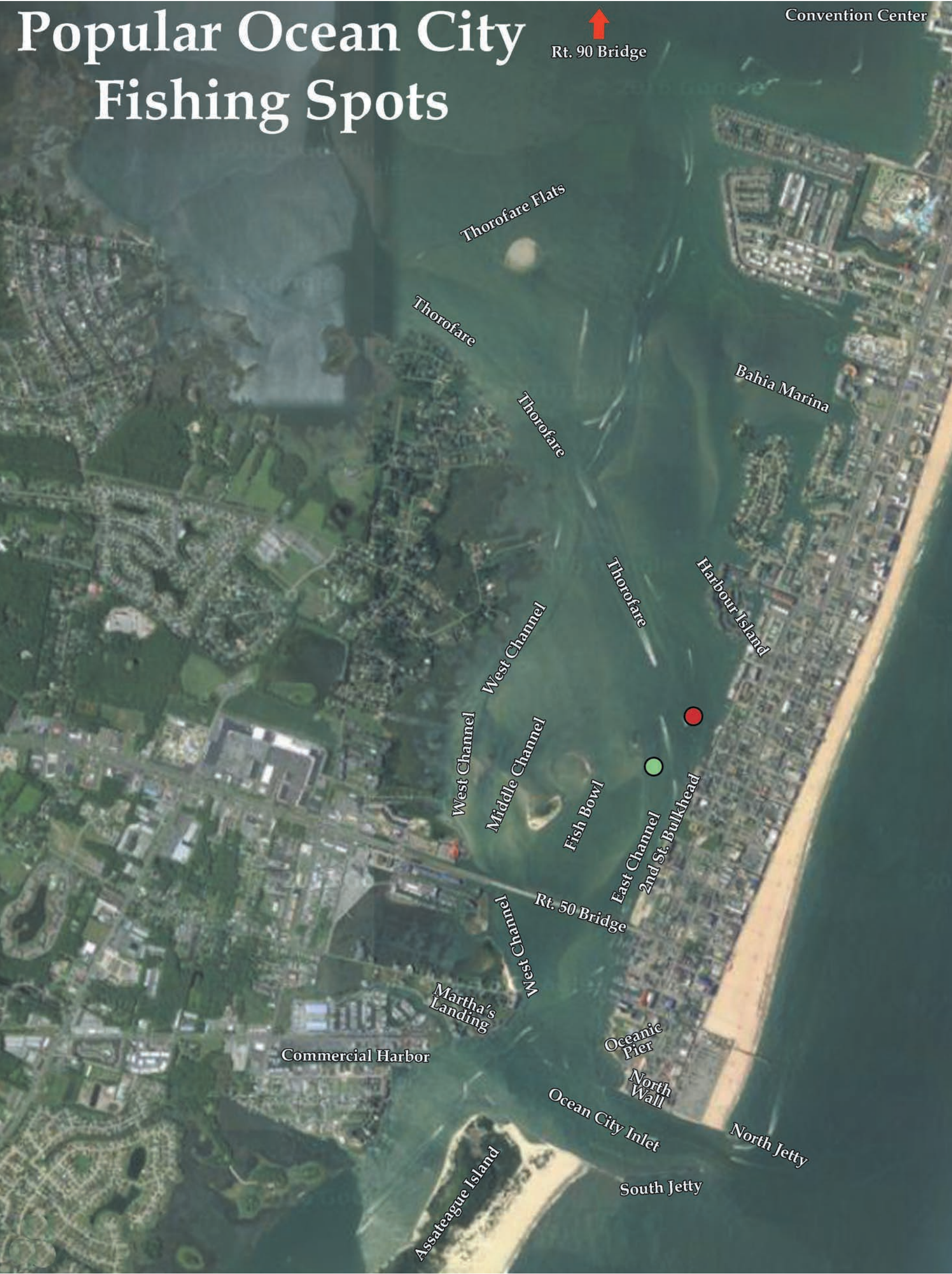
This happens all the time when getting a nice tautog on. I started using a heavy rubber band to loop on my 1 1/2 to 3 ounce flat or torpedo shaped sinker to the end loop. If the sinker gets hung up, I pull hard, and the sinker breaks off and I get the rig and the fish!

"How do I hook the sand crab and green crab?"

Hook the sand crab in the apron and let the hook come out the outer shell about an 1/8th of an inch. For the green crabs a sharp pair of dollar store scissors come in handy. Pull off the shell, and cut it in half or quarters depending upon its size. Cut off the legs or leave them on. (I cut mine off). Pierce the hook inside one of the leg sockets. The tautog takes the bait in its mouth, crushes it, and then spits the shells out. That's when you hook them! Big tautog generally slam the bait, while the smaller ones steal it. It takes a lot of patience and finesse to catch the tautog. It's a fun, but sometimes frustrating game.

Last year we had fish in the surf right into January. Every year is different and it's all about weather and water temperatures. Keep up with our weekly fishing report online, and thanks to all the anglers for reading "Driftin' Easy" this season. We all thank Larry Jock for another great year with the most popular fishing paper on Delmarva.

Good fishing.. \$



# Popular Ocean City Fishing Spots

Rt. 90 Bridge

Convention Center



# FISHING CHARTERS



Another week, another houndfish! We now have reports of these long skinny fish as well as ribbonfish and cutlassfish! This one was caught just outside the African Queen Reef.



The Rt. 50 Bridge in Ocean City has been hot lately for flounder, blues and recently keeper rockfish. Local legend Big Bird Cropper went out with Dave Hrycyk on one of his trips last week. They found success working the outgoing tide catching their limit of 6 bluefish and a nice 29" striper. The blues fell for Roy Rigs with a heavy 3 oz. sinker and the rock hit hard on a Stretch 25.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Angler Mark Brown from Lewes, DE took a trip with Capt. Kane Bounds on the charter boat "Fish Bound". The headed to some ocean structures and caught and released this nice 44 inch red drum that took their cut bait.



Restaurateur and fisherman Tony Kolb released another white marlin last week! The Southside Grille & Deli owner was fishing with Capt. Mike Hutchins on the "OutlawX" in the Poor Man's Canyon when this one hit on a naked ballyhoo. The bill & tail are intact, just did not make the picture!

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Jordan Lukiewski and the crew on the "Anger Management" had a busy day. First they went out to the Jack Spot and got 4 nice flounder up to 23", a few sea bass and some small mahi. Then they moved inside to the African Queen Reef and got bonita and a houndfish. Got a few more sea bass and headed in. Time to fire up the grill! Fishing with Jordan were anglers Mike Brockmyer and Nick LaPointe, both of Salisbury, MD.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Austin Ensor on the charter boat "Primary Search" braved a trip to the Poor Man's Canyon last Friday despite the weather! It was worth the effort as Steve Strawbridge, Jr. caught this 84.5 lb. wahoo on a high speed troll in warm 77.5° water using an artificial lure. He also locked into our 'Heaviest Wahoo' for the season. Rounding out the crew were Sean McDonald, Steve Hull, Cory Tobais and Nick Micheal with mates Johnny Brown and Brian Susche.



Lewes Harbour Marine fan Len Brinsfield from Frankfort, DE stopped by to have his latest catch of a triggerfish weighed and cleaned. The fish was 4.18 pounds and was caught at the Wall in the Delaware Bay with sand fleas as bait.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



The Bel Air, MD gang of Ed Lucas, Don Todaro, Eva Todaro and Lisa Ruzicka braved some rough seas with Capt. Monty Hawkins on the headboat "Morning Star" recently. Having their sea legs and stomachs paid off as Lisa landed a nice 23¼ inch flatfish and the rest of the crew got keeper flounder and sea bass. They were fishing at inshore artificial reef using squid for bait until the weather forced them back to the dock.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



The Falgowski family of DE has been on fire the past few weeks with several very large flounder catches including the 32" one in last week's issue. Here patriarch Corky showed the kids how it is done with this 6.89 lb. fatty! Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.



It was a little bit of everything for James Webb, Michael Whalen, Josh Hauck, Randy Siegrust, Amanda Siegrist and Michael Webb. They caught a 33 inch rockfish, a couple sheepshead (the largest at 2.8 lbs.), a few nice bluefish and some croakers! They were fishing with Capt. Jason Mumford and mate Ethan Nock on the "Lucky Break" working the incoming tide at the Ocean City Inlet.

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Trevor Bishop fished on the charter boat “Grizzly” out of Lewes, DE last Tuesday and landed this nice 2.7 pound 20” sea trout. Pretty fish!



This is not a happy picture as we can tell from mate Max Thumma’s face. He and Capt. David Caffrey on the charter boat “On the Run” boated this 15” undersized tog at the south jetty in OC and noted it had been wounded by a spearfish gun earlier, hit in center of back in between dorsal fin the notch. Hope the little guy survives.

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## ... STATE WATERS ONLY ...

 <p><b>BLACK SEA BASS</b> 12.5" minimum / 15 per person/day 5/15 - 12/31</p>	 <p><b>BLUEFISH</b> 8" minimum 3 per day / 5 per day Charter</p>	 <p><b>BLACK DRUM</b> 16" minimum 1 per person/day or 6 per boat/day</p>	 <p><b>COBIA</b> TBA</p>
 <p><b>CROAKER</b> 9" minimum 25 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>RED DRUM</b> 18-27" minimum 1 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>SHEEPSHEAD</b> 4 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>SPECKLED TROUT</b> 12" minimum 4 per person/day</p>
 <p><b>STRIPED BASS</b> 28-35" 1 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>SUMMER FLOUNDER</b> 16.5" minimum 4 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>TAUTOG</b> 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31</p>	 <p><b>WEAKFISH</b> 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

eregulations.com



It was Ned Norris' first time deep dropping for golden tilefish and boy did he have beginners luck! Fishing with Jimmy Parrot on the charter boat "Reel Vibrations" with Capt. Kurt Howell, they caught a total of 18 fish including these big boys while in 880 feet of water in the Baltimore Canyon. Squid and tilefish belly did the trick for bait.



One of the few boats that went out last Thursday was the "Espadon" with Capt. Ronnie Fields with mates Sylvain Cote and Brad Wilson. Anglers Kristy Zik, Jackie Tenuto, Kristin Lewis and Allison Wigley were soggy from the afternoon rain, but smiling with their catch of yellowfin tuna and some gaffer dolphin. They found this bounty just south of the Poor Man's Canyon.

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The crew of the "Reel Fin Addict" found a rough tuna trip last Thursday even before the weather turned worse on Friday. Austin Dodd was on only his second trip offshore when he landed this 64 lb. longfin tuna, one of 4 boated that day. Of the four, 2 fish were over 60 lbs. and the others over 30 lbs. He was fishing with anglers Mike Dodd, Austin Dodd, Mark Magee and Joe Kluge with Capt. Pete Weaver in the Poor Man's Canyon.

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- Weight and/or length of fish
- Bait/lure used
- Location of catch
- Name of boat, if any

Please do not compress the photo and do not run it through any photo software.

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

**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.**



Ann O'Hagan from Selbyville, DE showed her family how it is done. Fresh of her victory at an Ocean Pines Fishing Tournament, and using the new rod with shamrock green line she won, Ann boated not only this 20 inch flounder but also a 36" ribbonfish. At 85 years young, Ann offers great advice "Get yourselves outdoors; saltwater and sunshine are the cure"!

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Second season now underway

While this may be the final Ship-to-Shore article for the 2020 season, there is still much more fishing and boating to be had throughout this fall and winter.

Thank you to all of our readers! I hope you enjoyed this column and if you have any ideas or requests for future topics, be sure to let the Editor know. A special thanks to Mr. Larry Budd – who took over the Coastal Fisherman publication during a period where everything was unknown and carried on the Coastal Fisherman tradition like nothing ever happened! Thank you Sir.

With bountiful coastal waters and good weather, boats will be heading out for fall fishing for weeks to come, enjoying the less crowded seas. While this is a benefit to most it should also be noted that you may find yourself one of a few boats in an area just in

case you are in need of assistance. The cooler weather and cooler water should be a reminder for boaters to check and recheck their safety gear along with the operating condition of the systems on their boat. Many hours put on the boat in the summer may have taken a toll on your systems, such as batteries, cooling systems, engine fluids, engine hoses and even exterior lighting. It is wise to take the time during one of this fall's blow days to go over your boat and check and repair as needed any system that is not 100%. Fishing offshore or in a distant bay all alone is a lot of fun and often provides excellent fishing but be sure your boat is up to the task. Being stranded this time of year can be more critical than during peak summer season.

Enough of cautionary tales, what interesting gear and technology is ahead for 2020 and beyond?

This year has been one-of-a kind,

with the Coronavirus restrictions, booming boat and accessory sales and a generally busy boating and fishing season here locally. Normally, the Fall and winter season are busy for boat and accessory manufacturers preparing new models for the winter season. This year, it seems they are still trying to meet demand and are backlogged getting existing models out the door. Most new and updated products are traditionally touted at the numerous consumer boat shows and industry trade shows during the Fall and Winter. As expected, these events may be limited this year. As you may have heard, the traditional Annapolis Power Boat Show was canceled by the City of Annapolis, thankfully many local boat dealers are carrying on with their own "walk the docks" events as a substitute.



The next big show many boaters attend is the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show. So far, the City of Ft Lauderdale has given the green light to hold this event, scheduled for October 28-November 1, 2020. At the moment, the Miami International Boat Show is still planned for February 11-15, 2021. One of my favorite events is the trade only NMEA annual conference & Expo (National Marine Electronic Association) and awards event. This year, the event is Virtual and the annual NMEA product awards will be presented virtually on September 26, 2020 – keep an eye out for the press releases highlighting the winners and runners up.

The travel restrictions and event cancellations have caused many boat builders, manufacturers and retailers in the marine industry to do a better job of presenting



their products to a virtual audience, with more social media engagement, direct to consumer sales, and new ways they can interact with consumers without consumers having to travel to a store or an event. Stay tuned to social media to keep up to date.

When it comes to marine electronics and technology products, there have been a few new products introduced so far this year, though many of them have been or are still limited availability – here are few popular products:

Garmin recently announced two new products, OnDeck Remote Connectivity Solution – allows you to receive information about your boat's system on your smart phone and a new open-array Fantom marine radar that offers 250W of pulse compression power, the highest-powered solid-state marine radar on the market.

Furuno announced the Furuno SCX20 Satellite compass last winter and has just recently become available, due to unprecedented demand. Furuno also announced and began shipping the TZT3 multifunction display, probably one of their easiest systems to operate. Simrad announced and is shipping the newest version of the popular NSS and NSO multifunction displays, the Evo3s.

Most manufacturers have released numerous software updates to their multifunction marine displays, some of this software added much anticipated new features, like pin codes to lock the screen and some new software offered much anticipated fixes for nagging problems.

Seakeeper announced the Seakeeper 1, a 365lb unit – the smallest unit they ever produced, designed to stabilize boats up to 30' for \$14,900 (not including installation).

Thank you to all of our readers for another great season here in Ocean City, Maryland. Stay safe this winter and look for us in the Winter edition of The Coastal Fisherman and Spring 2021. §

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Anglers Martin Lopez, John Smith, Jon Fazekas and James Fazekas took advantage of the hot mahi bite at the beginning of September. They were fishing on the "Topnotch" out of the South Shore Marina when they headed to near the Del-Jersey Reef and Martin caught this gaffers dolphin. Overall they boated 9 mahi and 8 sea bass!

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Ron Evans from Catonsville, MD and Mystic Harbor, MD was on the Over-Sand Vehicle (OSV) zone at Assateague Island National Seashore when he connected with this 24 inch Red Drum. He was fishing the surf with a fresh mullet from Buck’s Place that he had on a whole mullet rig.




Big smiles for Sharon Stull! She tricked this keeper 18 inch flounder on a minnow while fishing off a pier at Massey’s Landing in Millsboro, DE.

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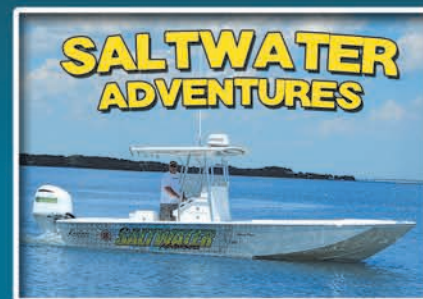
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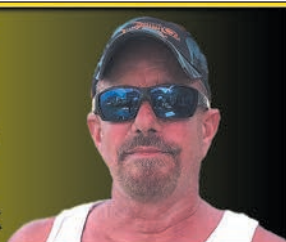
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# DELAWARE

## FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



The winds came out of the north east this week and the Atlantic Ocean was an angry girl. Many anglers remained at the docks but those that did manage to get offshore found some nice fish.

### Seabass

This is the start of our fall sea bass season. From this point on sea bass should start moving inshore and staging on the near shore wrecks. Right now sea bass are mostly on the deeper wrecks in about 100 ft of water. Several nice keepers have been coming in all summer. Targeting the down current sides of the wrecks with salted clam or jigs seems to be the ticket to some really nice knot heads. Many anglers are using jigs such as the flat fall jigs, butterfly jigs and the new Ocean Arsenal sea bass jigs. Be advised when fishing these lures, pay attention on the drop down as this is when most of your bites will occur. As the water cools these bigger fish will move inshore to wrecks in the 40-60 ft range making them much easier to target. The wrecks are also full of trigger fish as well as many holding spade fish. A few blues have also been taken when fishing for sea bass.

### Flounder

The back bay flounder is still fairly slow with a ratio of about 12 throwbacks to every keeper. The Roosevelt Inlet in Lewes remains a hotspot with many fish coming from the areas along the docks in the canal. Using live spot while drifting is a great way to bypass the smaller fish and target the keepers. You will not get near as many bites, but if its keepers you want this is the best method. The bay areas including Indian River are best targeted with squid and shiners for the best chance of catching fish. In the Indian River Bay, the area by the Coast Guard station has been a good area to target. The bay has been a lot less crowded with most of the tourists back home. The area right against the west wall has produced some nice flounder. This area has also seen some nice schools of croaker as well. Target the croaker with small pieces of squid or bloodworms. The croaker have been seen in large schools however, most of the fish are small. We have not seen the big fish we usually see. The end of croaker season should be any day now as the water cools.

### Sharks/Rockfish/Bluefish

The Indian River Inlet has been producing some decent Bluefish at night. Most anglers are using jigs and bucktails. These fish are close to the rocks so be prepared to lose a few rigs. Anglers are also using cut bait such as bunker and dragging these baits close to the bottom along the jetty walls. At night a couple keeper stripers have been taken from the jetty on live eels. Bucktails and other artificial lures will also work. The okuma eel is a great one to try as well as the old style almost alive rigged eels. Cut bait will work but the best bait is still live eels.

I have not heard of anyone trolling the beach area for rockfish yet this year, but with the water cooling the fish should begin moving though in the near future. My latest reports indicate that the rockfish are still in the northernmost areas of New Jersey. Dogfish sharks are beginning to come back inshore and are causing a tough time when fishing the near shore wrecks. Once these fish hone in on your bait the only option is stop fishing for a half hour or move to another wreck. Most anglers consider these

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fish a garbage fish however, in England, they are used for fish and chips.

### Surf Reports

Blues and more blues are being reported in the surf. As the water cools a few more degrees we should see the slammer ones come in close. Mullet rigs are your best bait with cut bait on a circle hook a close second. The Delaware Seashore Fall Classic is scheduled for Sept 26-27th you can register at Old Inlet Tackle shop. Adult are \$40 and children \$15 This is always a great tournament s come out and have some fun.

### Clams and Crabs

Crabbing remains very productive with the biggest and largest quantity of fish being found in 6-7 ft of water. The areas of 2-4 ft. seem to be oxygen deprived resulting in dead fish in your crab pots. Bunker remains the best baits and as these fish are larger, double baiting your pots is a good idea. Clams are also very productive with the best areas being the VFW and Holt's Landing. Rehoboth Bay is also reporting some nice clamming areas.

As this is our last issue for the 2020 season, be sure to check out my Facebook account as I post reports and catches almost daily.

Tight lines and fins up! §

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The charter boat "Big Stick" has been having a good summer! On this trip Grover Collins and his family had a busy day fishing with Capt. Ronnie Fields and mates Brad and Marshall in the Norfolk Canyon. Three anglers caught their first white marlin; Sons-in-law Mark Powell and Michael Brewington and granddaughter Ariel Morris. Actually Mark caught not only his first white but also released his first blue marlin (estimated at 300 plus pounds). Mark's wife Debbie, rounded out the fishing with yet another white marlin release. WHAT A DAY!

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# THE GALLEY

by Christine Budd

## GRILLED VEGETABLES AND SWORDFISH KABOBS

### Ingredients:

#### Kabobs -

1/2 cup olive oil, plus more for oiling the grill grates

1 tablespoon grated garlic

1 tablespoon grated ginger

Zest of 1 lemon

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

2 pounds swordfish, cut into 1-inch cubes

4 to 6 mini bell peppers of varying colors

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

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

1 cup cherry tomatoes

#### Garlic Aioli -

Juice of 1 lemon

1 cup mayonnaise

1 tablespoon chopped fresh cilantro

1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

2 teaspoons minced garlic

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

1 teaspoon sherry vinegar

1/2 teaspoon hot sauce

8 pieces pita or naan, toasted on the grill

Chopped fresh cilantro, for garnish

Chopped fresh parsley, for garnish



### Directions:

#### For the kebabs:

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

#### For the garlic aioli:

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

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

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

Brush the grill grates with oil.

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

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

## FALL CRAB BISQUE

### Ingredients:

1 lb. Crab meat (reserve some to top individual portions if desired)

3 stalks celery, minced

1 small onion, minced

1 stick of butter

1 bay leaf

1 tsp. cumin

1 tsp. red pepper flakes

1 Tbsp. Phillips Seafood Seasoning

1 tsp. salt

1 tsp. white pepper

5 c. pureed pumpkin

3 c. vegetable or chicken broth

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## Directions:

Sauté onion and celery with butter, then as it starts to melt, add bay leaf, cumin, red pepper, seafood seasoning, salt and pepper.

Add pumpkin, broth and crab meat, then bring to a simmer for about 10 minutes.

Turn down heat to low and stir in cream to warm throughout.

Top each portion with reserved crab meat if desired and serve while hot with warm French bread.

### PROSCIUTTO ROASTED SEA BASS WITH AUTUMN VEGETABLES

## Ingredients:

2 cups peeled, seeded, and (1/2-inch) diced butternut squash

2 cups peeled and diced Yukon Gold (1/2-inch) potatoes

2 cups peeled and diced (1/2-inch) parsnips (~3 parsnips)

2 cups peeled and diced carrots (1/2-inch) (~6 carrots)

Good olive oil

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

1 tablespoon minced garlic (3 cloves)

6 (8-ounce) skinless fish fillets such as striped bass or halibut

6 thin slices prosciutto di Parma

1/4 pound (1 stick) unsalted butter

6 sprigs fresh rosemary

3 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice

Lemon wedges, for serving



## Directions:

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

For the vegetables, place the



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butternut squash, potatoes, parsnips, and carrots on a sheet pan and drizzle with 1/3 cup olive oil. Sprinkle with 1 tablespoon salt and 1 teaspoon pepper and toss together. Spread out in a single layer and roast for 30 minutes, turning once during cooking. After 30 minutes, toss with the garlic and roast for another 10 minutes, until all the vegetables are tender and starting to brown.

Meanwhile, line another sheet pan with aluminum foil, and place a baking rack on top of the foil. Brush the fish fillets on both sides with olive oil and season them liberally with salt and pepper. Wrap each fillet with a slice of prosciutto to form a wide band around the center of the fillet, overlapping the ends on the skin side. Arrange the fillets on the rack with the prosciutto seam side down and roast for 10 to 15 minutes, until barely cooked.

While the vegetables and fish are roasting, melt the butter over medium heat in a medium-size saute pan. Add the rosemary sprigs and cook over low heat until the rosemary leaves are

crisp and the butter begins to brown, about 5 minutes. Discard the rosemary, stir in the lemon juice, and set aside.

To serve, place the fish on a platter or individual plates, spoon the rosemary butter on top, and surround with the vegetables. Garnish with lemon wedges and serve hot.

### BROILED FLOUNDER WITH BLACK WALNUT GREMOLATA

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup (2 oz./60 g) black walnuts
- 2 lemons
- 1/3 cup (3 fl. oz./80 ml) olive oil
- 1/2 cup (1 oz./30 g) packed fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves
- 2 garlic cloves, sliced
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- 3 Tbs. unsalted butter, cut into small cubes
- 4 fresh thyme sprigs
- 4 flounder, sole or other mild white fish fillets, each about 6 oz.



Directions:

Preheat an oven to 350°F (180°C).

Spread the walnuts evenly on a baking sheet. Toast in the oven until golden brown and fragrant, 8 to 10 minutes. Set aside to cool.

Position an oven rack so that it is at least 8 inches (20 cm) from the heating element and preheat the broiler.

Grate the zest from the lemons. In a food processor, combine the lemon zest, olive oil, parsley, garlic and 1/4 tsp. salt and pulse until coarsely chopped. Add the walnuts and pulse until finely chopped. You want the mixture to retain some small walnut pieces, but there should be no large

chunks remaining.

Squeeze the juice from 1 of the lemons into a broiler-proof baking dish. Add the butter and thyme to the dish and transfer to the oven until the butter is melted, about 2 minutes. Remove from the oven.

Season the fish on both sides with salt and pepper. Dip each fillet in the lemon-butter mixture to coat both sides, then arrange the fillets in the baking dish. Top each with an even coating of the walnut mixture, completely covering the top of each fillet. Transfer to the oven and broil until the fish just begins to flake when you press on it but is still translucent, 6 to 8 minutes; be careful not to overcook the fish.

Using a spatula, transfer the fillets to individual plates and spoon the lemon-butter mixture from the dish over the top. Cut the remaining lemon into wedges and serve alongside the fish for squeezing on top if desired. Serves 4.

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# 2020 Heaviest Fish of the Year

# COASTAL FISHERMAN



(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - TIES GO TO FIRST FISH REPORTED. HOOK & LINE ONLY)

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
<b>Bluefish</b> 	July 4, 2020 Rich Daiker Rt. 50 Bridge 17.5 lbs.	July 5, 2020 Kelly Kramarck Hotdog 15.2 lbs.	<b>Mako Shark</b> 	June 9, 2020 Joe Wilkenson Baltimore Canyon 330 lbs.	June 13, 2020 Todd Middendorf Baltimore Canyon 330 lbs.
<b>Black Drum</b> 	July 13, 2020 Kyle Mooney Rt. 50 Bridge 21.5 lbs.	May 18, 2020 Benjamin Attanasi Broadkill Beach 82.4 lbs.	<b>Thresher Shark</b> 	No Weights Reported	June 13, 2020 Charlie Boyles Old Grounds 321 lbs.
<b>Cobia</b> 	July 1, 2020 Justin Cronshaw Little Gull Bank 32 lbs.	September 7, 2020 Wally Borgmann Inshore Wreck 78.5 lbs.	<b>Bigeye Tuna</b> 	June 21, 2020 Griffin Wingenroth Poor Man's Canyon 270 lbs.	June 25, 2020 Jerry Calder Baltimore Canyon 214 lbs.
<b>Flounder</b> 	<b>New</b> September 19, 2020 Rich Daiker Rt. 50 Bridge 8.94 lbs.	September 1, 2020 Evan Falgowski Ocean Structure 11.48 lbs.	<b>Bluefin Tuna</b> 	August 3, 2020 Travis Ort Shallow Water North 114.5 lbs.	No Weights Reported
<b>Sea Bass</b> 	May 27, 2020 Conrad Lesnewski Offshore Wreck 3.5 lbs.	June 29, 2020 Levi Wingert B Buoy 2.9 lbs.	<b>Longfin Tuna</b> 	September 8, 2020 John Woolridge Poor Man's Canyon 65.5 lbs.	September 2, 2020 Russell Marsh Poorman's Canyon 49.9 lbs.
<b>Sheepshead</b> 	June 17, 2020 Derek Taylor OC Jetty 11.6 lbs.	July 18, 2020 Hunter Walsh Outer Wall 10.5 lbs.	<b>Yellowfin Tuna</b> 	August 15, 2020 Trish Walsh Poorman's Canyon 149 lbs.	<b>New</b> August 21, 2020 Tommy Hughes Poorman's Canyon 59.9 lbs.
<b>Striped Bass</b> 	July 11, 2020 Rich Daiker Rt. 50 Bridge 15.6 lbs.	June 14, 2020 Sue Krepshaw Indian River Jetty 13 lbs.	<b>Dolphin</b> 	August 7, 2020 Matt Wagner White Marlin Open 73.5 lbs.	July 19, 2020 Michelle Dadisman Baltimore Canyon 34.8 lbs.
<b>Tautog</b> 	No Weights Reported	July 30, 2020 Kevin Cross OnShore Wreck 13.69 lbs.	<b>Wahoo</b> 	<b>New</b> September 18, 2020 Steve Strawbridge Jr. Poorman's Canyon 84.5 lbs.	August 30, 2020 Brad Boyer Baltimore Canyon 69.2 lbs.
<b>Weakfish</b> 	No Weights Reported	July 16, 2020 Hunter Grundy DE Bay 2.37 lbs.	<b>White Marlin</b> 	August 8, 2020 Brandon Golueke Norfolk Canyon 97 lbs.	August 8, 2020 Shannon Toth Poorman's Canyon 72 lbs.

To report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200 or email to [coastalfisherman@comcast.net](mailto:coastalfisherman@comcast.net)



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I live on a canal in West Ocean City and during the winter my charter boat floats behind the house in peaceful hibernation. But in the spring I move it down to the Ocean City Fishing Center where I've been running charters for more years now than I care to think about. So, come summertime, my home and work are a couple miles apart, and I rather care to keep it that way. Not that I don't like and very much appreciate clients who book my boat and put bread on my table, in fact many have become great friends whom I greatly enjoy fishing with every year. It's just that "home" becomes a bit of a "refuge" during the crazily busy time of the summer and one of the few places where I can retreat to at the end of each day and just be "the goofy neighbor on the corner" instead of "Captain Mark of the Fish Finder." It's always nice to be able to get home and lose the game-face at the end of each day!

But there these days home is not quite the sanctuary it used to be as more than just a few times over each seasons I've been surprised to look out the window in the early morning to see a carload of customers in my backyard looking for the boat. It seems

they don't always catch the line in the confirmation letter I send them explaining that the boat is located at a different address than the one at the top of my stationary. As I said, "I like my clients," but I like them best at the marina or out on the boat, not when they're wandering around my yard interrupting my breakfast! But these days it seems too many folks are willing to plunk themselves into a car, throw an address into their phone and let the device take it from there.

"Turn left, turn right, destination straight ahead."

"Hey! This doesn't look like the marina!"

It really wasn't all that long ago that we were installing the first GPS units on our boats. They were faster and more accurate than the old LORANs we had been using for navigation and since they took their signals from satellites rather than land-based towers they would keep us on track no matter where on earth we traveled. Like all electronics these days, GPS features, particularly the ones we have on our boats provide mariners with so much information that a lot of the units require a large flat-screen display to show it all.

One of the most notable features on many GPS units these days is the "charting" capability, which not only provides the captain with an electronic image of a chart but also places a representation of the boat on the screen and moves it around the water. With this feature mariners no longer need to take a set of latitude and longitude coordinates from the GPS and plot them on a paper chart to see where they are, are going, or have been, instead they simply look at the screen to see their location, track line, and what's up ahead. To get from one place to another is now as simple as scrolling a cursor or tapping the screen where you want to end up hit "Go To" and the machine will have your course plotted out before you even have time to lean back in the helm seat.

This technology is nothing new, it's now been available for a couple decades, which means that there is an entire generation of boaters that have had it available to them their entire lives. And therein resides the problem, today there is hefty population of boaters who know nothing more about navigation than "scroll the cursor to where you want to go and push the button"! Steering a boat from here to the fishing grounds, or for that matter, from here to the other side of the world, is nothing more than a video game with wind in your face.

Navigation from point "A"

to point "B" has become ridiculously easy, which in itself is a good thing because "easy" is "accurate" and accurate translates to "safe". But the problem is that we're dealing with boats, and as we all know, boats tend to malfunction now and again! When they do, skippers had better have some kind of "backup plan" or things could go from bad to worse really quick. Obviously if the only tools someone has for finding their way safely to and from the ocean is their index finger and a GPS they're going to be in trouble if either one of them has a major malfunction in the course of the day. Since God gave us ten fingers to work with I think most of us are covered in the event that we have issues with our pointers, but if our GPS goes blank while we're 58 miles out and we need to get home before the sun drops and the storms hit what then? The simple answer is to have a second GPS rigged and ready "just in case," but it's not uncommon to hear of lightning strikes or other major electrical problems that shut-down or totally frazzle all electronics on a boat. So what then?

Back-up plan "B" can be the phone in your pocket if you have the right app and know how to use it to actually navigate a boat with. Back-up plan "C" on every vessel should be a paper chart, plotting tools (dividers, parallel rules, pencil) and the basic navigation skills that allow one to find their location on a

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chart and plot a course home. Such skills and tools have been standard equipment aboard every vessel that has put to sea for hundreds of years and it's amazing to think that in just the last decade or so many mariners have are now willing leverage the safety of their passengers and vessels solely on premise that an electronic box on the dash of their boat will not malfunction while they're underway.

It almost scares me to think how many boats I've been on in the past few years that didn't have a single paper chart aboard. "Don't need one!" the captains usually say as they proudly point to their high-tech big screen chart plotter. I don't smoke and I've never been stuck in the woods overnight but I always keep a pack of matches and lighter in my hunting pack "just in case" something weird happens and I need to survive a cold night on a marsh or under the trees. Likewise, even though I have two GPS units mounted on my dash and a hand-held in a drawer, I also have four charts aboard that will guide me into

any inlet between Cape May and Virginia Beach and the know-how to, whenever necessary, put pencil to the paper and plot out a course to the closest safe harbor.

Simple navigation can be learned in Coast Guard Auxiliary or captain's courses, online, from books, or from a knowledgeable friend. Wherever they get it, every mariner who puts to sea should do so with the tools and skills to get out and back without the aid of electronic circuits and LCD displays. And while I'm on that note I'll point out that drivers these days seem to be following the bad examples of mariners by hitting the road without a "paper map" somewhere in their vehicles. Our phones sure make finding a destination easier, but I'm not sure how much of a favor they're doing us when we totally lose our ability to read a map or follow simple hand written directions. If you doubt what I'm saying just ask the six guys looking for a marina in my back yard! §

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# 2020 First Fish of the Year COASTAL FISHERMAN



(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - Must be reported with picture within 48 hours of catch)

Species	2020	2019	Species	2020	2019
<b>Bluefish</b> 	May 29, 2020 Kathy Grab Fenwick Island State Park	April 17, 2019 Big Bird Cropper South Jetty	<b>Mako Shark</b> 	April 16, 2020 Ron Griggs "Finatic" Wilmington Canyon	May 18, 2019 Brandon Malamphy "Finatic" Wilmington Canyon
<b>Black Drum</b> 	April 19, 2020 Bill Grubb Fenwick Island State Park	April 9, 2019 Allen Sklar Assateague Surf	<b>Thresher Shark</b> 	June 13, 2020 Charlie Boyles "Hook It Up" Old Grounds	May 18, 2019 All Anglers "Over-Board" Jackspot
<b>Cobia</b> 	June 21, 2020 Aaron Reeves "On the Run" South Jetty	June 2, 2019 Tony Lane Fenwick Surf	<b>Bigeye Tuna</b> 	May 27, 2020 Ryan Turner "Full Service" Norfolk Canyon	May 27, 2019 Pat Petrera "Priceless" Poor Man's Canyon
<b>Flounder</b> 	May 5, 2020 Mackenzie Cathell Thorofare	April 4, 2019 Kristin Lennox Sinepuxent Bay	<b>Bluefin Tuna</b> 	June 9, 2020 Shannon Gore Baltimore Canyon	May 7, 2019 Scott Wells "Restless Lady II" Wilmington Canyon
<b>Sea Bass</b> 	May 15, 2020 Brent Bortner "Green Machine" Offshore Wreck	May 15, 2019 Tom Lane "Morningstar" Artificial Reef	<b>Longfin Tuna</b> 	June 9, 2020 Evan Winterbottom "PYY Fishing" Poor Man's Canyon	June 1, 2019 Ed Luhrman Baltimore Canyon
<b>Sheepshead</b> 	June 12, 2020 Keith Smith "On the Run" South Jetty	May 26, 2019 Mark Shwetz "On the Run" South Jetty	<b>Yellowfin Tuna</b> 	April 29, 2020 Dylan Wiley Washington Canyon	May 25, 2019 Ryan Young "Brenda Lou" Poor Man's Canyon
<b>Striped Bass</b> 	May 7, 2020 Patricia Cropper Rt. 50 Bridge	April 12, 2019 Kern Ducote Rt. 90 Bridge	<b>Dolphin</b> 	May 23, 2020 Jeremy Phares "Reel Fin Addiction" Norfolk Canyon	May 19, 2019 Bill Johnson "Bubblehead" Wilmington Canyon
<b>Tautog</b> 	January 2, 2020 Patrick Enoch "Morningstar" Artificial Reef	January 4, 2019 Dan Iacangelo "Morningstar" Ocean Wreck	<b>Wahoo</b> 	June 18, 2020 Jack Hannum "Blood Money" Poor Man's Canyon	June 23, 2019 Vince Cusimano "My Time" Washington Canyon
<b>Weakfish</b> 	June 17, 2020 Muhamad Arshad Oceanic Fishing Pier	May 19, 2019 Jackson Chin Indian River Inlet	<b>White Marlin</b> 	May 23, 2020 Carl Sauer "Reel Escape" Washington Canyon	June 1, 2019 "Uncle Keith" Poor Man's Canyon

To report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200 or email to [coastalfisherman@comcast.net](mailto:coastalfisherman@comcast.net)



Scott Siegel caught this 4 lb. flounder using minnows. He was fishing with his son Max in the bay behind Assateague Island, near the Ocean City airport. Pictured in front of the colorful crab traps at Fenwick Bait & Tackle!

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While fishing outside of the Indian River Inlet, Christopher, David and John (not pictured) Ostrowski spotted a school of bunker. Thinking quickly they threw out some bait to hook up this 40 lb. cobia! Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.

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- Shock absorbent
- Has non-skid traction
- Closed-cell so it does not absorb water (which reduces any possibility of mold and mildew)
- Has a durability like no other on the market
- Made in the USA (Georgia)
- Customizable for logos and designs
- Offered in a variety of multi-colored materials

*UV Resistant ... Stain Resistant*

**3M**

**3M HIGH BOND MARINE ADHESIVE**  
Top Quality Adhesive

## HydroDeck Mid-Atlantic

email: [William.hydrodeck@gmail.com](mailto:William.hydrodeck@gmail.com) 817-680-1109



What can you say about this picture but WOW! Last Thursday anglers Bill Miller, Scotty Weir, Andy Bourne, Tyler Nicols, Tyler Wiest and Clay Parrish had an epic day fishing with Capt. Eddie Wheeler on the "Cabana". They were fishing in the Washington Canyon in 200 fathoms when they caught these 3 swordfish weighing 280, 255 and 130 pounds. They even released another one. To top that off they boated a 222 lb. bigeye tuna and a mess of dolphin, including the one stuck in the bigeye's mouth. Nice touch guys.

**Rt. 113 Boat Sales and Service**  
Selbyville, DE 302-436-1737  
www.Rt113BoatSales.net

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Re-power with Yamaha's  
Unmatched Reliability  
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**COBIA** from 20 - 35 ft.  
*Just Better Built in Every Way!*

**PATHFINDER** from 20 - 27 ft. **ANGLER DRIVEN**

## Brokered Boats WANTED!

Clean, Late Models up to 35 ft. LOW FEES - GREAT RESULTS!



**BOAT TRAILERS**  
Wholesale Pricing!



**RT113BoatSales.net**

HAUL OUT AND TRANSPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE

# 2020 ANNAPOLIS BOAT SHOW CANCELED!

*Thinking about waiting for a boat show to  
make your choice....*

**Better think again!**

The Marine Industry Does Not Know if the planned boat shows will be allowed to open this 2020/2021 boat show season.

Will you and your family come to a boat show and mingle with some other 5,000 to 20,000 people climbing on and off of boats for hours and days at a time?

How can we as dealers sanitize the boats surfaces properly and safely after each family Climbs on Board and touches everything?

Will the new boat dealer's employees be willing to work a boat show where they Meet and Greet some 10 to 20 thousand people?

The answer to all the above is  
**Most Likely Not!**

Want your new boat by Spring 2021?

Better think about placing your order now.

The number of **Retail Sold Boats On-Order** is at record high numbers.

**Cobia Boats & Pathfinder Boats**

Now Placing Orders for March and April

Ring us up now and take advantage of our

**SPECIAL ORDER  
DISCOUNT PROGRAM**

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2021

Order Now and Save from \$4,000 to \$10,000

HELP WANTED • BOATS FOR SALE • ITEMS FOR SALE • ANGLERS WANTED

**CLASSIFIEDS**

ONLY \$50 for 3 WEEKS! Call 410-213-2200

**HELP WANTED****PARK MANAGER- Asst. Marina Manager**

Position will manage all aspects of the day-to-day operations of Indian River Marina. This includes directly managing and the supervision of the Dry Stack Operation, staffing, travel and forklift operation, revenue supervision including budgets, fuel dock operation, maintenance projects, inspections, cottage rentals, concession operations, marketing, tournament and event director and overseeing the Ship Store. This position will work closely with the Marina's Focus group and the IRM Charter Fleet, volunteers, concessionaires and contractors.

**Preferred Qualification**

Applicants who do not possess the preferred qualification will still be eligible to compete for this position if job requirements are met.

- Experience in managing a marina or marine facility.

Apply online at <http://statejobs.delaware.gov>

For further assistance, you may contact us  
by phone at (302) 739-5458, or e-mail at  
[jobs@delaware.gov](mailto:jobs@delaware.gov).

**ITEMS FOR SALE**

Two 2.5 inch x 170 inch Aquamet 22 shafts - \$1,100/each

Furuno FCV-292 Cooler Video Sounder in good working condition, includes depth sounder & temp gauge \$250

"Good Automatic" Windless w/ anchor chute, working takeout, 220V \$300

Contact Dave Wentling (804) 370-6379 for details



Kelly Smiley has every reason to smile! She was fishing with Capt. Chris Watkowski and mates Rich and Steve on the head boat "Angler" when she caught 15 keeper sea bass, some up to 2 lbs.!

**Pick Up your Coastal Fisherman at these Locations****OCEAN CITY**

Angler Restaurant  
Talbot Street Pier  
Oceanic Fishing Pier  
Wockenfuss Candy - Boardwalk 1st St.  
Park Place Hotel - 2nd St.  
Reel Inn - 17th St.  
Bahia Marina - 22nd St.  
Minit Market - 31st St.  
Anthony's Beer, Wine & Deli - 33rd St.  
Dough Roller - 41st St.  
64th Street Market - 64th St.  
Advanced Marina - 66th St.  
Rommel's Ace Hardware - 68th St.  
Dough Roller - 69th St.  
Exxon Wine Rack - 86th St.  
Kirby's Pub - 92nd St.  
Liquid Assets - 94th St.  
Wawa - 120th St.  
Montego Bay Market - 130th St.  
Primos Hoagies - 134 St.  
7-Eleven - 139th St.

**WEST OCEAN CITY**

Wawa - Rt. 50  
Mione's Pizza - Outlets  
Wockenfuss Candy - Outlets  
Bank of Ocean City  
West-O Bottle Shop & Bar - Rt. 50  
All Tackle Ocean City - Rt. 50  
Bluewater Yacht Sales  
Ocean City Fishing Center  
Ocean City Marlin Club  
Atlantic Tackle  
Sunset Grille  
Sunset Marina  
Sunset Provisions  
Pure Lure Fishing Gear  
Harbor Marine  
Food Lion - Rt. 611  
Optical Galleria - Rt. 611  
Southside Deli - Rt. 611

**BERLIN**

Frontier Town - Country Store  
Crabs To Go - Rt. 50  
Walmart - Rt. 50 (both entrances)  
Food Lion - Ocean Pines  
Rite Aid

**FENWICK/SELBYVILLE**

Fenwick Tackle  
Mancini's Italian Restaurant  
Fenwick Hardware  
Bayside Liquors  
Food Lion Rt.54  
North Bay Marina  
Royal Farms Rt. 54  
BP Gas Station Rt. 54  
Harris Teeter  
Rt.113 Boat Sales

**INDIAN RIVER**

Indian River Marina  
Hook 'em & Cook 'em Tackle Shop  
Old Inlet Bait & Tackle

**DEWEY, REHOBOTH & LEWES**

Lewes Harbour Marina  
Lewes Ice House Bait & Tackle  
ACME - Rt. 1  
Fisherman's Wharf

**BETHANY, OCEAN VIEW & MILLVILLE**

Hook 'em & Cook 'em Outfitters - Rt.1  
G&E Supermarket  
G&E Hardware - Cedar Neck Rd.  
Hocker's Deli - Rt. 26  
Gull's Way Campground  
Tuckahoe Campground  
Hocker's Supermarket - Rt. 26  
Wawa - Rt. 26  
Bethany Auto & Marine - Rt. 26  
Downtown Bethany by Bandstand  
Bob's Marine

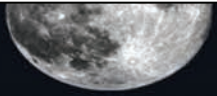
**LONG NECK**

Short's Marine  
Rick's Bait & Tackle





We are getting reports of nice cobia from the Chesapeake Bay waters. Mark Crone from Chance, MD, caught this 45 inch, 28 lb. fish on a whole soft crab. He was fishing on the “Ethel Marie” with Capt. Dan Walsh and son Derek in just 20 feet of water, north of the Target Ship in the Chesapeake Bay.



## OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. SEPT. 23 1st Qtr. Moon	High 01:00 am High 01:55 pm	Low 07:00 am Low 08:08 pm
THUR. SEPT. 24	High 02:05 am High 03:15 pm	Low 08:02 am Low 09:14 pm
FRI. SEPT. 25	High 03:20 am High 04:29 pm	Low 09:06 am Low 10:17 pm
SAT. SEPT. 26	High 04:32 am High 05:30 pm	Low 10:10 am Low 11:17 pm
SUN. SEPT. 27	High 05:32 am High 06:21 pm	Low 11:13 am Low -----
MON. SEPT. 28	High 06:22 am High 07:03 pm	Low 12:09 am Low 12:09 pm
TUE. SEPT. 29	High 07:05 am High 07:38 pm	Low 12:54 am Low 12:58 pm
WED. SEPT. 30	High 07:44 am High 08:08 pm	Low 01:33 am Low 01:42 pm

source:usharbors.com

Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge.

Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high tide

Delaware Bay Entrance - subtract 1 hour 25 minutes to high tide  
- subtract 45 minutes to low tide

Wachapreague, VA - add 4 minutes for high tide  
- 21 minutes for low tide

Quinby Inlet, VA - subtract 6 minutes for high tide

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

# UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS



## SEPTEMBER

23rd Annual Delaware Seashore Fall  
Surf Fishing Classic  
September 26 - 27 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle  
302-227-7974

White Marlin Tagging Tournament  
September 12 - 27 • Rehoboth Beach, DE  
302-227-7974

## OCTOBER

39th Annual Mid-Atlantic Surf Fishing Tournament  
October 1 - 3 • Ocean City, MD • 410-251-2203

Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament  
October 17 - November 21 • Lewes, DE • 302-645-6227

16th Annual A.M.S.A. Ronald Bounds  
Fishing Tournament • October 17 - 18

## NOVEMBER

Lewes Harbour Marina Striper Tournament  
November 22 - December 20  
Lewes, DE • 302-645-6227



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**Jeff James**  
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**Terry Layton**  
410-726-7991



**David Fields**  
561-779-0759



**Ronnie Fields**  
561-762-0096



**Joel McLeod**  
772-834-8549



**Rich Sowden**  
561-301-4429



**Steve Hedrick**  
717-586-9841



**Dave Shockley**  
561-262-6726



**Erik Anderson**  
850-974-5600



**Charley Pereira**  
252-216-6291



**BUGGYWASHER** - 2007 74' Viking  
Call Erik Anderson



**MECHANICAL MAN** - 2008 68' Weaver  
Custom Sportfish - Call Jimmy Fields



**SUTHERN'S PRIDE** - 2004 61' Viking  
Call Preston Stofer



**TRUST ME TOO** - 2004 62' Titan  
Call Jimmy Fields



**APAVA** - 1969 56' Rybovich  
Call Jimmy Fields



**IRONED OUT** - 1989 61' Buddy Davis  
Call Jeff James



**MEGABITE** - 2004 57' Dixon Custom  
Carolina - Call Jeff James



**HALCYON** - 1998 55' Viking  
Call Jimmy Fields



**SALVATION** - 1977 Omie Tillet Sportsman  
50' Custom Carolina - Call Jeff James



**NATURAL** - 1978 53' Monterey  
Call Jimmy Fields



**NO SWEAT** - 48' 1986 Billy Holton  
Call Jeff James



**LIBATION** - 2000 46' Buddy Harris  
Call Jimmy Fields



**CHUBBY** - 1995 42' Liberty  
Call Jeff James



**2016 43' Everglades**  
Call Jimmy Fields



**BOATS ARE  
SELLING FAST!**  
Let Us Sell Your Boat  
**LIST WITH US!**



**DONA LUCY** - 2017 41' Ronin Custom  
Call Jimmy Fields



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



**2004 35' Marlago**  
Call Terry Layton



**BLUE ROSE** - 32' 2006 SeaRay  
Call Jimmy Fields



**Double Down** 35' 2003 Carolina Classic  
Call Jeff James



**MISS SIS** - 2001 31' Pursuit  
Call Jimmy Fields



**1992 27' Albemarle**  
Call Jimmy Fields



**GRACIAS** - 1975 27' Custom Carolina  
Warren O'Neal - Call Jeff James



**2018 25' Custom Blackfin**  
Call Jimmy Fields