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COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 1 JULY 23, 2025



Aiden Romeo and his grandfather Jamie Romeo, owner of the "Absolut Pleasure", celebrating Aiden's first blue marlin release. Aiden took home the gold, winning first place, in the blue marlin division of the 21st Annual Kid's Classic. Aiden made quick work of this fish catching and releasing the fish in just eight minutes. Aiden was fishing on the "Absolut Pleasure" with Capt. Steve Moore, mate Rich Hasting, Jace Conrad, Walker Hasting, Fin Fogle, Aoife Preston, and Jameson Moore. The crew fished the Baltimore Canyon using pitch bait ballyhoo.



While fishing in Jimmy Johnson’s Atlantic City Quest For the Ring, Angler Luke Mitchell on the “Floor Reel” (from Ocean City, MD) caught this 510 lbs blue marlin, which is the first weighed blue marlin in Ocean City this year! Also on the boat was owner Johnny Ols, Capt. Dave Warren, Mate Rob Belcher, Tommy Leavell, Joey Zimmer, and Annabelle Schiavino. This marlin was good enough to win the “Floor Reel” the Heaviest Blue Marlin Category and third place overall.



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Capt. Keith Kaler and crew from Pasadena on "Reel Chaos" had a very successful day fishing at the Baltimore Canyon, landing these yellowfin, mahi, and triggerfish. The wahoo weighed in at 75½ lbs., which is the largest wahoo of the year. Additionally, young Liam Gainey was able to land his first yellowfin, weighing in at 37½ lbs.

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Keith Kautz landed his first sheephead, measuring 19 1/2", while fishing at the Indian River Inlet.



Sharon Rish of Freeland, PA, landed this 22" flounder using a minnow and squid while fishing the Inlet area aboard her Key West Sport boat.



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Welcome to another week's worth of offshore fishing. July is rolling along, and before we know it, the first week of August will be here—along with the most exciting time of the year. However, there is still plenty of time and several tournaments between now and then.

This past week saw the typical late-July lull, with the hot pool

of water known as the Atlantic Ocean blending together any remaining eddies. This has resulted in a scattered bite of both tuna and billfish. Reports have been mostly in the single digits, with most successful days followed up by a goose egg the very next day in the same areas. The fish have been moving around, following bait, as

no real water edges are condensing both predator and prey.

Sometimes the best way to fight against this is to cover as much ground as possible, looking for fishy conditions such as bait, birds, rips, or the jackpot of something floating in the water. Covering more ground yields a higher chance of trolling past a hungry fish instead of beating up one area when conditions are not ideal.

This past week, we partook in the Jimmy Johnson tournament out of Atlantic City. A slower week of fishing finally resulted in a pair of bigeyes on our final day of the tournament, winning

the daily prize. The top prize for both the single heaviest tuna and box of bigeyes was won by the crew of the "Jersey Nuts," who cashed checks for \$269,653. The "Floor Reel," no stranger to big blue marlins, was able to win \$172,575 with their 510 lb catch, fishing the tournament out of the Ocean City port. This year's championship rings were won by Team "Polarizer," who flew 10 white marlin and one blue marlin release flag throughout the week.

This weekend at home, junior anglers of all ages took part in the Ocean City Marlin Club's 21st Kid Classic, where they were able to target fish of every size and species. Congrats to everyone who participated, and some of the notable

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catches can be seen
within the newspaper.

As boats continue to narrow their focus onto marlin fishing, one last hoorah for meatfish comes this weekend with the 12th annual Huk Big Fish Classic. This 36-hour overnight tournament allows boats to spend the night in the ocean searching for the heaviest single fish and combination stringer. With a pleasant weather forecast for the weekend, there should be a big turnout. Head on over to Talbot Street to watch the action.

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While surf fishing on Assateague Island, Lily Eberhard, along with her brother Jack Eberhard, reeled in this nice 50" red drum.



Alex King and Robin Goodman of Lancaster, PA, enjoyed a great day fishing during the Paradise Grill Flounder Pounder Bay Tournament. Alex landed three keeper flounder measuring 17½ inches, 17¾ inches, and 18 inches. Robin's catch measured 17.7 inches. All were caught on Gulp in the Indian River Bay. (Photo taken at West Bay Marina).

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Eight months pregnant, Kelsey Onorato landed her biggest flounder ever – an even 22” – while fishing the West Channel with her husband, Steve, aboard “The Angie Baby”, owned by Steve’s father, Dave Onorato. Kelsey was using white Gulp tipped with a shiner. “We’re very proud of her – and so is the soon-to-be baby!” Dave shared.



Nick Miller landed this bluefish while fishing at the Indian River Inlet, using a 1-oz. ball jighead paired with a chartreuse grub worm soft plastic lure. “This beast gave a great fight this morning,” Nick said.

2025

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	MD	DE **	VA		MD	DE **	VA
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	22" or 8 lbs.	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"	35 lbs.
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	80 lbs. or 46"	Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"	30"
Black Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	5 lbs.	White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"	16 lbs. or 36"	SHARK:			
Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size	Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Cobia	44"	45 lbs. or 48"	55 lbs. or 50"	Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	3 lbs. or 20"	Thresher*	54"	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	25 lbs.	Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	6 lbs. or 26"	Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size	100 lbs.
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	30 lbs.	TUNA:			
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	1.5 lb. or 16"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"	40 lbs.
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	20 lbs.	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"	32"
Red Drum*	36"	45"	46"	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Sailfish*	Any Size	-	Any Size	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"	100 lbs. or 60"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	10 lbs. or 24"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	4 lbs. or 26"				
Speckled Trout	24"	-	5 lbs. or 24"				
Striped Bass	40"	44"	44"				
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	9 lbs. or 23"				

* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program

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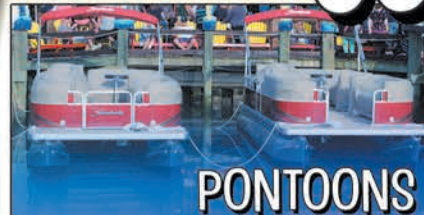
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FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This past week in Ocean City, we experienced several very warm days with temperatures in the mid-90s and heat indexes in the 100s. Several storms also rolled through in the evenings, bringing heavy rains and lightning. The nearshore waters and back bays have become rather dirty due to runoff and storm activity churning up the areas. Fish can still be found; however, we're still seeing a ton of short fish, both in the bays and out in the Atlantic.

Deeper water and less-pressured areas are your best bet in the coming weeks, especially with the large number of visitors and anglers on the water. Sea bass are very hard to find in keeper size—even deeper waters now only seem to hold undersized fish. Flounder fishing has gotten better, with more keeper fish up to

6 lbs showing up, but you still have to weed through plenty of shorts. Triggerfish are on many wrecks and can be enticed to bite with squid strips and sand fleas.

Nearshore Wrecks and Reefs

The nearshore wrecks are holding tons of smaller fish, along with some quality keepers. The Fenwick Shoals are loaded with Spanish mackerel that will attack a small spoon trolled at around 6 mph. Bluefish are also in the area—and if you troll slower, they'll dominate your catches. Trolling at 4-6 mph will bring bluefish, while pushing over 6 mph increases your chances for Spanish mackerel hookups.

The hotspot this week for flounder has been smaller, lone wrecks, as well as the larger wrecks on the African

Queen Reef. Captain DJ Churchill reported that fishing aboard "Double Trouble Charters" has been consistently good with full coolers. They've been trolling early for bluefish and Spanish mackerel, then switching to fluke and bass as the day goes on.

The "Morning Star" had a few decent days, despite a flood of small fish—still managing to get their clients on some nice keepers, including a couple of nearshore mahi. Although pot hopping hasn't been particularly productive yet, "Beach to Bay Guide Service" managed to find a few mahi that were willing to bite. The crew had to run a little farther than usual to find the pelagics, but once they did, they made short work of them. If this hot spell continues, pot hopping should really start to improve, and more mahi will likely

be seen on the inshore bass pot markers. (Just remember to have your HMS permit before targeting these pelagic fish to avoid a fine if you're boarded by DNR.)

The "Miss Kathleen" had their cutting board loaded with fish on a few trips last week after finding wrecks full of willing biters. Captain Eric and crew at Bahia Marina put their clients on some big fluke up to 22 inches. They reported that sea bass were tough to hook due to small sizes—thank goodness for the solid flounder bite.

Steve Balliet caught four keeper flounder over 20 inches, along with a gray trout and a triggerfish. Nice catch, Steve!

"Jacked Up Sportfishing" reported the troll bite was red-hot—for about 15 minutes. In that short window, they landed several nice-sized Spanish macks before the bite shut down completely. Switching to jigging, they found tons of big ribbonfish, which

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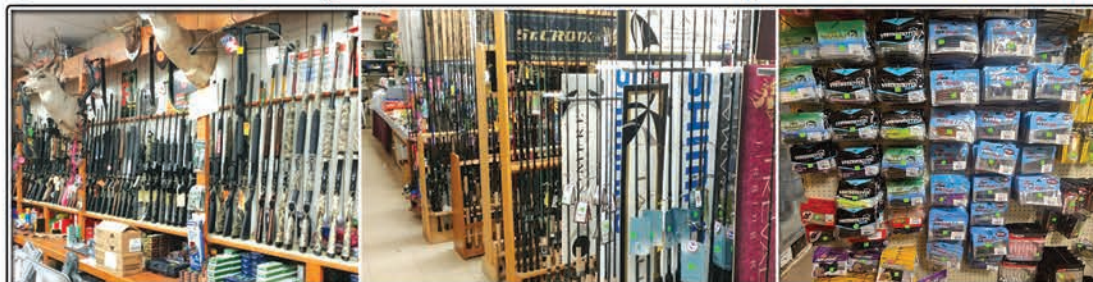
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they reeled in until their arms were too tired to keep going.

Back Bays and Inlets

The back bays and inlets have really turned on, with tons of fish eager to take just about any bait you throw at them. The only problem? Most are undersized and must be released. The inlet and bridge are still producing bluefish and rockfish—but only during low-light hours.

Flounder in the main channel have been better in size. Small live spot are your best bet for keepers. Squid and Gulp are working too, but mainly producing short fish around 17 inches—just below the legal limit. Croaker have also shown up near the Route 90 Bridge and behind Assateague Island. Small pieces of squid on red hooks work best.

The “Miss Ocean City” caught several nice fish on their trips last week, delighting anglers with plenty of action. Once again, kids and female anglers were the stars of the show—outfishing the men... again.

Tyler Harrison fished the inlet and was rewarded with a couple of big sheepshead and a nice keeper flounder. Kevin McNelis fished the bay and landed three nice flounder to take home for dinner.

Surf Fishing

Surf fishing on Assateague Island has been active, with tons of small blues, rays, and even flounder caught in the wash. A couple of large redfish are still

moving through and were caught this past week on cut bait that anglers had set out for sharks.

Scott Taylor and his son fished Assateague and reported catching flounder on almost every cast. While all the fish were undersized, the action from the beach was some of the best Scott has ever seen.

Eric Field pulled in a nice shark on cut bait while fishing the island on Tuesday. Ethan Wolfe landed the biggest fish of the week off the island—a huge over-slot redfish while casting cut bait for sharks. It's rare to see such a big redfish this late in the season. Maybe this one was lost—but either way, it made Ethan's day.

Crabs and Clams

Crabbing in the bay remains strong, despite the very warm water. Tending pots every two days instead of three will reduce the number of dead crabs in your traps due to the low oxygen levels. Bunker is the best bait, with chicken a close second. The average catch is 8–10 keepers per pot after a two-day soak.

Clamming is now mostly yielding big soup clams, with very few “casino-size” clams left—most areas have been picked over by hundreds of rakes. Your best bet for smaller clams is to find lone beaches that haven't seen boat traffic, rather than digging in the main park areas.

Until Next Week

Tight lines and fins up!

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The “Sushi” took out a group of young anglers who caught 15 yellowfin tuna by lunchtime, earning them an early trip home. This angler landed a nice yellowfin as part of the haul.





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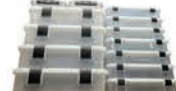
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HEAVIEST

Fish of the Year

2025



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

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
Bluefish 	New June 6 Brian Reynolds Rt. 50 Bridge 10 lbs. 9 oz.	May 11 Ronin Jehl Fenwick Beach 10 lbs 14 oz.	Weakfish 		January 8 Jim Hitchens Roosevelt Inlet 2.4 lbs.
Black Drum 		May 8 Billy Mister Delaware Bay 64 lbs.	Bigeye Tuna 	June 8 Adam Messer & Robert Smack Poor Man's Canyon 214 lbs.	New June 12 Hank Brucker Undisclosed Location 230 lbs.
Cobia 		July 15 Raymond Young Undisclosed Location 63 lbs.	Bluefin Tuna 	January 1 Kenny Schoen Hambone 442 lbs.	New July 11 Will Hall Washington Canyon 216.25 lbs.
Flounder 	New July 13 Tracey Drocell Undisclosed Location 10 lbs.	June 25 Jeff Moraco Ocean Structure 8.2 lbs.	Longfin Tuna 	New July 12 Following Seas Crew Undisclosed Location 35.5 lbs.	
Sea Bass 	May 26 Eli Hasco Great Eastern Reef 4.06 lbs.		Yellowfin Tuna 	June 26 Spring Mix II Crew Inshore (20 fathoms) 97.5 lbs.	
Sheepshead 	June 22 Charles Breon Ocean City Bay 4.09 lbs.		Dolphin 	New July 19 Bryce Huyett Undisclosed Location 39.5 lbs.	
Striped Bass 	June 21 Gary Ward Ocean City Bay 8.15 lbs.		Swordfish 		
Tautog 	March 28 Kevin Twilley Ocean Structure 16 lbs.	May 17 Eamonn Carey Indian River Inlet 17 lbs.	Blue Marlin 		
Wahoo 	New July 12 "Reel Chaos" Crew Baltimore Canyon 75.5 lbs.		White Marlin 		

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



Angler Logan Smith of Dover, DE, reeled in this 56 lbs., 3.2 oz., 42 ½" golden tilefish, setting a new state record as confirmed by Delaware DNREC. His catch surpassed the previous record, set in 2020, by nearly 3 ½ pounds. Smith made the catch while fishing roughly 60 miles offshore at Poorman's Canyon aboard the "Blue Betty II" with Capt. Austin Decker. He was fishing in 650 feet of water, using whole squid for bait.

FISHING CHARTERS



The "All In" made an 85 mile run south to find these four tuna. All three of these anglers found their first tuna on this trip.



These young anglers on the "Tortuga" headboat set out for sharks with their shark hats and found what they were looking for.

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This angler aboard the "Spring Mix II" hauled in this colorful yellowfin tuna while on a charter trip.



This crew from the "Boss Hogg" endured some rainy weather and brought back 10 yellowfin tuna to the docks at Sunset Marina.

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FISHING CHARTERS



The “Ocean Princess” recently landed a great haul of sea bass. Captain Victor Bunting brought these anglers to the fish.

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FISHING CHARTERS



This angler hooked a nice-sized mahi aboard the “Morning Star” with Capt. Monty Hawkins, who described it as a “glorious morning” on the water.

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FISHING CHARTERS



This young angler landed a flounder aboard the "Miss Kathleen."



The "Miss Kathleen" had a great day on the flounder, with catches up to 22 inches. Anglers also landed sea bass and triggerfish around the fishing structure near the Jackspot.

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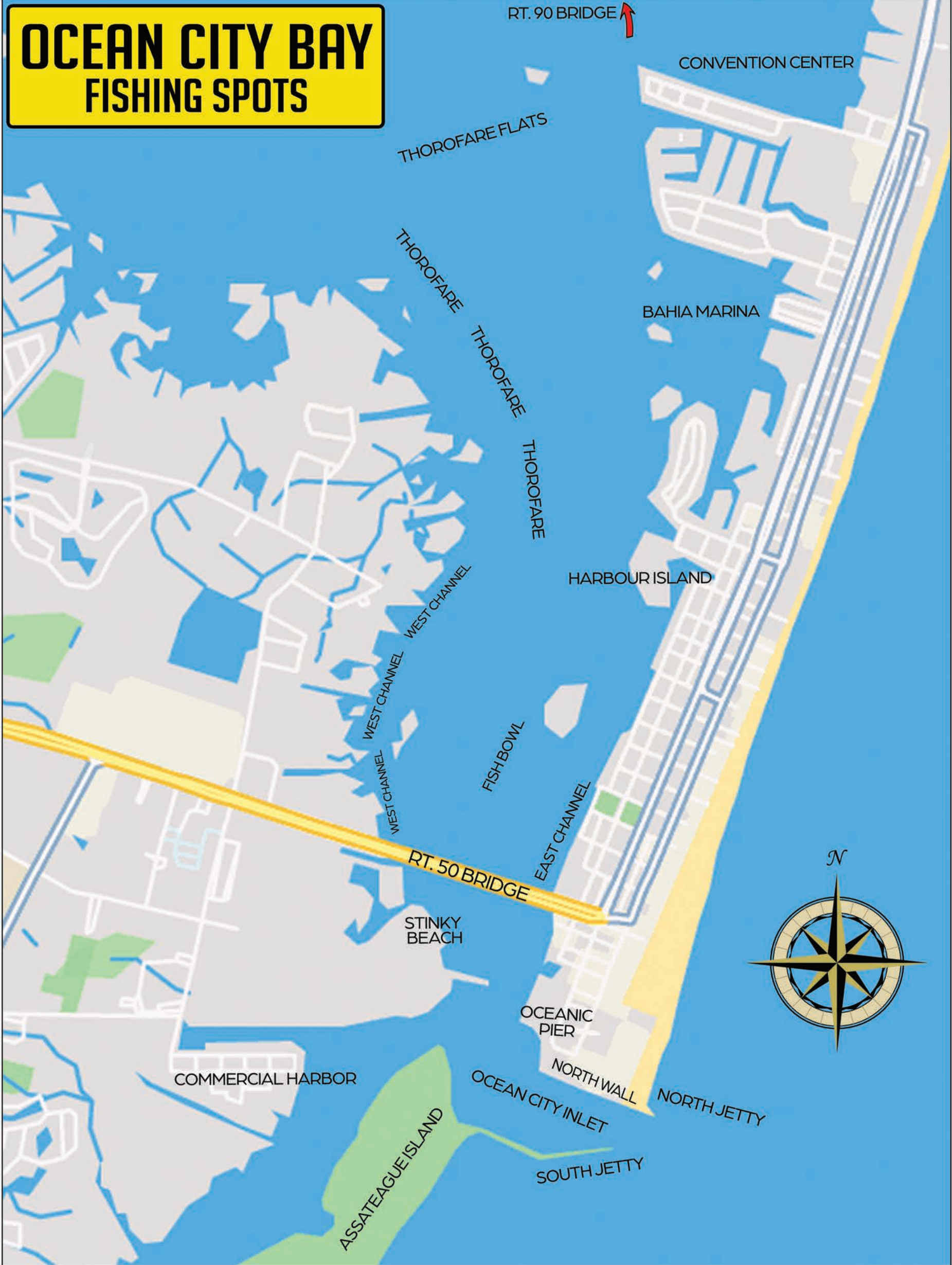
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Beach Talk

by Skylar Snead and Chris Taylor



Here we are, already at the later end of July, and the beach fishing has been great for some and slow for others. Putting in time is still a big part of being successful this time of year—like fishing full tide cycles—but paying attention to the weather is also key. Not just for fishing, but for enjoying your day at the beach in general. The winds affect more than just water clarity and temperature.

You can't always feel the upwelling when it happens this time of year, but you'll know it. The ocean can feel like bathwater one day and be almost too cold to swim

in the next.

The Flies

Heavier east winds are your best friend this time of year—they help blow the pesky greenheads and horse flies off the beach. West winds will have you rethinking your entire adventure on Assateague. They can ruin a trip fast.

Even with a light east wind, the flies can still be bad. There needs to be enough breeze to push them off. West winds, though, sometimes make it nearly impossible to enjoy yourself.

I've also learned that the farther south you drive, the

more the beach curves—and the more the wind shifts. Some of the worst fly activity I've experienced has been close to the state line. I drove down there and could hear and see flies tapping on the window before I even stopped the truck. The island is wider near the Virginia line, and for whatever reason, the fly activity is heavier down there.

Come prepared: long-sleeve shirts and pants, awnings with bug screens, bug spray—whatever it takes. A fire can help too, but be safe. If it's 100° outside, a fire might keep the flies away, but adding that extra heat could be unsafe. Stay hydrated, and drink plenty of fluids and electrolytes.

Rips

Something a lot of people don't realize: the rip currents on the OSV side of Assateague can be serious. The beach is natural, with deep troughs that sometimes drop over your head just a few feet out. As the tide goes out and water gets shallower in the troughs, the speed of the water escaping through breaks in the sandbar increases. Incoming tides can be dangerous, too.

I've seen swimmers get caught in rips during outgoing tides. Had it not been for luck—or a family member jumping in—they might have been pulled out to sea.

Do your research on rip currents: where and how they form. There are no

www.coastalfisherman.net lifeguards in the OSV zone of Assateague. So if you're planning a beach day out there, be cautious about where you set up and stay aware of the tides.

If your kids seem to be drifting down the beach faster than earlier in the day, it might be time to take a break and reassess. If they've been playing in the wash for four hours, they're more worn out than you think. If they get caught in a rip, they won't be able to fight it for long—and that window is shorter than most people realize.

Fishing

Right now, the bite is on! From kingfish and spot to big red drum and sharks, there's a little bit of everything being caught.

We had a stretch of strong east winds that brought in a solid push of big red drum. A buddy of mine landed

over a dozen in just a few days—eight in one evening, with fish up to 50 inches! But you've gotta find them.

This time of year, they can be picky—not just about location, but bait, and even bait size.

I was out flounder fishing the same day and had a great week. One afternoon, I landed 14 flounder in a few

hours—no keepers, but still a blast. Flounder fishing is my fly deterrent this time of year. You'll find me

walking the wash with a flounder rod, working it slow with my toes in the water. Being close to the surf

seems to help keep the flies off your ankles—which is also why you'll notice the ponies in the water more



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Kingfish and spot are around, and sometimes it's as many as you want. Small hooks are key for them. On the

clearer days, I could see flounder hitting my rig just 10 feet away. But we also had a few days with bad south

winds that dirtied the water, brought in grass and cold, and pushed the rays in. The flounder disappeared,

and the drum slowed down.

Once it cleared up again, the sharks showed. We landed a few sand tigers, including one over 9 feet this past

Friday. It was a solid day watching the big girls show back up.

We've still got plenty of summer ahead before the

fall run begins. The kingfish and spot you catch now are great bait for big reds and blues. Don't be afraid to experiment—try new baits, smaller baits, bigger baits,

more weight, less weight. Change up your Gulp colors for flounder, or switch out rig colors for kingfish and

spot. Sometimes that's the difference between catching a few and catching more than you need.

This time of year can be a great time to stack up fish—but be safe and stay mindful of the heat. Come

prepared for flies, heat, and definitely the fish. And if you're staying past dark, don't forget the mosquitoes.

You can deter them the same way you do the flies.

See you on the sand!



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Josh Sheets landed this 7 lbs., 8 oz. slot striper while fishing at the Indian River Inlet.

2025

DELAWARE REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - September 30 October 10 - December 31</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH No minimum size 3 per day / 5 per day Charter</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 3 per person/day</p>	 <p>COBIA 43" Minimum • 2 per person or 2 per vessel</p>
 <p>CROAKER 8" Minimum • 50 per person/per day</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 28-31" except 20-25" only from 7/1 - 8/31 in DE Bay 1 per person/day Catch & Release only from 4/1 - 5/31 on Spawning Grounds</p>	 <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

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Ron Rice hooked this 6.4 lbs., 26" flounder while fishing the Old Grounds with a CJ Tackle Hi-Low rig. (Photo taken at Rick's Bait and Tackle).



Fischer Evans landed eight rockfish in just half an hour before a storm rolled in. All were caught using a 3/8-ounce Lights Out jighead paired with a 4-inch Bear Knuckle Shad from Freedom Baits. This particular rockfish was a slot fish and was released.

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Fish of the Year

(AS REPORTED TO THE COASTAL FISHERMAN - MUST BE OF LEGAL LIMIT AND REPORTED WITH PHOTO)

Species	2025	2024	Species	2025	2024
Bluefish 	April 9 Mike Powers Fenwick State Park	April 19 Aiden Sparano Assateague	Weakfish 	May 8 Jim Hitchens Roosevelt Inlet	May 2 Jim Hitchens Delaware Bay
Black Drum 	April 6 Chris Taylor Assateague	March 31 Chris Taylor Assateague	Bigeye Tuna 	June 5 Jack Disney Restless Lady II Baltimore Canyon	May 31 Tyler Lanza "Canyon Crew" S. of Poor Mans Canyon
Cobia 	June 24 Michael McGoeey Indian River Inlet	June 1 Chuck Guerra OC Beach	Bluefin Tuna 	January 1 Kenny Schoen "Chasin' Tides" Hambone	May 31 Andrew Link "Marli" Poor Mans Canyon
Flounder 	April 4 Rick Gorsuch Thorofare	April 8 Paul Musser Jr. Thorofare	Longfin Tuna 	New July 12 Following Seas Crew Undisclosed Location	June 18 Mark Steiner "Don't Ask" Baltimore Canyon
Sea Bass 	May 15 Mike Depalma "Bet Sea Sport Fishing"	May 17 Bob Houser Ocean Structure	Yellowfin Tuna 	May 25 Matthew Abbonizio "Boy's Toy" Poor Man's Canyon	May 18 Chris Mentlik "Full Service" Washington Canyon
Sheepshead 	May 8 Mike Ahlfeldt Thorofare	May 7 Joe McNeal Ocean Structure	Dolphin 	May 25 Francesca Gessler "Boy's Toy" Poor Man's Canyon	May 28 Finbar Rishko Baltimore Canyon
Striped Bass 	January 29 Richard Harpel Indian River Bay	January 3 Brian Reynolds Rt. 90 Bridge	Swordfish 	June 19 Norm Wallis "On The Hunt" Poor Man's Canyon	June 1 Bobby West "Relentless" Poor Mans Canyon
Tautog 	January 6 Anthony Emerick "Chasin' Tides" Great Eastern	January 8 Anthony Emerick Ocean Structure	Blue Marlin 	July 1 Crew "Reel Current" Undisclosed Location	June 12 Tom Healy "Elizabeth Ann" Poor Mans Canyon
Wahoo 	June 26 Nick Klederdine "Bad Habit" Washington Canyon	June 17 Greg Stansky Poor Mans Canyon	White Marlin 	June 14 Hannah Melvin "Wrecker" Washington Canyon	June 1 Jake Emche "Fish On" E. of Baltimore Canyon

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DELAWARE

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This past week in Delaware, we saw more high temperatures and big storms. The water in both the bays and inlets is dirty and full of silt. The ocean has gotten nice and warm; however, it's still producing a ton of short fish. Many anglers in the area rely on the coral grounds for all of their flounder fishing. Targeting the lone wrecks and hopping from wreck to wreck will provide a better chance of finding keeper fish. Dropping your flounder baits, rigs, or bucktails just off the down-current side of the wrecks will bring the most bites. However, you must time your drops to land just behind the wrecks—not too far away. Being even 15 feet away from many wrecks will leave you outside of the strike zone.

A few cobia are on the shoals near Indian River Inlet. John Burbage reports that many of these fish, although sunning on the

surface, are not willing to take any baits thrown at them. He notes that on one trip, he had seven fish on the surface but could only get one to bite on a bucktail with a worm trailer. Larger pods of croaker have moved into the area, but many of these fish are relatively small. Spadefish, Spanish, and blues are on the nearby shoals, along with a ton of triggerfish.

Nearshore Wrecks and Coral

The nearby wrecks are holding tons of flounder, as well as a large number of spadefish and triggerfish. Small strips of clam or squid are working best for the triggerfish and spadefish. A chum block can also help bring these fish up off the bottom and into striking position.

Site 11 was the hotspot last week, with a few big flounder coming off the wrecks and near the subway

cars. The coral has tons of fish, but most are small and not keepers. "Gale Force Charters" had the Lyon's crew on board last week and landed Logan his personal best—a 24.7-inch, 6.3-pound fluke. Later in the week, they helped Roy catch his personal best: a 19-inch flounder.

Ron Rice checked into Rick's Bait and Tackle with a 6.4-pound, 26-inch flounder that he caught on a high-low rig out at the Old Grounds. "Jsea2 Sportfishing" reported that fishing has been pretty good on most of their trips, with a mixed bag of triggerfish, flounder, and bass. "Bad Wind Charters" had Terry, Cliff, and Skip out for a fun afternoon. Using their clacker rigs, they managed a cooler full of filets for the freezer.

"The Judy V" and "Captain Bob" dodged the week's storms and put their clients on some nice fish. Several

www.coastalfisherman.net big fluke were caught, along with some sea bass and triggerfish. Raymond Young used a bucktail to entice his 57.5-inch, 63-pound cobia to bite while fishing just offshore, when the fish decided to swim alongside the boat. That's a nice-sized cobia—great job! Dale Owens was at the Old Grounds and caught a big 26", 7 lb fluke.

Back Bays and Inlets

The Indian River Inlet has been producing a few blues and rockfish at night. These fish are being caught on swimbaits and cut bait during a swift-moving tide. The area near the VFW channel has been a good spot for keeper fluke. Near Massey's Ditch, anglers can find schools of croaker ready to bite small squid pieces on red hooks.

I've heard of a couple of puppy drum near the power plant, but still not enough of them to make a redfish trip productive. Anthony Volpe reeled in a nice 24-inch sheepshead from the rocks at IR Inlet using sand fleas. Tony Walls reeled in a 28.25-inch rockfish on his

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second cast at IR, using a bucktail tipped with a white worm. Angela Feldbush got a 17.8-inch keeper fluke from the main channel near the bridge. Eric Rodriguez landed a few over-slot stripers from the inlet at night on Tuesday using swimbaits. Matt Brough caught a small cobia and then a flounder off the rocks at the inlet last Monday. Randy Norman put a few in the box when fishing on the DE Bay, including sheepshead, croaker, and small sea bass.

Surf Fishing

Surf fishing is a mix of spot, croaker, and kingfish. The beach areas are packed on weekends, creating a lot of pressure on the fish. Fishing the beach during weekdays and at night is your best bet if you want to target a quality fish this time of year. Cut and live finger mullet will produce a few rays and sharks if you want to tangle with a bigger fish.

Quann Daniels had a good day on the beach, landing several nice-sized croakers from the surf using small pieces of Fishbites.

Clams and Crabs

Well, I guess it was my turn. This week, I had my crab pots raided—and even stolen—by an unknown person. The average has been 8–12 keepers per pot, and on Wednesday, I ended up with five crabs per pot and one pot missing, which I assume they used to hold the crabs they stole from my pots. Sad that people can't leave others' property alone.

Clamming near the VFW and Holt's Landing is yielding mostly larger soup clams, with very few smaller ones left. The areas are picked

over, making small clams hard to find.

How To

This week, with the help of Flip N Fins, we're talking triggerfish. These fish are some of the hardest to fillet but also one of the best-tasting—resembling lobster when poached or grilled.

Using a fairly light line and an Aqua Clear rig tipped with clam Fishbites is the simplest way to rig for these fish. Drop down to the bottom on a wreck and wait for a bite. Clam and squid pieces can also be used.

Have a second rod rigged and ready because often, when you hook one fish, the rest of the school will follow it to the surface and hang around, waiting for more bait. You can often limit out after hooking one and leaving it in the water—just like with mahi.

The wreck just inside the Fenwick Shoals is a great starting place for targeting these fine fish. Use a very sharp, small knife to fillet the fish, and be sure to resharpen between fillets. The skin of a triggerfish is very tough and will dull a cheap knife before you're halfway through the first one.

One of the best cooking methods I've found is to cut the fish into 2-inch chunks and drop them into a pot of boiling water with brown sugar added. When the fish floats to the top, remove it, dip in drawn butter, and enjoy.

Check out Rich's video on his Facebook page as well as on YouTube.

Until next week—
Tight lines and fins up!



Dale Owen Jr. landed this 26", 7 lbs. flounder while fishing the Old Grounds. He also caught 20-inch and 19-inch keepers, along with about a dozen throwbacks, all on 6-inch pearl white Gulp grubs.




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Eight-year-old Brody Shaw of Germansville, PA, shows off his first keeper flounder — a 17 ¾-inch catch! Brody landed it aboard the “Stress Reeliever” with his father, Eric Shaw, while fishing Coast Station at high tide, using minnows and Gulp for bait. Congratulations, Brody!

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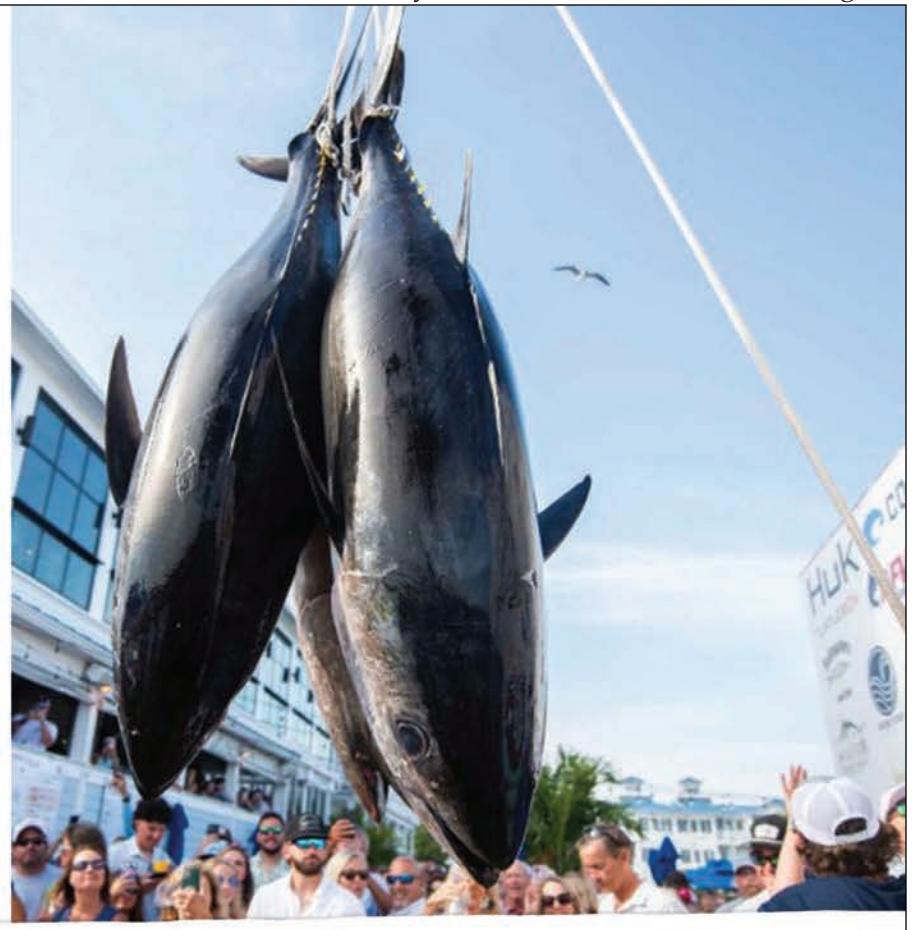


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6. Add red and green tomatoes at the very end.

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Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 8 51/60 shrimp
- 3 oz. fish
- 3 large or 5 small shellfish
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- ½ tbsp garlic, chopped



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½ tbsp shallots, chopped

¼ cup leeks, chopped

¼ cup fennel, chopped

3 oz. white wine

8 oz. fish stock

1 oz. red tomato, diced

1 oz. green tomato, diced

2 oz. butter

Italian parsley and fennel fronds, for garnish

Directions:

1. Heat oil in a large pan until smoking hot.
2. Quickly sauté shrimp, fish and shellfish. Season with salt and pepper.
3. Add garlic and shallots and cook until softened.
4. Add leeks and fennel and cook until softened.
5. Deglaze with white wine and reduce by half.

7. Finish with butter and garnish with chopped Italian parsley and fennel fronds.

For A Catch With A Zesty Finish

Lemon and Thyme Roasted Sea Bass

Bright with lemon and thyme, this elegant roasted sea bass is easy to love—especially with the fish in season all summer and well into the fall.

Ingredients:

- 4 fillets sea bass
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic
- 1 lemon
- 4 sprigs fresh thyme
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ tsp black pepper



¼ cup dry white wine

1 tbsp unsalted butter

Directions:

1. Preheat your oven to 400F.

2. Rinse the sea bass fillets and pat dry with paper towels. Season both sides with salt and

pepper.

3. In a large oven-proof skillet, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the minced garlic

and sauté until fragrant, about 1 minute.

4. Place the sea bass fillets skin side down in the skillet. Cook for 2-3 minutes until the skin

is golden and crisp.

5. Flip the fillets and add the lemon slices and thyme sprigs around the fish in the skillet.

6. Pour the white wine into the skillet, then add the butter in small pieces around the fish.

7. Transfer the skillet to the preheated oven and roast for 12-15 minutes, or until the fish is

cooked through and flakes easily with the fork.

8. Remove from the oven and allow the fish to rest for a couple of minutes before serving.

Wahoo With a Kick

Blackened Wahoo

We're starting to see some wahoo hit the docks—here's the perfect blackening recipe to give that

fresh fillet a bold, flavorful sear.

Ingredients:

2 wahoo fillets

1 tbsp butter

½ tsp salt

½ tsp paprika

½ tsp black pepper

Pinch of cumin

½ tsp thyme or oregano

½ tsp garlic powder

½ lemon

Directions:

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

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

3. Heat butter in a skillet and place fish in it. Cook for 2 minutes on one side and then for

another for 2 minutes on the other side.

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

For All That Yellowfin Coming Off The Dock

Chili-Lime Seared Ahi Tuna

Quick, healthy, and full of bold flavor—this chili-lime seared ahi tuna pairs perfectly with rice,

quinoa, or roasted vegetables for a complete meal.

Ingredients:

2 tbsp of Thai chili sauce

2 tbsp of soy sauce

2 tbsp of fresh lime juice

2 tbsp of extra-virgin olive oil

1 ½ lbs. ahi tuna steaks

2 tbsp of salted butter or olive oil spray

2 tbsp of chopped fresh cilantro, for garnish

1 tbsp of white sesame seeds, for garnish

Lime wedges, for garnish

Directions:

1. Marinate the tuna steaks – In a small bowl, whisk together the chili sauce, soy sauce, lime juice, and olive oil. Put the tuna steaks in a large zip-top bag, pour in the chili sauce mixture, and marinate for at least 10 minutes or in the refrigerator for up to 2 hours.

2. Sear the tuna steaks— In a skillet on the stovetop, melt the butter over

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medium heat. Discard $\frac{3}{4}$ cup cream cheese, softened
the marinade and add the
marinated tuna steaks to
the skillet and cook for
3 to 4 minutes, until a
slight crust forms on the
bottom. Flip and cook
for 3 to 4 minutes on the
second side.

3. Garnish and serve –
Divide the tuna among
four plates, garnish with
the cilantro and sesame
seeds, and serve alongside
your favorite sides.

A Sweet and Smoky Starter

Smoked Mahi Mahi Dip with Jalapeño and Pineapple:

Smoked mahi mahi meets
sweet pineapple and
spicy jalapeño for a bold,
flavorful appetizer.

Ingredients:

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup cream cheese,
softened

$\frac{1}{3}$ cup sour cream

1 bunch scallion, minced,
(4 scallions per 1 serving)

1 $\frac{1}{3}$ tbsp fresh thyme
leaves

1 lemon, zested

4 tbsp pineapples, smoked
and chopped into $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch
pieces

2 jalapeño peppers,
deseeded, chopped

1 lb. mahi mahi fillet,
smoked and torn into
small chunks

Salt, to taste

Freshly ground black
pepper, to taste

Hot sauce, to taste,
optional

Directions:



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1. In the bowl of a standing mixer with the paddle attachment, combine cream cheese, sour cream, scallion, fresh thyme leaves, salt, freshly ground pepper, and lemon zest. Mix on low speed until well blended.
2. Add half of the mahi fillets, pineapples, jalapeño peppers, and mix on low speed until thoroughly blended. Adjust the seasonings to taste. Add a few shakes of hot sauce if it is not spicy enough.
3. Stir in remaining mahi mahi fillets a little at a time, blending gently by hand, until it is incorporated.
4. Chill in the refrigerator for at least 1 hour.
5. Serve with crackers or toasted baguette slices.

Cool Down With This Cocktail

Watermelon Mojito Fizz

Light and refreshing- this watermelon mojito fizz is the perfect sip for happy hours.

Ingredients:

- 1 heaping cup fresh watermelon (seedless, cubed)
- 2 oz. white rum
- 1 oz. fresh lime juice
- 1-2 tsp sugar or simple syrup (to taste)
- 5-6 fresh mint leaves
- Soda water (to top off)
- Crushed ice
- Watermelon wedge and mint sprig (for garnish)


Directions:

1. Muddle the base: In a shaker or sturdy glass, add the watermelon cubes, mint leaves, lime


- juice, and sugar or simple syrup. Muddle until the watermelon is broken down and the mint is fragrant.
2. Pour in your white rum and give everything a good stir.
 3. Fill a tall glass with crushed ice. Strain the mixture into the glass to

- keep it smooth, or pour it all in if you like the texture and bits of fruit.
4. Add 2-3 oz. of soda water-just enough to give it that signature mojito sparkle.
 5. Slide in a fresh watermelon wedge and a sprig of mint for presentation.





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Grace Shariest from Scranton, PA caught this 7 lbs., 26" flounder while fishing on the "A-Salt Weapon" with Captain Blaur Hinkle, of Gibbstown, NJ. Grace was fishing at a reef site offshore of Ocean City, MD and was using pink shine Gulp.



This crew had a great day aboard the "Bottom Line," landing a monster golden tilefish. Jon Fazekas said the highlight of the trip was watching a blue marlin come up and "smash a mahi" they had caught on the troll. "It was killer to witness that," he said.



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Rt. 90 Bridge

Rt. 50 Bridge



12-year-old James MacIntosh from Newark caught this 26 inch-sandbar shark using cut spot beside the Sinepuxent Bridge.

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MARYLAND STATE LINE

The map shows the Delaware coastline with numbered locations 1 through 7. A red arrow points to Lewes. The Maryland State Line is indicated by a dashed line. Rt. 54 is also marked.



Playa Flamingo – It's All About the Vibe

The wind was blowing the tops off the blended blue water. We were winding down our first practice day, and I think I was more daydreaming than watching the spread. The captain had already given the call: "Ten more minutes and we'll pick 'em up. Great first day, guys."

The tiniest tip of a dorsal fin popped up behind the left Squidnation blue teaser. I disregarded it as a final moment of hope – but there it was again.

Captain said, "Yep, that's her. Marlin!"

Carlos was on the left flat line, and he masterfully teased the lazy fish into biting. A nice feed – and now we're hooked up. The fish never jumped; it just dug deep and stayed close to the boat. Allan, our mate, reached for the leader and

that's when it happened: a beautiful black marlin shot out from under the right rigger.

The black marlin did what black marlin do on the leader – she put on an amazing aerial show to end our fabulous first day in Playa Flamingo, Costa Rica.



The birthplace of billfish and other pelagic sportfishing in Costa Rica is widely considered to be Flamingo Beach, located in

the Guanacaste Province on the country's north Pacific coast. Legendary American captains, such as Bubba Carter, based boats there in the 1980s, launching Costa Rica's reputation as a world-class sportfishing destination. This area of the Pacific held great concentrations of

www.coastalfisherman.net host international crews. The nearby neighborhood of Brasilito is also known as the birthplace of the original group of top Costa Rican mates who gained both local and international recognition as masters of their craft.

Today, that little marina that started our love affair with Costa Rica is now a modern luxury village. The marina itself can support everything from mega yachts to center consoles. Five-star dining and boutique shopping now line the docks of Flamingo Marina. Luxury condos are available on the property, along with a fleet of charter boats.

This type of progress can sometimes change the local vibe of a location – but what I experienced this past week proves that's not the case. Playa Flamingo has kept its charm and authenticity.

We dined at open-air seaside restaurants such as Patagonia and Coco Loco and found amazing cuisine. Last night, I had maybe the best whole fried snapper





I've ever experienced. Oceana, located at the marina, served an incredible pan-seared octopus. Even a little strip-center food court surprised me with an assortment of empanadas that rivaled my grandmother's tasty treats.

A couple weeks ago, Capt. Garrett Penley called and said, "Come down to Flamingo with us and fish the Flamingo Fishing Rodeo."

It's been 15 years since I last visited this part of Costa

Rica. I remember marlin — lots of them — and a few sails, plus some rough sea conditions. This isn't the Costa Rica of glassy seas and blistering heat. During our practice days, we found a stiff breeze, loads of sailfish, and a handful of blue and black marlin. The rough conditions and gorgeous mountain background reminded me of the old days in Venezuela — as did the consistent bite and the unpredictability of what would pop up in the spread.



Over 4.5 days of fishing, we had 130 sailfish bites, six marlin encounters, and a few 50-pound mahi-mahi battles that made for some tasty lunches.

Above the great food, gorgeous scenery, and phenomenal fishing is the


vibe in Playa Flamingo. That's what I'll take home from this trip. I loved every bit of it.

Costa Rica isn't a place I typically visit in June, July, or August — but Playa Flamingo is now on the calendar.


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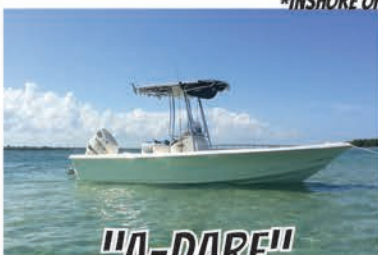


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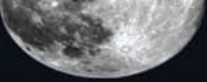
CONTACT THE CAPTAINS OR CALL 1-877-514-FISH TO BOOK.



Angler Ryan West with his nice tautog that he caught in Delaware.



14-year-old Caden Loughran from San Antonio, TX reeled in this 41" bonnethead shark using live shrimp at the Laguna Madre Bay, South Padre Island, TX. Caden was guided by Capt. Michael Rasco with Tritoon Charters.



OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. JULY 23	High 07:03 am High 08:10 pm	Low 01:19 am Low 12:59 pm
THUR. JULY 24 New Moon	High 08:01 am High 09:01 pm	Low 02:10 am Low 01:52 pm
FRI. JULY 25	High 08:56 am High 09:46 pm	Low 02:58 am Low 02:43 pm
SAT. JULY 26	High 09:46 am High 10:25 pm	Low 03:43 am Low 03:32 pm
SUN. JULY 27	High 10:32 am High 11:01 pm	Low 04:27 am Low 04:21 pm
MON. JULY 28	High 11:16 am High 11:36 pm	Low 05:09 am Low 05:12 pm
TUE. JULY 29	High ----- High 12:00 am	Low 05:51 am Low 06:05 pm
WED. JULY 30	High 12:12 am High 12:45 pm	Low 06:31 am Low 07:00 pm

source: usharbors.com

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

Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high tide

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

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

Quinby Inlet, VA - subtract 6 minutes for high tide

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



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Dan Mattio, of Kingsville, MD, caught these two flatfish measuring 19 and 20". These fish were caught at Harbour Island using baby spot for bait.

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Call the team at 410.213.2200 to learn more about what the Coastal Fisherman can do for your business!

The drum were drumming for Chris Taylor and his fellow anglers in early April. They worked both the Maryland and Virginia sides of Assateague Island landing numerous black drum on hi/lo rigs with 6/0-9/0 hooks using sand flea & Fishbites combos as well as peelers and clams. This one earned Chris the First Fish of the season for Black Drum for 2025 on April 6th.



Jevon Martin landed this 18-inch keeper flounder while fishing from a pier at Tom’s Cove in Chincoteague, VA.



12-year-old Jacob Dadisman from Middletown, DE caught this mahi using ballyhoo while fishing on the “Ceviche” in the Poor-man’s Canyon.

2025

FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles

 <p>BLUE MARLIN 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>YELLOWFIN TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day</p>	 <p>BIGEYE TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>GOLDEN TILEFISH No minimum • 8 per person/day</p>
 <p>WHITE MARLIN 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p> <p>NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit</p>	 <p>BLUEFIN TUNA 27" to <73" curved fork length 1 per vessel/day or trip 27" to <73" curved fork length 1 per Charter/day or trip 27" to <73" curved fork length 1 per Headboat/day or trip</p>	 <p>SWORDFISH 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter) 1 per person / 15 per Headboat</p>	 <p>BLUELINE TILEFISH 5/15 - 11/14 3 per person (Recreational) 5 per person Uninspected (Charter) 7 per person Inspected (Charter)</p>
 <p>DOLPHIN No minimum Length Boat Limit 54 Limit Daily 10 per angler</p>		 <p>SAILFISH Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>WAHOO No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day</p>

SHARKS

AUTHORIZED SPECIES

No Minimum Fork Length
Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead

54" Minimum Fork Length
Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose

78" Minimum Fork Length
Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead

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

PROHIBITED SHARKS

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

Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov

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“SiriusXM put us on this 897 lb winner.”

Capt. Paul Menzi
Ocean City, MD



“It was a tough tournament weatherwise. We used both current and wave direction and recommended fishing areas to determine where we'd fish all three days of the tournament. On the second day, we hooked this winner around noon. Thanks again to SiriusXM Marine and Fish Mapping.”

Capt. Paul Menzi, Winner of the 2024 White Marlin Open Tournament



Learn more at siriusxm.com/fishmapping or scan the QR code to watch how George uses the SiriusXM Fish Mapping service.



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Fish Mapping does not guarantee finding fish.

Photo credit: Paul Menzi.

Ship to Shore

STEVE'S MARINE SERVICE
by Steve Katz



Weather or Not: Why Every Fishing Trip Depends on the Forecast

Whether you are heading out for a few hours on the bay or embarking on a full day offshore, one factor can make or break your fishing trip — the weather. It is not just about bringing a jacket or remembering sunscreen; for boaters and anglers, understanding marine forecasts is essential to both safety and success.

Weather Beyond the Umbrella Forecast

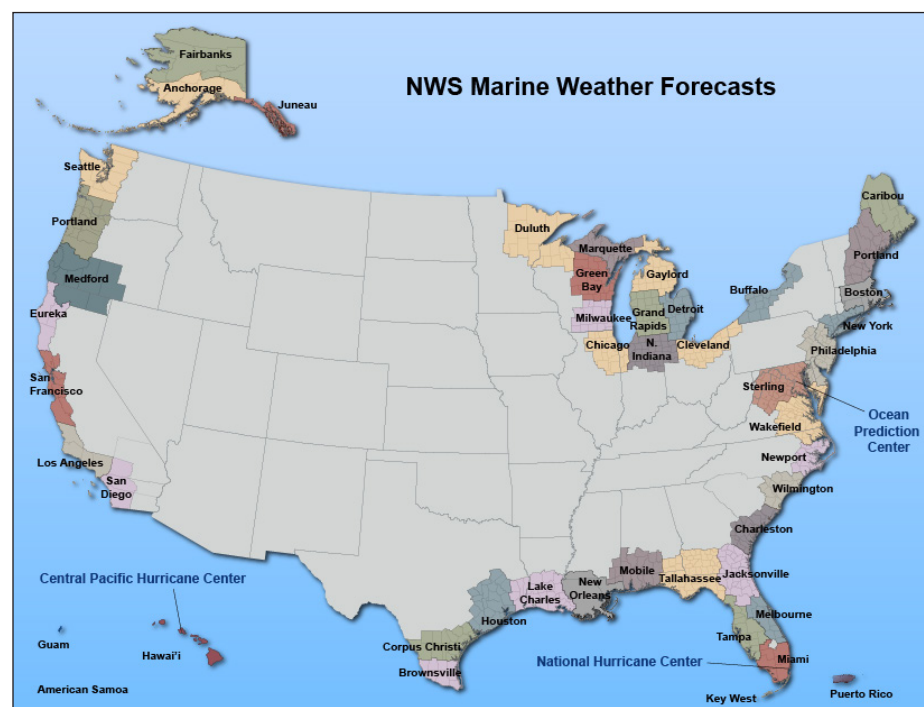
Most people check the weather to decide if they need an umbrella or what

to wear. But for boaters and anglers, much more is at stake. Changing conditions on the water can turn a pleasant outing into a dangerous situation in minutes.

Fortunately, the U.S. government provides some of the most reliable marine weather data in the world — free of charge. The National Weather Service (NWS), a division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) under the U.S. Department of Commerce, is responsible for more than 300 weather products, including specialized forecasts for

aviation, agriculture, hurricanes, floods, and marine operations.

the national average. Severe weather is a leading contributor to those tragedies. Even beachgoers are not exempt; rip currents, hurricanes, and flooding are among the top causes of weather-related deaths in the United States.



Marine Forecasting for Safety and Success

The Marine, Tropical, and Tsunami Services Branch of the NWS oversees weather services across the 95,439 miles of U.S. shoreline, including the Great Lakes, offshore regions, and international waters. Their mission is fourfold:

- Ensure the safety of life and property
- Promote efficient marine commerce
- Reduce environmental impacts
- Improve the quality of life for all Americans

This is more than a mission statement—it is a matter of life and death. According to the CDC, commercial fishing is the most dangerous occupation in the U.S., with a fatality rate 29 times higher than

A Crowded Coastline

Coastal counties represent less than 10% of U.S. land (excluding Alaska), yet they account for nearly 40% of the population. According to NOAA's National Ocean Service, these areas grew by 40% between 1970 and 2010—and continue to grow. Coastal population density is six times greater than inland areas, amplifying the need for accurate, real-time weather information.

Tools of the Trade: Getting the Forecast

Modern boaters have multiple ways to receive marine weather updates:

- VHF Marine Radios – Most come with 10 built-in NOAA Weather (WX) channels that broadcast updated regional conditions on a continuous loop. Many radios also



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automatically interrupt normal transmissions with emergency alerts.

- NOAA Weather Radio – A dedicated radio system transmitting on frequencies between 161.650 MHz and 162.550 MHz. Available in home, mobile, and marine models.

- Online – Visit weather.gov/marine for interactive charts, forecasts, and warnings.

- By Phone – Mariners in your area can dial 757-899-4200 for local forecasts.

- Email – Through the NWS FTPMAIL service, users can request forecast data and receive it by email.

- Radiofax & NAVTEX – Though less common today, these services still exist. Radiofax (or weatherfax) uses HF radio waves to transmit weather charts. NAVTEX provides text-based safety information on 518 kHz for global vessels.

Fishing Forecasts: Science Meets the Sea

For anglers, marine forecasts go beyond wind and waves. Today's fishing weather includes oceanographic data, which combines marine biology, satellite imagery,

chemistry, and physics to predict where fish are most likely to be.

Several companies specialize in this science:

- ROFFS™ (Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Service) – One of the original pioneers in satellite oceanography for fishing. Based in Florida, ROFFS uses satellite remote sensing to predict fish concentrations.

- SiriusXM Marine – Offers real-time weather and fishing overlays integrated with onboard displays – ideal for quick decision-making.

- Furuno TZ weather – offers free and paid weather/fishing on the TZTX series of MFD and black box machines. Includes Wind, Wave, Air Pressure, Clouds, Rain, Air Fronts, Currents, SST, SSH, and Chlorophyll.

- TimeZero Ocean-O – A component of TZ Professional software, this tool includes innovative ocean data and new FSLE technology that identifies nutrient-rich ocean fronts where predatory fish gather.

- Hilton's Realtime Navigator – Known for its intuitive interface, Hilton's is a favorite for its ease of

use and frequent updates.

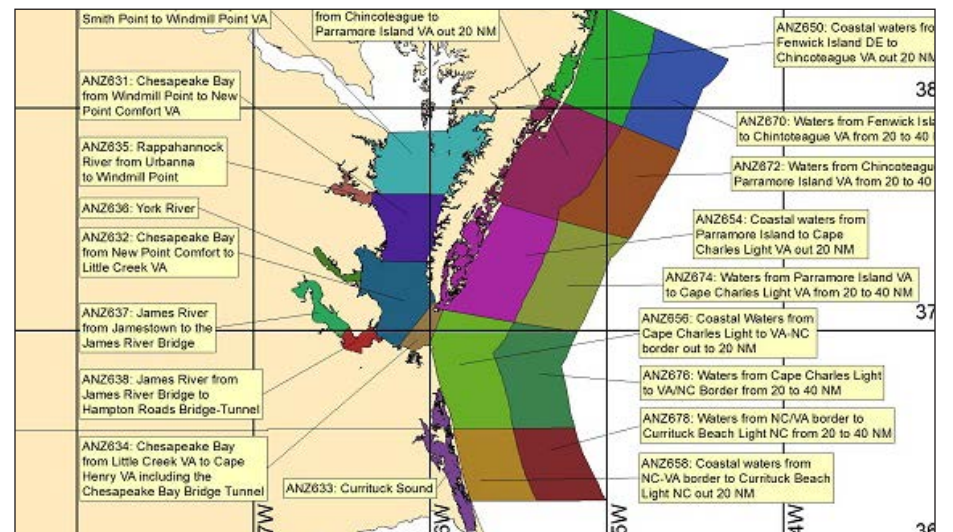
- SatFish – Stands out for its high-resolution satellite imagery and bathymetric maps, helping anglers visualize bottom structure and temperature breaks.

- RipCharts – Offers robust overlay options and frequent updates, making it a go-to for serious sport and tournament anglers.

Conclusion: Smarter Weather, Better Fishing

Understanding marine weather is a cornerstone of boating safety—but it is also a major advantage for catching more fish. Whether you are a weekend warrior or a tournament pro, knowing the forecast—above and below the surface—can lead you to safer seas and more productive waters.

So, before you cast off, ask yourself: Weather or not you are ready?



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Zeb Deckman landed this striper along with his first bluefish while fishing the bay with his friend, Brian Reynolds. He also battled a "monster" ray—but this time, the ray won.






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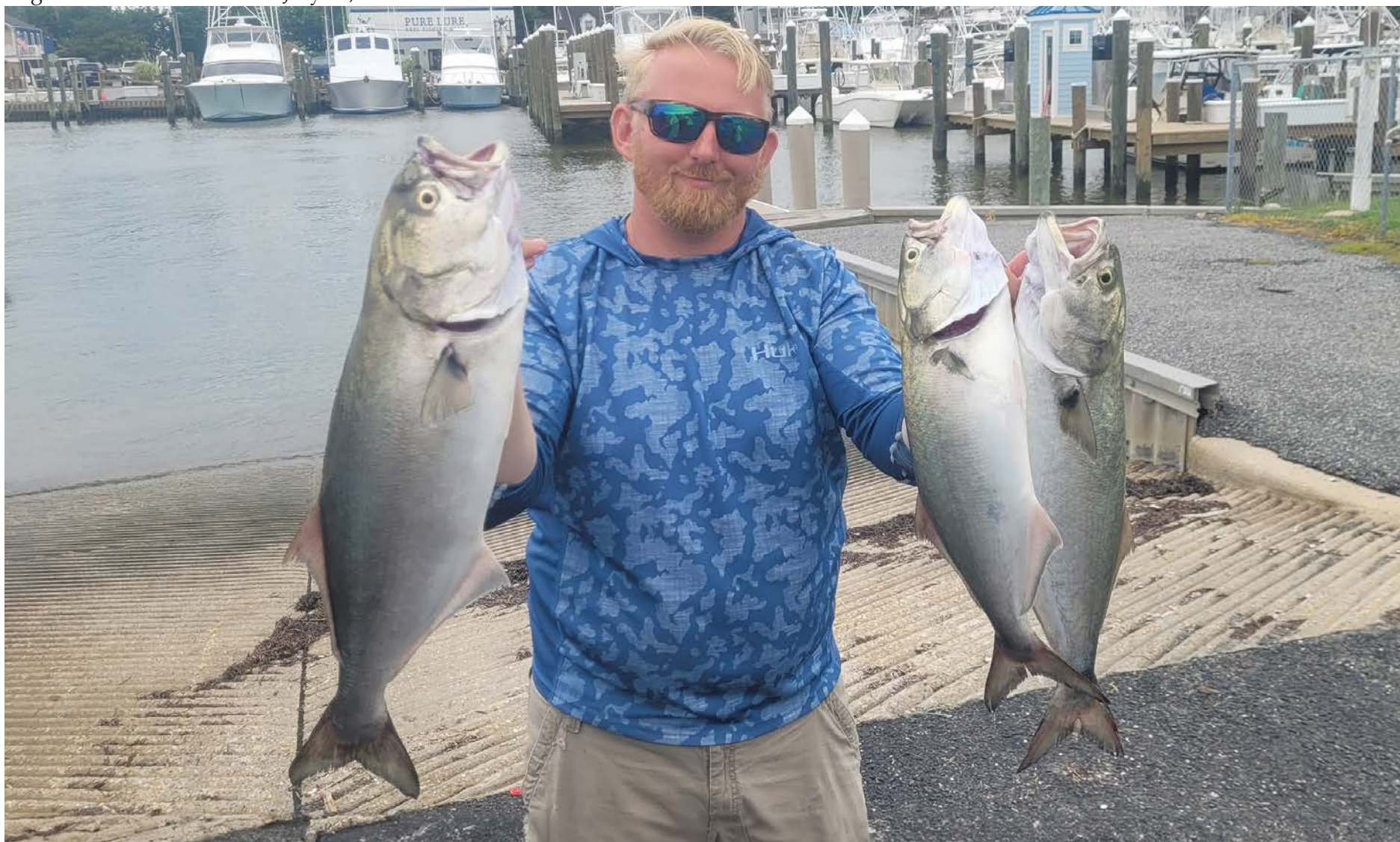
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Check out these three nice bluefish that Brian Reynolds caught while fishing at the Rt. 50 Bridge, with the largest being 28".



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Richard 'Delicious' Daiker and Kenny Schoen ran the ocean and ended up limited out, with their largest flounder measuring 23 1/2".



Keith Neubeck from Bel Air, Maryland, reeled in these 19" and 20" flounder using pink and white Gulp at the Fenwick Shoal while fishing on the "Somethin's Fishy".



Craig 'Big Bird' Cropper went out on the water with Jake and his son Fisher from Freedom Baitz, and reeled in some nice looking bluefish.

FACTS ABOUT FLOUNDER PART 2

- **Flounder Start Life Swimming Upright**
When flounder hatch, they swim upright like most fish. As they grow, one eye migrates to the other side of the head, and their body flattens to adapt to life on the seafloor.
- **They Undergo Metamorphosis**
During their larval stage, flounder experience a dramatic transformation similar to a caterpillar turning into a butterfly where their bones and skull shape change to support their sideways life.
- **They Are Found in Both Saltwater and Brackish Waters**

While flounder are typically marine fish, some species can also thrive in estuaries and brackish environments where freshwater mixes with saltwater.

- **Not All Flounder Are the Same Species**
Flounder refers to a group of flatfish, not a single species. It includes many types like the summer flounder (fluke), southern flounder, and European flounder all with varying behaviors and habitats.

- **Their Diet Changes as They Grow**
Juvenile flounder mainly eat plankton and tiny invertebrates. As they mature, their diet shifts to include larger prey like small fish and crustaceans.

Flounder Play a Key Role in Coastal Food Webs
As both predators and prey, flounder help regulate populations of smaller animals and serve as an important food source for larger marine animals.

- **They're Popular in Recreational and Commercial Fishing**
Flounder are highly valued for their mild, white meat. As a result, they are targeted by both commercial trawlers and sport fishers, particularly in coastal areas.

- **They Use Lateral Line Sensory Organs**
Flounder have a lateral line along their body that detects vibrations and movements in the water helping them sense prey or danger even when buried in the sand.

Source: softschools.com





While surf fishing at Assateague, Steve Maddox was able to catch this nice Red Drum.



Hayden Zechman landed this flounder while fishing at the Indian River Inlet.

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Alex Volpe landed a 24-inch sheephead while fishing at the Indian River Inlet.



Jordan McAllister of Perry County, PA, Mike Barry of Harrisburg, PA, and their good friend Dan Smith of Hershey, PA had an unforgettable night, landing a massive 9-foot, 300+ pound sand tiger shark. The crew hooked the shark using a whole croaker they had caught earlier that day while fishing just south of Dewey Beach in only 3-5 feet of water. After a quick photo, the shark was safely released back into the ocean, unharmed.



Craig Morgan of Pine Grove, PA, caught his first-ever flounder while fishing aboard Tom Tatum's boat, the "Open II Debate." He landed two keepers measuring 18 and 19", along with four throwbacks. All were caught in Assateague Bay behind the airport using white Gulp swimming mullets paired with minnows.

MAKE THAT PHOTO A KEEPER!

Here are some Great Tips to submit a Quality Photo of your Catch!

- Have the angler(s) face into the sun to minimize shadows
- Make sure the side of the fish is facing flat towards the camera
- When using a cell phone, make sure you send photos at the largest setting possible
- **SHOOT VERTICAL PHOTOS! (UP & DOWN FORMAT IS BEST, NOT SIDEWAYS)**
- Be sure to **SMILE** 😊 Stone faces are bad luck for future fishing trips!



New Message

Recipients: coastalfisherman@comcast.net

Subject: My Fish Photo & Info

Email your photo to coastalfisherman@comcast.net and be sure to include the following info:

- Angler full name, town & state
- Names and towns of others in photo
- Weight and/or length of fish
- Bait/Lure used & location of catch
- Name of boat, if any

Send

Or call us at the office and we'll come take your photo!

410.213.2200

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.

Email us at coastalfisherman@comcast.net and be sure to follow this format!















The Ocean Pines Anglers Club hosted a record 97 young anglers at the 29th annual Art Hansen Memorial Youth Fishing Contest on Saturday at the South Gate Pond at Veterans Park in Ocean Pines. Over 100 fish were caught. All registrants received a nice gift bag compliments of the Anglers Club and the Ocean City/Berlin Optimist Club.

2025

MARYLAND REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - September 30 October 10 - December 31</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH 8" minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day Charter</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day up to 6 per boat/day</p>	 <p>COBIA 43" minimum 1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/20 Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers</p>
 <p>CROAKER 9" minimum 25 per person/day</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 18-27" minimum 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD 4 per person/day 12" minimum</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 4 per person/day</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 28-31" Less than 3 miles from shore 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 2 per person/day 7/1 - 10/31 4 per person/day 11/1 - 12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

eregulations.com



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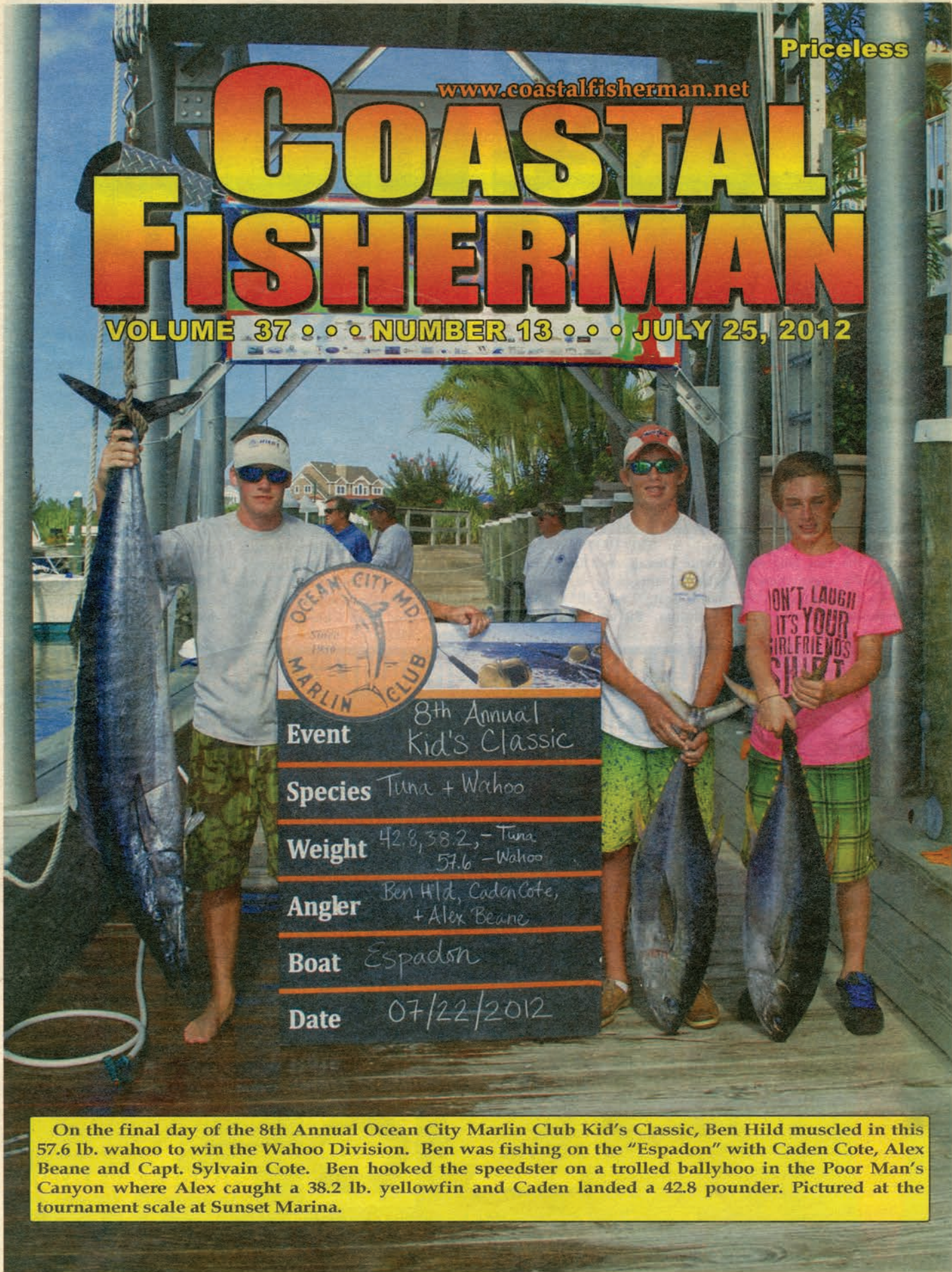
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COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME 37 • • • NUMBER 13 • • • JULY 25, 2012



OCEAN CITY MD. MARLIN CLUB

Event	8th Annual Kid's Classic
Species	Tuna + Wahoo
Weight	42.8, 38.2, - Tuna 57.6 - Wahoo
Angler	Ben Hild, Caden Cote, + Alex Beane
Boat	Espadon
Date	07/22/2012

On the final day of the 8th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Kid's Classic, Ben Hild muscled in this 57.6 lb. wahoo to win the Wahoo Division. Ben was fishing on the "Espadon" with Caden Cote, Alex Beane and Capt. Sylvain Cote. Ben hooked the speedster on a trolled ballyhoo in the Poor Man's Canyon where Alex caught a 38.2 lb. yellowfin and Caden landed a 42.8 pounder. Pictured at the tournament scale at Sunset Marina.

A look back at the 8th Annual Kid's Classic where a good sized 57.6 lbs. wahoo was caught along with two yellowfin tuna coming in at 38.2 lbs. and 42.8 lbs. The tournament has continued it's legacy of giving young anglers a place to fish in a fun tournament setting.



21TH ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC 2025 RESULTS

BLUEFISH

1st Place
"HIX'S HOOKER"
8.98 lbs.

2nd Place
"BETSEA"
7.36 lbs.

3rd Place
"BETSEA"
7.02 lbs.

BONITA

1st Place
"ALLEN CREW"
1.58 lbs.

2nd Place
"ALLEN CREW"
1.54 lbs.

3rd Place
"GRANDEZ PEZ"
"ALLEN CREW"
1.42 lbs.

DOLPHIN

1st Place
"SHOTSKI"
39.50 lbs.

2nd Place
"FLOOR REEL"
16.50 lbs.

3rd Place
"PARKER'S PIRATES"
14.0 lbs.

FLOUNDER

1st Place
"GET SUM"
4.28 lbs.

2nd Place
"REEL CHAOS"
3.54 lbs.

3rd Place
"REEL CHAOS"
3.42 lbs.

TUNA

1st Place
"MARLI"
48 lbs.

2nd Place
"LUCI BRI"
43 lbs.

3rd Place
"LIT UP"
39 lbs.

WAHOO

1st Place
"PLAYMATE"
54 lbs.

2nd Place
"MARLI"
33.5 lbs.

SPOT

1st Place
"PARTNERSHIP"
2.20 lbs.

2nd Place
"PARKER'S PIRATES"
1.60 lbs.

3rd Place
"MISS MARY"
1.56 lbs.

MACKEREL

1st Place
"TROUBLE MAKER"
1.96 lbs.

2nd Place
"ALLEN CREW"
1.8 lbs.

3rd Place
"ALLEN CREW"
1.72 lbs.

WHITE MARLIN RELEASE

1st Place
"BOYS TOY"
300 pts.

2nd Place
"MARLI"
200 pts.

3rd Place
"TARA JESSICA"
200 pts.

TILEFISH

1st Place
"MARLI"
22.5 lbs.

2nd Place
"MARLI & PARKER'S PIRATES"
22 lbs.

3rd Place
"FLOOR REEL"
18 lbs.

CROAKER

1st Place
"PARTNERSHIP"
1.86 lbs.

2nd Place
"JENNY POO"
1.50 lbs.

3rd Place
"PARTNERSHIP"
0.82 lbs.

SEA BASS

1st Place
"MISS MARY"
2.06 lbs.

2nd Place
"ATERNATING CURRENTS"
"MISS MARY"
1.92 lbs.

3rd Place
"CAROL'S TEA KETTLE"
1.90 lbs.

BLUE MARLIN RELEASE

1st Place
"ABSOLUT PLEASURE"
150 pts.

1st Place
"POWER FACTOR"
150 pts.

KINGFISH

1st Place
"PARTNERSHIP"
0.01 lbs.

UNUSUAL CATCH

1. "JENNY POO"
BOTTLE WITH BARNACLES
& HERMIT CRAB

2. "BETSEA"
BLUE RUNNER

3. "CRUSADER"
STINGRAY

200+ ANGLERS PARTICIPATED

Presented by the Ocean City Marlin Club





Check out this very nice haul of fish brought in by the crew aboard the "Boy's Toy". An astounding three white marlin releases, which won them the White Marlin Category, along with this 32 ½ lbs. yellowfin and a 7 lbs. mahi.



This team on the "Shotski" was able to reel in the three Mahi, the heaviest of which weighed in at a monstrous 39 ½ lbs, making it the biggest mahi of the year, beating out the previous mahi by 12 ½ lbs!



While fishing aboard the "Jenny Poo", this angler reeled in quite the interesting catch. Instead of reeling in a seabass or a tuna, this young angler caught this old glass bottle, which was covered in barnacles and contained a hermit crab inside. This bottle was good enough to win the Unusual Catch Category.



This team on the “Marli” out of Ocean City, MD had quite the day fishing, with angler Trey Hoos reeling in this 48lbs yellowfin, winning him the Heaviest Tuna Category. The team also had two white marlin releases, along with a 22 ½ lbs. and a 22 lbs. tile fish, the heaviest won them first and tied for second in the Heaviest Tilefish Category.



The crew aboard the “Trouble Makers” had a fun day out on the water this past Sunday, reeling in this 1.96. lbs spanish mackerel, which won them the Heaviest Mackerel Category, along with four additional mackerel and two flounder.



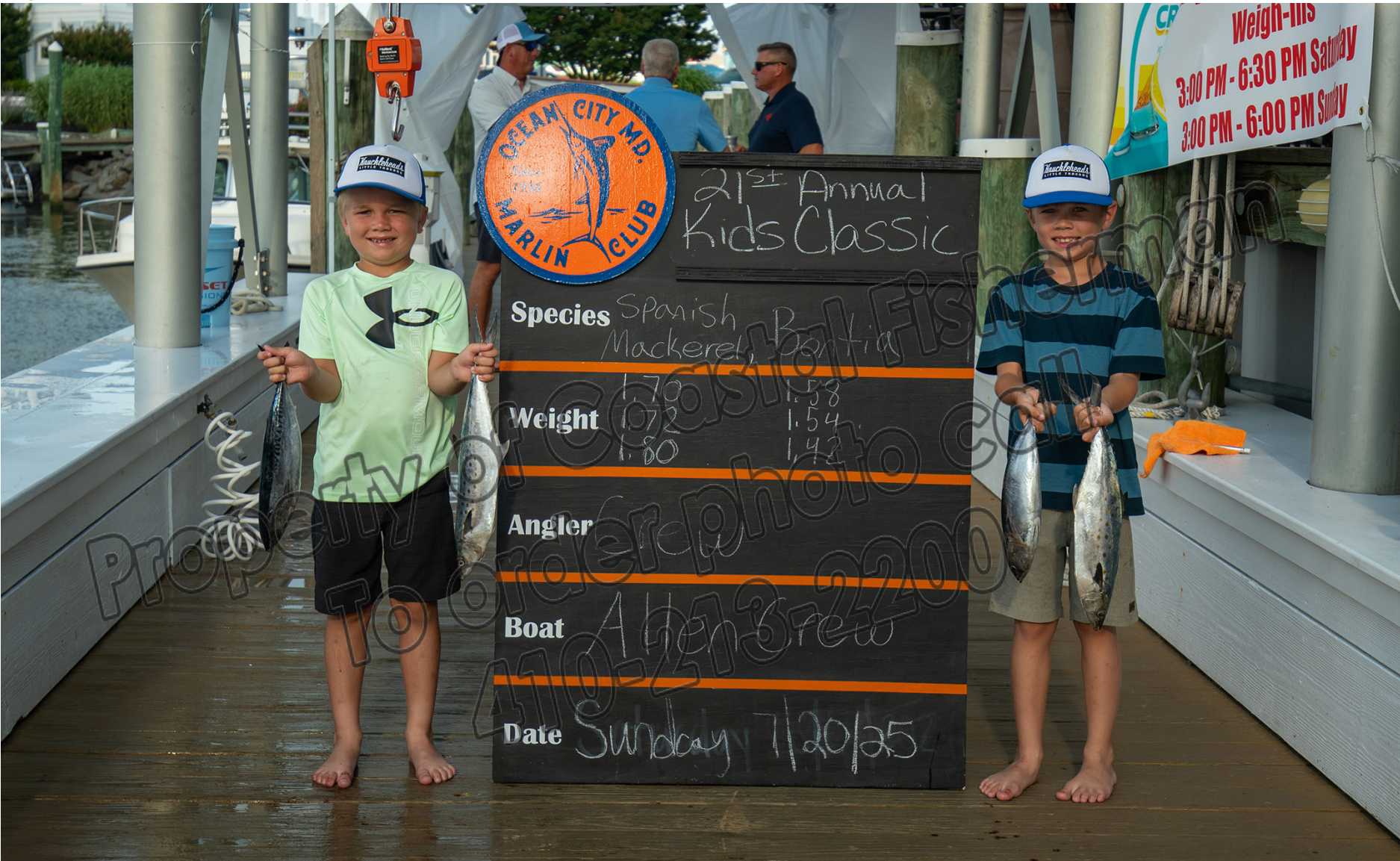
While fishing aboard the “Miss Mary”, this crew was able to reel in two flounder and three seabass. The crew’s heaviest seabass, which weighed in at 2.06 lbs., won the Heaviest Sea Bass Category.



Angler Wyatt Gilbert reeled in these three nice bluefish while fishing on “Hix’s Hooker” this past Saturday. The heaviest bluefish ended up weighing in at 8.98 lbs, which won Wyatt the Bluefish Category of the tournament. Nice job Wyatt!



Congratulations to Reese Burnett of Pittsburgh, PA for catching this 4.28 lbs. flounder, which won her the heaviest flounder category of the 21st Annual Kids Classic. Reese was fishing on the “Get Sum” with Capt. Nick and she was using live bunker for bait.



This pair of rascals aboard the “Allen Crew” placed five total times between the mackerel and bonita categories by winning first, second, and tying for third in the Bonita Category, and then winning second and third in the mackerel category. Nice job boys!



While fishing on the “Partnership”, Colton was able to reel in these two spot, the heaviest of which weighed in at 2.20 lbs. This won Colton the Heaviest Spot and Croaker category of the tournament. Well done Colton!



This crew on the “Miss Mary” out of Ocean City, caught these five kingfish, croaker, and spot. Their 1.56 lbs. spot was good enough to win the team 3rd place in the Spot Category. Well done!



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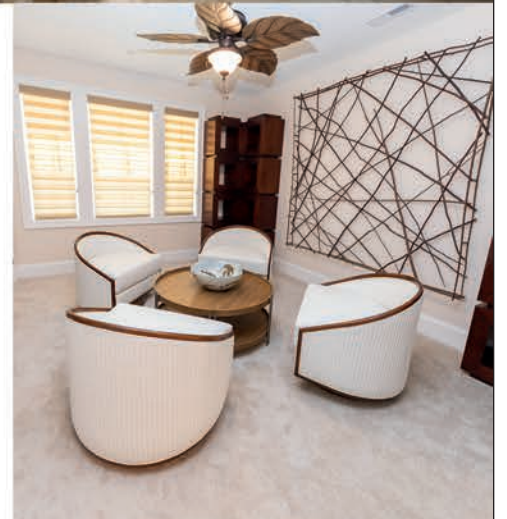
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Angler Kirk Todd proudly displaying his red drum caught in the waters near Chincoteague, VA. Kirk caught his fish using a flounder rig with spot.



UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!

17th ANNUAL FRANKY PETTOLINA "HEELS & REELS" TOURNAMENT *
To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund
 Registration: July 31, 6:00-8:00pm
 Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 1 & 2
 Weigh-Ins: August 1 & 2 5:30-7:30pm at Fisherman's Marina

TOURNAMENT SERIES

— 2025 SCHEDULE —

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

2ND ANNUAL LABOR DAY INVITATIONAL
 Registration: August 28, 6:30 - 8:00pm
 Fishing Days: (1 of 3) August 29, 30 & 31
NO WEIGH-INS:
 This is strictly a release tournament.
 Release reports MUST be turned in to OCMC Clubhouse on your fishing day BY 8:00PM

45th ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP
 Registration: Sept. 10, 6:00-8:00pm
 Fishing Days: (2 of 3) Sept. 11, 12 & 13
NO WEIGH-INS
 Release reports turned in nightly to OCMC Clubhouse 6:00PM - 8:00PM

Check for Updates on our
WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

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The “Reel Chaos” had a great day releasing one white marlin, as well as bringing back a yellowfin and a load of tilefish.




Henry Rideout of Middletown, DE, landed these two flounder, measuring 23 and 21 inches, while fishing the Old Grounds. He was using Gulp bait aboard the “One More Drift” out of Indian River Inlet.


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VIRGINIA

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



I wish the fishing on the Eastern Shore was as consistent as the heat. From the Atlantic to the Chesapeake, the bite is batting a cool .500, while temperatures hold steady enough to bring sweat to your brow. But the weather will change, the tide will turn, and our rods will bend. All we need to do is be ready for the opportunity.

The inshore wrecks, reefs, and lumps off the coast of the ESVA have provided the most persistent path to a picture-perfect dinner plate. Flounder are the main course in a fine, fillet-filled meal. The inshore reefs and wrecks in less than 100 feet of water have been the stage where flounder and anglers wage battles that (hopefully) end with a full fish box.

When the current allows, jigging 2-4 oz baits tipped with curly-tail Gulp or Z-Man Doormatters in an array of colors—including white, chartreuse, pink, and orange—is a great choice. When the current is too strong, drifting baits on more traditional top-and-bottom-style rigs has done the trick. A heavy sinker and cut baits like long strips of squid, flounder belly, or smelt are all you need to ring the dinner bell for unsuspecting flatfish.

Around some of these same areas, cobia have been cruising—just looking for a live eel to be dropped in front of their noses. Blues and Spanish have also made their presence known, as anglers tangle with these toothy trophies using Clarkspoons trolled behind #1

and #2 planers. And if you're super lucky, you may even get a shot at a small mahi that's wandered into the relative shallows.

Now, the deep is another story—with pelagics pulling drag. Most of the action has been mahi and yellowfin, with a few marlin and wahoo to round out the experience. Most of it's happening in the canyons, though I do know of a handful of tuna—and one white—that were taken on the 20-fathom line. Purple and black seem to be the best colors to leave a bruise on hungry tuna, but pink and blue skirts and chains are on the menu as well.

The Chesapeake has definitely been hit or miss—sometimes it seems to literally be every

other day. Unfortunately, even the good days are cooling off in the summer heat. There has been some topwater activity for specks early in the morning. Just remember, both Maryland and Virginia rockfish seasons are closed. Pups have been few and far between, though we continue to hope for their long-awaited arrival.













Cobia are still around, but very spread out—from the CBBT to the Mariner target ship. The most exciting news comes from sightings of big blues and shoaled reds in the middle of the bay. While it might feel like finding a needle in a haystack, it could also be the start of a memory that lasts a lifetime.

So, the fishing is a little off, and the temperature is a little hot. The best treatment? Let the grass grow a little longer and cool down with some salty spray coming over the gunwale. After all, we have a responsibility to always enjoy this wonderful place we call home.

2025

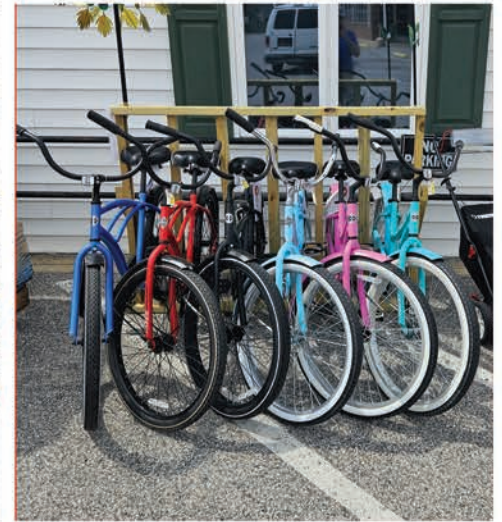
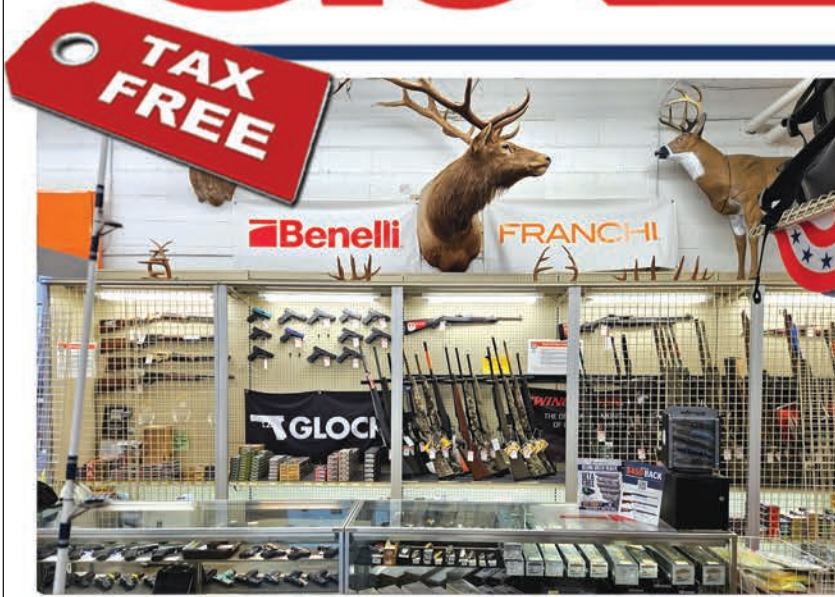
VIRGINIA REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - July 15 August 4 - December 31</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH No minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day headboat All Year</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>COBIA 43" minimum / Only 1>50" 1 per person/day • 2 per boat/day 6/15 - 9/20</p>
 <p>CROAKER No minimum 50 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 18-26" minimum 3 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD No minimum 4 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 5 per person/day All Year Only 1>24"</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 28-31" 1 per person/day 1/1-3/31 & 5/16-12/31</p>	 <p>FLOUNDER 4 per person/day All Year 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1-5/15 & 7/1-12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 12" minimum 1 per person/day All Year</p>

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