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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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Another year and another first for the crew of the "Full Service" out of Sunset Marina. Last year they scored the first bigeye tuna of the season on May 5th, and this year it was the first yellowfin tuna! Capts. Jim Barbey and Brendan Barbey saw a temperature break east of the Washington Canyon and decided to make a run. They were joined by anglers Chris Mentlik, Jermey Heinz, Jeff Rosenkilde, Taylor Bakke and Todd Sauerwald with mate Mike Davis. After a 65 mile run east in mostly 40° water they found a temperature break with clear water up to 68.5°s and in 400 fathoms! They saw birds, whales and lots of sea life which was promising. Shortly after lines in they had a double hookup. One pulled the hook at the boat, but they got Chris' in the box earning him and the crew First Fish for yellowfin for 2024. Other than a few skipjacks, these were the only bites for the day.



A sunny day and smooth seas greeted Sarah Yow as she ventured out on the "Priority 2". She was fishing with Jacob Michelsen in the Tangier Sound where she caught this beautiful speckled trout.

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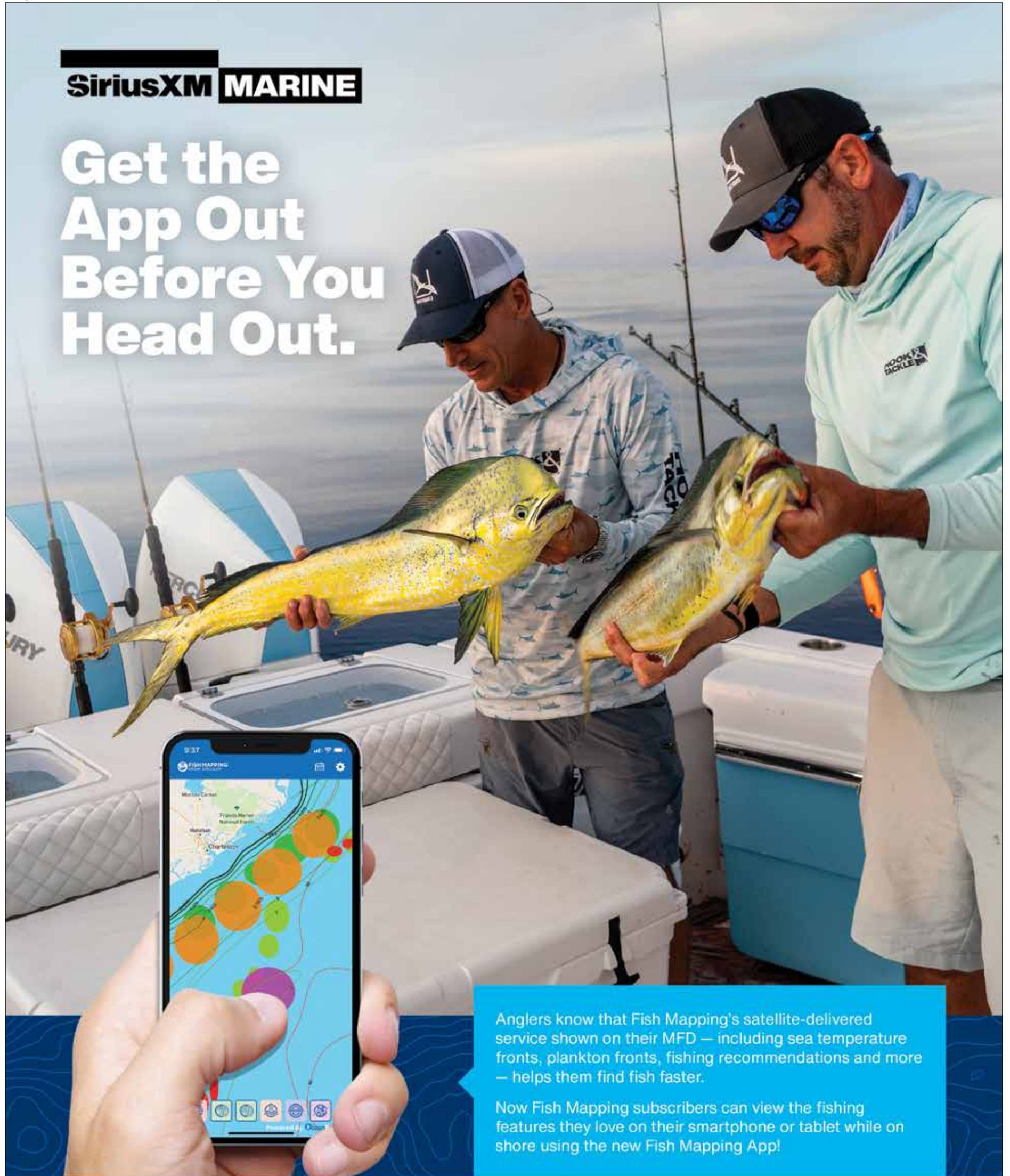
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Angler Clark Haller of Frederick, MD set up camp on the beach at Assateague Island last week and got to work. He was using a fish finder rig with sand fleas and landed this 28" black drum.w



Eamonn Carey and Larry Lee were fishing on the south jetty of the Indian River Inlet last week. Larry hooked into this 47" rockfish using a good ole white jig head. It set a new personal best for Larry.



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This Week Last Year

- The sea bass bite continued to be picky and spotty, but what anglers were missing in quantity was made up in quality. Some big knotheads made their way into coolers.
- This was the week the new regulations went into effect for stripers in Maryland. The Slot was reduced to 28"-31" in Maryland first, with Delaware and Virginia still a few weeks away from updating their regulations. Steve Goff hit the sands of Assateague Island in Maryland just a few days before the change and landed a sweet 32" striper and two others that were released.

Welcome to the Memorial Day edition of the Coastal Fisherman for 2024. Memorial Day is a solemn tribute to the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. It is a day to honor their courage, dedication and patriotism. As we gather with loved ones and friends on the long weekend, let us remember that our peace and liberty are built on their sacrifices. Let us cherish their legacy and strive to uphold the values they fought for.

Weather continues to be our adversary for getting offshore. Opening day for sea bass was last Wednesday, however howling winds, high seas and pummeling rain kept most captains in the slip. Capt. Chris Mizuak on the headboat "Angler" did get an intrepid crew to run out last Friday. They headed out about 40 miles

in some sloppy weather and set anchor in about 100' of water. Capt. Chris reported that the bass were picky and the bite was slow to start, but eventually some knot heads began to come over the rails. Appropriately, or coincidentally, it was Bob Houser (aka Sea Bass Bob) who got the first keeper knothead earning the First Fish title for sea bass in 2024. He used a 6" jig for that one, however others were getting some double hookups with hi/lo rigs & clam.



Saturday saw most of the fleet heading out despite conditions that were still less than ideal. Thankfully the conditions had settled enough that the bass were hungry and biting. Several boats reporting anglers with limit catches, like the "Surface Tension" out of Lewes and the "Angler" at the Talbot Street Pier.

We also got our first fish report from the canyons. The private boat "Full Service" out of Sunset Marina with Capts. Jim and Brendan Barbey at the helm took a run east of the Washington Canyon to explore an eddy they had been tracking. That was pretty good insight given that cloud cover had been hampering the satellite surface temp reports! They were east of the Washington Canyon when they found a temperature break



with clear water up to 68.5°! Shortly after lines in, they got a double hookup of yellowfin tuna. Angler Chris Mentlik got one in the boat; however the second one pulled the hook right at the boat. That secured First Fish honors for Chris for yellowfin! Capt. Jim reported seeing a lot of life out there and was convinced there would be more yellowfin action to come, but those were the only bites for the day, except for some skipjacks. Congratulations to Chris and crew.

Most of the captains I have talked to believe the tuna bite and perhaps mahi will turn on quickly as we move into June. Some research on Rip Chart's forecast would seem to support that, but the cloud cover is still limiting reports (see example to the right from Rutgers, all the white area is unreported). Our Windy App subscription shows a couple days this week that would be fishable. The weekend still looks like a question mark as I pen this report on Monday.

I concur with the option that things will turn on quickly and we will see not only the tuna action pick up, but perhaps our first white marlin in the next few weeks. Until then, keep your eyes on the weather east and take advantage of the fantastic action of the beaches for bluefish, striper and drum. As always, check our fishing reports from Capt. BJ Pietryak and Capt. Matt Abell for the details on the latest hot spots and baits. §

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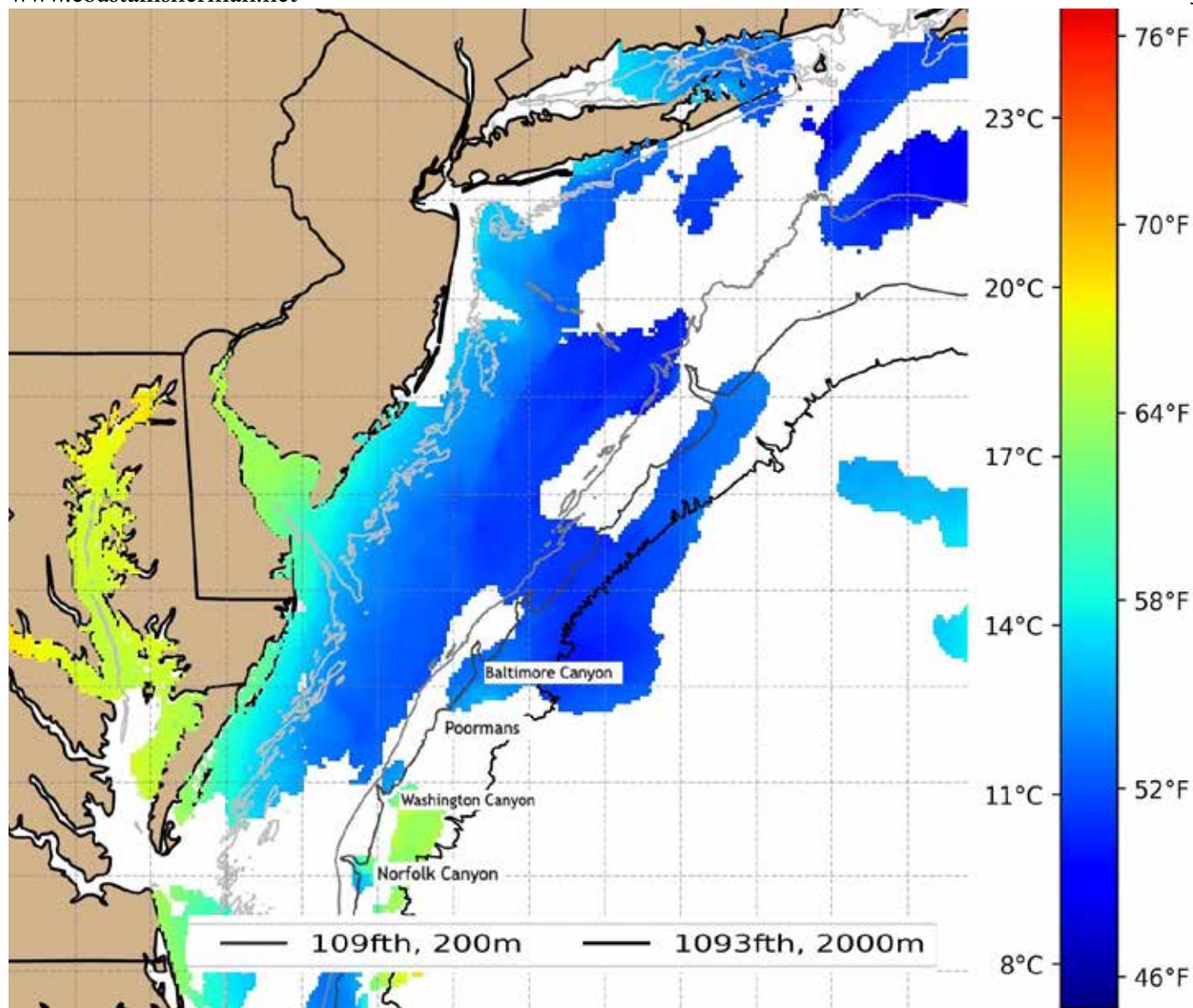
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GEOS Sea Surface Temp. 6-hr Composite May 20, 0600 GMT. Courtesy of RUCOOL and U. Delaware ORB Labs.



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Upcoming Tournaments

- The **Battle for the Buckle** offshore tournament returns for its second season from May 31st-June 2nd in association with the PBR Challenger Series Rodeo Event. More at pbroceancity.com.
- The Patapsco Open team hosts their **OC Smack Down Tuna Tournament** on June 7-8 based at the White Marlin Marina. More on Facebook under Patapsco Open.
- The **Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament** returns to the Ocean City Fishing Center on June 14-15th. More at TunaandTiaras.com or on Facebook.

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The action on big bluefish remains strong, especially at the Oceanic Fishing Pier in Ocean City on the Inlet. Jay Schmitz was there last week and hooked this 33" chopper blue. This is great news for the upcoming Blues for DU tournament on June 7-9, hosted by Bahia Marina.

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FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Last week in Maryland saw the start of the sea bass season on May 15. Unfortunately it was marred with high winds and rain. Big seas kept most of the boats at the docks. Friday was the best day of the week for nearshore sea bass fishing, however high seas made any attempt to get to the deep wrecks very difficult.

Nearshore Wrecks & Reefs

The kickoff of sea bass season is our unofficial start of the fishing season. Big sea heights and high winds made it a slow start to nearshore fishing. When boats were able to venture out of the inlet, sea bass were found in big numbers with even bigger sizes of fish. Pat De Groodt made it out to Little Gull and was rewarded

with 3 black drum from 22-30 inches. The fish were caught on green crab. They kept a 25" one for the table and reported the fillets were perfect without any worms. On the way in, Pat stopped by the inlet jetty and even picked up a few flounder up to 18 inches. The "Judith M" out of Bahia Marina ran out for sea bass and was confronted with a very sloppy ocean and finicky fish. Despite the rough seas and picky fish, they did manage to bring home a few keepers for their clients. This has not been the usual rocking gangbuster start to bass season we are used to. I've received reports that many boats are returning to the docks with only a couple of keepers. Reports on Saturday from the head boats were that the seas have calmed down and the

fish were much more ready to bite a hook. Many boats returned with happy anglers and much fuller coolers as the week progressed. The "Judith M" returned to the dock with reports of tough fishing and still snotty seas. The anglers caught a few keepers to bring home for dinner. The "Angler" braved the seas on Friday and returned home slightly battered, but with a few limits of bass and an overall good catch. On Saturday the seas layed out a bit and had a lot more limits. Capt. Chris stated the current was rolling hard, and if you were not at the right depth the dogfish were all over your bait. Good to hear that some limits were caught after such a rough last couple of days. Capt. Chris also reported the first sea bass of the year aboard the "Angler" despite sloppy weather. Bob Houser was the first angler to land a keeper sea bass. Even better, the fish was caught on a jig and not on bait. Beach to Bay Guide Service reports a great trip with numbers of reds and tog. They can't wait for the weather to calm and water to warm so they can capitalize on these nice fish coming through.

Back Bays & Inlets

With the rough seas and wind, many anglers opted to stay in the back bays and fish for flounder, blues and rockfish. "Lucky Break Charters" said the weather wasn't great but they still found a few flounder willing to bite the lines. Hopefully the next couple of weeks will warm the water up some and the wind will die down.

Kevin McNelis got the first keepers of the year with a 19.5" and a 17.5" flounder. Kevin also reported tons of small blues and rockfish at the Rt. 50 Bridge. The area of the bridge

and the main Thorofare are the best spots for catching fish.

Surf Fishing

Surf fishing remains strong on Assateague Island with big bluefish and black drum being the primary catches. John Spence reported despite rough surf conditions, bluefish, including a 32 inch one, were caught. He used a bunker chunk to fool this nice sized chomper. Aiden Gottshal managed to pull in a few blues and even a nice rockfish from the surf. Justin Dipietro said that although it was a little rough, putting in the time paid off with several good sized bluefish as well as a few overslot stripers.

David Ochinerio fished Assateague Island during a crazy NE blow. Despite having to use a 14 oz. to hold the bottom, he managed to hook and bring in one keeper for dinner. Many anglers reported 12-16 ounces or sputnik sinkers were needed to maintain the baits on the bottom without spinning out of control in the rough surf. Brian Reynolds had a good day on the island landing 5 bluefish and a nice black drum. Mullet rigs and clams on slider rigs accounted for the keeper fish.

"Freedom Baits USA" reported the "Nature Boy" has been an absolute terror lately. First he caught multiple blues off the beach, then keeper rockfish, and lastly a weakfish. The weakies were 20" and 25". The final tally also included 7 keeper flounder, all caught on their 5.5 bare knuckle swimbait. These baits are available at SeaHawk Sports Center as well as All Tackle in Ocean City.

Man Choi was using a fish finder rig and pulled in a big shark. Man also said he lost a few drum in the surf. He further reported he caught several lines and rigs that had broken off of other anglers due to the rough surf.

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Billy Thomas reports he finally got his black drum off the Assateague Island beaches. He said it only took 2 years to catch the 30 inch black. He also caught an out of slot rockfish which was returned to the water. Steve Maddox said it took throwing some 14 ounce weight to get the job done, however he did manage to catch a few overslot rockfish. These fish may not be keepers but are still a blast to catch off the surf. Mullet rigs, cut bait and clams on circle hooks can all be used to catch both rockfish as well as drum. Mildred Reyes-Ritter had a blast even though she had to toss 12 oz all day. She ended up catching several bluefish and black drum. Mildred also caught and released an overslot rockfish.

Jack Kutchen caught a 4 foot dog shark and a 41 inch striper near low tide. The 2 rods went down within one minute of each other. Both rods were baited with mullet chunks. He reported the incoming tide was filled with nothing but skates. Josh Barfield found a few Tuesday afternoon, landing 2 stripers on his new surf rod, a 13 foot Chase Haugh in fighting yellow color. That's a nice way to break in a custom new rod! Russell Lederman reeled in and released a 40" rockfish caught on sand fleas. Sandra Basham Lotz pulled in a big black drum caught on fresh surf clam. Steve Lewis put in 12 hrs and ended up with a nice eater drum. He was relieved he didn't get skunked. Claudia Popa finally hooked into a keeper rockfish off the beach at Assateague. Nowadays that is a difficult feat with the small slot limit. Great job!

Bryan Muffoletto was down for cruise week but found time to hit the surf and pulled in a nice blue using a finger mullet.

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Russell Lederman got some time on the sand with legendary surfman Davis Moore. The pair spent 12 hours fishing the suds off of Assateague catching bluefish up to 33" and this nice rock. At 33" it was just over the slot, as was the 39 inchers they also beached.



While the Lewes Canal gets a lot of recognition for the flounder catches, other fare is there! Bob Fitzwater hooked this 18" sea trout with a white jig head and a 5" green Gulp swimming mullet.

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Sally Sourbeer was just a day too early catching these two keeper flounder from the Lewes Canal. Had she waited a day to use her minnows, she could have possibly placed in the Lewes Harbor Canal Flounder Tournament the next day!

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Black Drum 	March 31 Chris Taylor Assateague	April 3 Jeremy Zinn 145th Street, OC	Bigeye Tuna 		May 5 Jeff Rosenkilde "Full Service" Baltimore Canyon
Cobia 		July 4 Gabriella Kendus Faithful Steward	Bluefin Tuna 		May 29 The Crew "Marli" Baltimore Canyon
Summer Flounder 	April 8 Paul Musser Jr. Thorofare	March 27 Dakota Bittner Thorofare	Longfin Tuna 		
Sea Bass 	 May 17 Bob Houser Ocean Structure	May 15 Mike DePalma Sr. Great Eastern Reef	Yellowfin Tuna 	 May 18 Chris Mentlik "Full Service" Washington Canyon	May 6 Chris Kroh "Kilroy" Poorman's Canyon
Sheepshead 	May 7 Joe McNeal Ocean Structure	May 5 Anthony Carrieri Ocean City Jetty	Dolphin 		May 6 Brad Hubbard "Talkin' Trash" Poorman's Canyon
Striped Bass 	January 3 Brian Reynolds Rt. 90 Bridge	April 15 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	Swordfish 		June 16 Crew "Wrecker" Poorman's Canyon
Tautog 	January 8 Anthony Emerick Ocean Structure	January 31 Josh Schwemlein Ocean Structure	Blue Marlin 		June 1 Steve Sylvester "Talkin' Trash" Norfolk Canyon
Wahoo 		June 9 Josh Short Poorman's Canyon	White Marlin 		June 2 Joe Huk "RESTLESS LADY II" Baltimore Canyon

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



Old Inlet Bait & Tackle in Rehoboth, DE hosted their annual Cast for a Cure Surf Fishing Tournament to benefit cancer research last weekend. This year's event got off to a quick start when team OTW (Over the Waves) checked in with this just over the slot 32" rockfish!

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FISHING CHARTERS



The weather does not keep charter Capt. Nick Clemente off the water. He and the intrepid anglers spent some time in the Ocean City Bay on the new "Ivy Sea" and reeled in 9 keeper flounder. I am sure white Gulp was on the hook.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Sea Bass Bob Houser (right) lived up to his name this week landing the first legal knothead of the season! He headed out with Capt. Chris Mizurak on the headboat "Angler" on the first semi fish-able day last Friday. They ran about 40 miles out in sloppy weather and set the hook in 100' of water and got a few keepers on board. While Sea Bass Bob used a jig, others got double hookups using hi/lo rigs.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Berlin, MD anglers Mike Lupiwok Jr., George Zacepilo, Ross Lerman and Mike Lupiwok, Sr. all headed over to the Eastern Shore to spend the day with Tangier Sound Charters out of Crisfield, MD. It was opening day for rockfish in the bay and they saw lots of action. They caught two nice sized sea trout, a couple keeper rocks as well as releasing some undersized fish and a pup red drum.

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Local Kellan Roberts has been officially recognized by the International Game Fish Organization (IGFA) as a World Record holder! He holds the All-Tackle Length Junior record for catching and releasing this 114 CM (44.88") striped bass last December. He was fishing with his dad Brian Roberts and Bill Miller in the Virginia part of the Chesapeake Bay off of Onancock, VA using live eels.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Joel Peterson had some luck on this rainy morning trip to Assateague Island with Ben Witmer. It was Joel's first time surf fishing and he landed this big rock using a fish finder rig with sand fleas tipped with squid.



The weather finally broke and so did the sea bass bite. Several charters returned last Saturday with boat limits or close to it. These anglers were on the charter boat "Surface Tension" out of Lewes with Capt. Keith Beebe working inshore reefs and wrecks, and were getting double and triple hookups!

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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Brin Parsons finally got the headboat “Thelma Dale V” out on the water from Fisherman’s Wharf for some sea bassing last Friday despite the difficult weather. She dealt with ripping currents and reported that their 16 oz. weights could not hold in 100’ of water! They did manage some keepers and this lucky angler took the pool money and one of the first sea bass of the season.



Taylor Bakke of Berlin, MD hooked into this 28” rockfish from the Rt. 50 Bridge using a 5” paddle tail lure. Despite being *in the slot*, he released it to swim another day!

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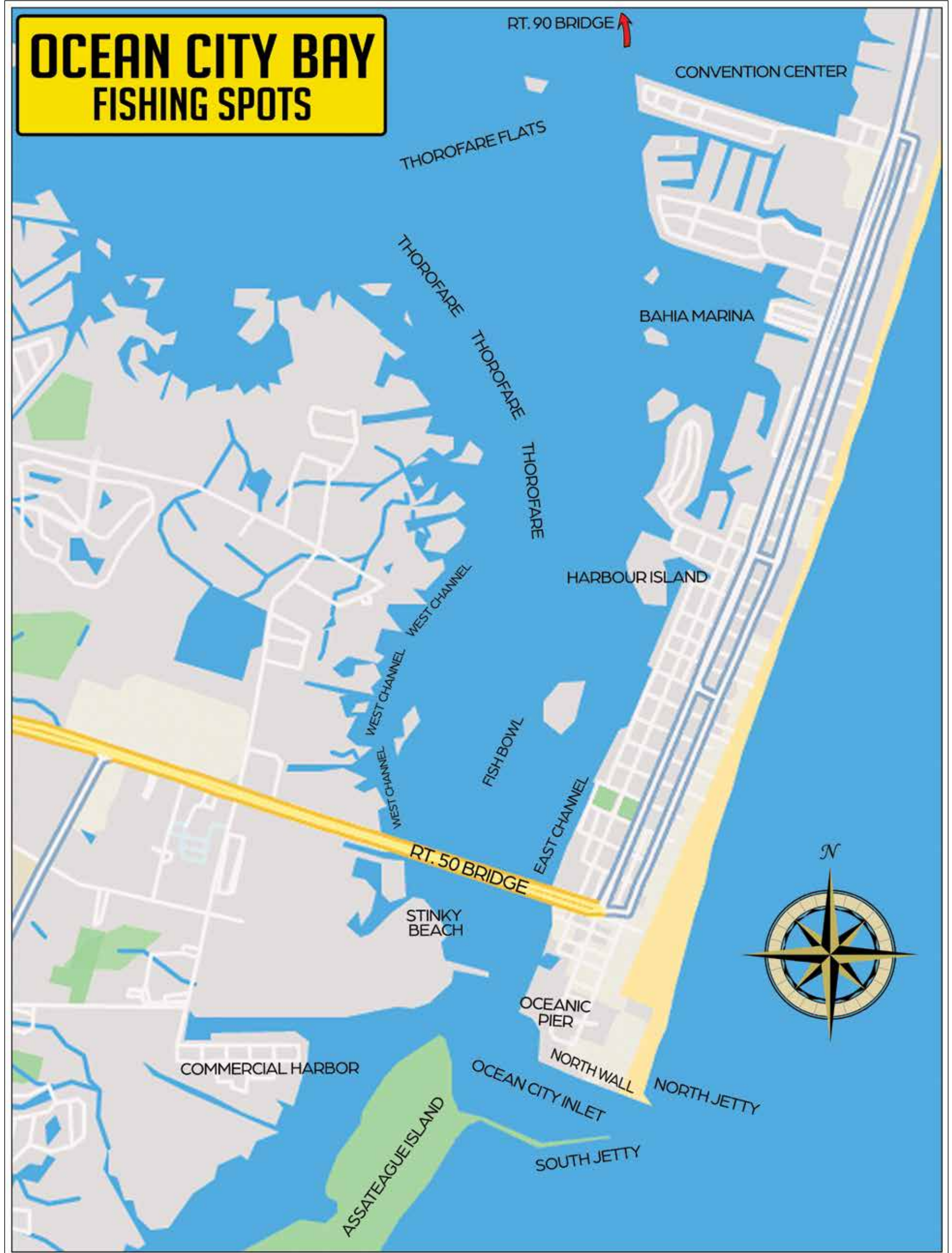
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Greg Lohrman from Frankford, DE shared this sandy 34" bluefish he caught off the 3R's beach in Delaware. Mullet was his bait of choice.



The action was hot just off the south jetty at the Indian River Inlet for brothers Phil Lienesch of Bowling Green, KY and John Lienesch. Phil caught this 40 inch and 18.3 lb. striper using a jig with a paddle tail lure.

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The weakfish bite has been great this spring with lots of catches being shared. This one caught by Eleuterio Abreu of Millsboro, DE at the Indian River Inlet is notable as it earned him a Delaware Citation! He used a quarter ounce bucktail to land the 25.5" and 5.2 lb. weakie. Measured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the marina.

2024

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 40" minimum 1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/15 Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers</p>
 <p>CROAKER 9" minimum 25 per person/day</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 18-27" minimum 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD 4 per person/day</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 4 per person/day</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 28-31" Less than 3 miles from shore 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 16" minimum 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>

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DELAWARE

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Last week in Delaware, the waters gave us rough seas and high winds. Sea bass season opened on the 15th but I was unable to find any boats that made it out for a successful opening day. Rough seas and finicky fish made it a bust all throughout the area. The surf is still very much our savior with big rockfish, blues and large black drum.

Back Bays & Inlets

A few nice flounder are starting to come in off the rocks in Indian River along with the usual big blues. Sea trout are also coming in. Elenterio Abreu caught the biggest sea trout we have seen this year while fishing

the inlet. The fat 14 inch, 5.2 lb. fish was enough to earn him a citation and his name on our current leader board for heaviest weakfish to date. Great job!

The Cape Henlopen Pier has been a constant producer of quality fish last week. Taiwan took advantage of it and landed 6 of these hard hitters. He released all but one which he brought home for fish dip. Kevin Blouch fished the pier and caught 3 big blues. The fish were checked in at Lewes Harbour Marina. The pier produced for James Jones who caught a big 9.2 lb., 33" blue using a finger mullet. Frank Spence checked in to LHM with a 26 inch black drum caught in the

bay. He reported the fish was caught using a hi-lo rig with clam strips. He also landed a 20 " striper. The big girls are finally starting to show up for the spawn. Indian River near Massey ditch is producing some big blues on an incoming tide. Alan Beck states if you hit the tide at the right moment, the blitz is still on. The Lewes Harbour Marina Canal Flounder Tournament was held this last Friday. Over 500 anglers entered the tournament and the canal was loaded with anglers looking for the prized flatties. A few big fluke were caught, although many anglers reported the fishing was really tough. First place was taken by Freddy Wilkerson at 5.69 lbs., Chad Mitchell was second at 3.73 lbs. and Herbie Richards placed 3rd at 3.54 lbs. Renee Hartman was the Top Lady Angler with a 2.12 lb. fish and Colton Hartman was the Kid's winner at 2.06 lbs.

Nearshore Wrecks & Reefs

Sea bass season usually inundates me with more reports than I can fit into my article. This year however, due to rough seas and dirty water, not many reports of sea bass are coming in. For those that did venture out for the black beauties, the going was rough and the fish were very picky about biting a hook. The Lewes Tog Club reported a good trip last week with almost 25-30 throwbacks along with some nice keepers. Bruce Carlton along with Dr. Keith started out slow but picked up as the tide changed. They reported catching sea bass

including a big 17" one. Unfortunately this was the day before opening season so all fish had to be returned to the water. Their biggest tog was around 8 lbs. That's some good eating! Many boats returning to the Lewes Harbour Marina loaded the table with big sea bass catches. I guess the seas have calmed down enough to allow the fish to bite on the weekend. The "Surface Tension" enjoyed limits of the black beauties making their clients very happy. The crew came home with over 50 keepers. The LHM reports all the headboats had traditional sea bass catches for the opening of bass season. What a difference a few days make. So even with the late start of the season due to bad weather, the weekend has shown a return to a more normalized beginning sea bass season. Hopefully as the weather and ripping currents return to normal the fishing will get even better.

Site 11 was the hotspot for bass. Many boats did not venture out to the NJ/DE Reef due to poor conditions. It seems that despite the slow opening day the bass are here and ready to finally start biting.

Surf Fishing

The beach has been the most consistent of all our waters for producing quality fish. Big stripers are still being caught on both mullet rigs as well as cut bait. Grant Barnhart got a whopper of a fish measuring 40 inches on the south side of the inlet. Even though the fish was overslot and had to be returned, it was still a great fish on a surf rod. Steve Maddox pulled in a nice black drum last weekend using fresh surf clams. Steve always seems to know just the right beach to fish for these big uglies. Chase Haugh

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www.coastalfisherman.net scored his personal best, a 49" rockfish. There have been some good reports of the big rock moving through our area last week. If you want to hook one of these big girls, now is the time, because as the water warms they will quickly head north out of our area.

Josh Frantz had his little helper son with him on the beach and caught a citation 35.5" bluefish weighing 12.25 lbs. Ryan Leonardo fished right by the inlet and pulled in a 10.5 lb., 32 inch blue. Billy Settle and his wife had a great day on the beach using mullet rigs to catch their big blues. They landed 3 nice ones to take home and lost a few more. Jon Clemmer was rewarded with a steady diet of blues from the beach just south of the jetty. He reported nothing big but did have a blast catching fish after fish. Josh Frantz fished 3R's with finger mullet and caught a nice 12.25 lb. bluefish. The fish was weighed in at Rick's Bait and Tackle. Steve Hamburg spent his day chasing the blues up and down the beach. He caught them on popsicle mullet but stated that anything would have worked as fired up as they were.

Crabs & Clams

Crabbing has been producing a ton of juvenile crabs with pots averaging 2-5 crabs per pot on a 3 day soak. Numerous crabs with eggs as well as crabs just undersized are in each of the pots indicating the ratio of keepers should increase after the spawn is over.

Clams are slow as the water is still cold and they are still buried deep in the mud bottom.

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Angler Chic Stearrett is upping his game and his records this season. He was on the board holding the record for heaviest rockfish of the season for a 36 lb. one he caught on the 5th. He moved that up with this 48" and 42 lb. striper he caught from the Indian River Inlet last week using a swim shad.



The bay behind Assateague Island has been picking up as a spot for flounder. Lamont Hilbert took his boat "SEABUM" there last week and reeled in this 17" flatfish.

2024

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 <47" curved fork length 2 per vessel/day or trip 47" to < 73" curved fork length 1 per vessel/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 3 per Charter/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 6 per Headboat/day or trip 47" to < 73" curved fork length 2 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 5/1 - 10/31 3 per person (Recreational) 5 per person Uninspected (Charter) 7 per person Inspected (Charter)</p>
 <p>DOLPHIN No minimum Length Boat Limit 54 Charter 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.

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Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov



It has been a great spring for weakfish this year! More have been reported this year than any in recent memory. Jon Siddons from Dagsboro, DE shared this 24" one with Fenwick Bait & Tackle that he caught from the fishing pier in Lewes.



Kevin McNelis and crew got their first keeper flounder of the season fishing off the jetty at the Ocean City Inlet. They caught these two 19.5" and 17.5" fish as well as some throwbacks using white Gulp, then headed to the Rt. 50 Bridge and released a few stripers and bluefish.

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Some nice catches off the sands of 3Rs Beach in Delaware. Josh Frantz was there and hooked this chopper bluefish using finger mullet. At 12.25 lbs. it is now our Heaviest Bluefish for Delaware so far this season. Pictured at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.

2024

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CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES

	MD	DE **	VA		MD	DE **	VA
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	-	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*	80"	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	25 lbs.	Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	6 lbs. or 26"	Swordfish	47"	Any Size	100 lbs.
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	30 lbs.	TUNA:			
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	1.5 lb. or 16"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"	40 lbs.
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	20 lbs.	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"	32"
Red Drum*	36"	45"	-	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Sailfish*	Any Size	-	-	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"	100 lbs. or 60"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	10 lbs. or 24"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	4 lbs. or 26"	* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program			
Speckled Trout	24"	-	5 lbs. or 24"	** DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release			
Striped Bass	40"	44"	44"	*** Use curved-fork-length measurements			
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	9 lbs. or 23"	eregulations.com			



Ryan Leonardo had a good week for flounder. He got his first one of the season at 18" and then the next day caught this 19" one, both from the Lewes Canal. He reported catching a few schoolies as well.



It was a tough start of the sea bass season for Capt. Monty Hawkins on the headboat "Morning Star", as well as the rest of the fleet. Opening day saw gusts up to 43 mph and seas built to over 10'. It wasn't until Saturday that he got out and it was no picnic! He reports every sea bass was *earned* with several anglers getting their limits.



UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!

45th ANNUAL SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT
 Registration: June 21, 6:30-8:00pm
 Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 22 & 23
 Weigh-Ins: June 22 & 23, 3:00-6:30pm at Sunset Marina

TOURNAMENT SERIES

— 2024 SCHEDULE —



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

<p>42nd ANNUAL CANYON KICK OFF * Registration: July 3, 6:30-8:00pm FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 5, 6 & 7 Weigh-Ins: July 5, 6 & 7 5:00-7:30pm at Sunset Marina</p>	<p> 20th ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC * To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation Registration: July 19, 6:00-8:00pm Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 20 & 21 Weigh-Ins: July 20, 3:00-6:30pm and July 21, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina</p>	<p>16th ANNUAL FRANKY PETTOLINA "HEELS & REELS" TOURNAMENT * To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund Registration: August 1, 6:00-8:00pm Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 2 & 3 Weigh-Ins: August 2 & 3 5:30-7:30pm at Atlantic Tackle</p>
<p>44th ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP Registration: Sept. 11, 6:00-8:00pm Fishing Days: (2 of 3) Sept. 12, 13 & 14 Weigh-Ins: NO WEIGH-INS This is strictly a release tournament. Catch reports will be turned in to the Marlin Club Office nightly Sept. 12, 13 & 14, 6:00pm - 8:00pm</p>	<p>66th ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT * TBD</p>	



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HEAVIEST

Fish of the Year

2024

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



Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
Bluefish 	May 2 Joe Payne Assateague 10.2 lbs.	 May 17 Josh Frantz 3R's 12.25 lbs.	Weakfish 		 May 17 Eleuturiu Abreu Indian River Inlet 5.2 lbs.
Black Drum 		May 3 Lacey Moffett Coral Beds 58 lbs.	Bigeye Tuna 		
Cobia 			Bluefin Tuna 		
Summer Flounder 		 May 17 Freddy Wilkerson Lewes Canal 5.89 lbs.	Longfin Tuna 		
Sea Bass 			Yellowfin Tuna 		
Sheepshead 		May 7 Joe McNeal Ocean Structure 11 lbs.	Dolphin 		
Striped Bass 		 May 13 Chic Stearrett Indian River Inlet 42 lbs.	Swordfish 		
Tautog 	February 5 Jeff Johnson Ocean Structure 22 lbs.	April 15 Scott Shoup Ocean Structure 8.4 lbs.	Blue Marlin 		
Wahoo 			White Marlin 		

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



We think Hanna Conway knew she had a good thing when she brought this black drum she caught in the Delaware Bay using surf clams to Rick's Bait & Tackle. It was her first time drum fishing and at 47.2 lbs. the big drum earned her a youth citation from Delaware. She even wore her Xtratuf cowboy boots!

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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



Baked Stuffed Clams

Ingredients:

24 middle-neck clams or top-neck clams rinsed well to remove sand and grit

3 tablespoons onion fine dice

3 tablespoons bell peppers finely diced

1 clove garlic minced

2 slices bacon finely chopped

¼ cup butter ½ stick

2 tablespoons parsley finely chopped

1 tablespoon lemon juice

1 cup bread crumbs, plain

¼ cup clam juice liquid from steaming the clams, more if needed

¼ cup Romano cheese grated



1 teaspoon oregano

¼ black pepper

¼ crushed red pepper

12-14 clam half-shells well rinsed, foot removed

Directions:

Rinse clams in cold running

water changing out the water frequently until the water starts to run clear. Remove all sand and grit.

*Discard any clams that are not closed or that won't close when you tap them on the counter. These clams are dead and should not be consumed.

Over high heat in a medium to large pot add 1 tablespoon olive oil and ½ cup water. Add thoroughly washed clams to the pot and cover. Allow to cook for 6-10 minutes or until the shells have all opened.

Remove the clams from the pot and let them cool until you can comfortably handle them.

**Save the clam broth that you don't need for this recipe for later use in soups or sauces.

Remove the clam meat from the clams (not the clam foot which is attached to the shell) and chop into small pieces.

Pick the best clam shells for stuffing, gathering enough for the amount of clams you're making. Break apart the clamshells from their hinges removing the foot from the shell. Rinse the shells in cold running water until clean. Set aside until needed.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F

In a large sauté pan over medium-high heat, melt the

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butter. Add the bacon, onion and peppers, saute for 2 minutes then add the garlic and continue to saute for another minute.

Turn off the heat and add the minced clams, bread crumbs, parsley, lemon juice, seasonings and clam juice.

Stir until the stuffing mixture is completely moistened. The stuffing should be moist but not soggy. Add more clam juice if too dry or more bread crumbs if too wet.

Stuff clam shells with stuffing and place on a baking sheet.

Bake for approximately 20-25 minutes at 375 degrees F. Or until the tops start to brown.

Serve with lemon wedges and cocktail sauce.

One-Dish Rockfish

Ingredients:

5 cups fresh spinach

2 (6 ounce) rockfish fillets

10 cherry tomatoes, halved

½ cup vegetable broth

2 tablespoons minced fresh dill

½ teaspoon lemon pepper

¼ teaspoon garlic powder

¼ teaspoon onion powder

Salt and ground black pepper to taste

2 slices lemon slices

2 slices onion slices

1 teaspoon butter

Directions:

Gather all ingredients. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F

Layer spinach on the bottom of a 2-quart baking dish. Arrange rockfish on top; scatter tomatoes around fillets. Pour in broth and season the fish with dill, lemon pepper, garlic powder, onion powder, salt and pepper. Place a slice of lemon and onion on each fillet and top with butter. Cover the entire dish with aluminum foil.

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Bake in preheated oven until the fish flakes easily, 20 to 25 minutes.

Sheepshead Fish Stew

Ingredients:

3 tablespoons bacon fat or vegetable oil

1 large yellow or white onion, chopped

1/2 pound fresh okra, sliced (or 1 cup dried)

2 teaspoons Cavender's seasoning (optional)

1 quart chicken or seafood stock

1 quart water

1 cup crushed tomatoes

2 cups cooked hominy or other corn (canned or frozen is fine)

2 cups cooked black-eyed peas or butter beans (canned or frozen is fine)

1 pound smoked sausage, sliced

2 pounds sheepshead fish, cut into 1-inch chunks

1/4 cup chopped chives or parsley

Saltines (optional)



Directions:

In a large soup pot, heat the bacon fat over medium-high heat and saute the chopped onion, stirring often, until it just begins to color around the edges, about 5 to 8 minutes.

Add the okra and Cavender's seasoning and stir well. Saute

this for 3 minutes or so if you have fresh or frozen okra. If you are using dried, just mix it around a bit.

Pour in the water, stock and crushed tomatoes. Bring to a simmer and add salt to taste. Add the hominy, beans and sausage. Simmer, don't boil, for 15 minutes.

Add the fish and simmer another 10 minutes. Stir in the chopped chives and serve. If you want to bulk this up a bit, crush Saltines into the soup while eating.

Fish Taco Bowls

Ingredients:

4 - 6 oz. boneless skinless fish fillets, such as blackfish, cod, mahi, cut into 1 inch pieces

Olive oil spray

2 to 3 teaspoons cajun seasoning, or to taste

1/4 cup mayonnaise

1 teaspoon sriracha or chipotle in adobo sauce

2 limes

5 cups slaw, red cabbage, white cabbage and shredded carrots

1/2 tablespoon olive oil

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

Cilantro, optional

Directions:

Spritz fish with oil. Apply seasoning over entire fish. Cut 1 lime into wedges and halve the other.

Fish Taco Seasoning:

Combine mayo and sriracha or chipotle and squeeze 1/4 of the lime. Add a little water until it's easy to drizzle later.

Air fry the fish 6 minutes 400F shaking the basket half way.

Air Fryer fish taco:

Meanwhile, combine slaw with 1/2 tablespoon olive oil, remaining half lime and 1/2 teaspoon salt.

Divide on 4 plates, add fish on the side and drizzle the spicy



mayo over the fish.

Serve with lime wedges and garnish with cilantro.

No air fryer, no problem! Heat a skillet on high heat, spray with oil and cook 5 to 6 minutes.

Blackened Redfish "On the Halfshell"

Ingredients:

2 large redfish fillets, scales left on

Extra virgin olive oil

For the Blackening Mixture:

1 tablespoon salt

1 tablespoon garlic powder

1 tablespoon onion powder

1 tablespoon paprika

2 teaspoons freshly ground black pepper

1 teaspoon cayenne pepper

For the Herb Butter

6 tablespoons butter

1 tablespoon minced flat-leaf parsley

1 tablespoon minced fresh sage

1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary

Coarse salt

1 Freshly ground black pepper

Directions:

Make the blackening mixture, if using. Combine the salt, garlic and onion powders, paprika, black pepper and cayenne pepper in a bowl and mix with your fingers. Alternatively,

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use your favorite commercial blackening rub.

Run your fingers over the fish fillets, feeling for bones. Pull out any you find with needle-nose pliers. Lightly oil the fish fillets with olive oil, then season generously with the blackening mixture.

Set up your grill for direct grilling and heat to high. Brush or scrape the grill grate clean and oil well.

Make the herb butter: Melt the butter in a small saucepan.

Arrange the fish fillets, flesh side down on the grill grate and grill until nicely browned, about 3 minutes. Using a

spatula and tongs, carefully turn the fish over and continue to cook for 3 minutes until the fish is cooked through. To check for doneness, press the fish with the tip of your finger. It should flake easily.

Transfer the fish to a platter or plates, scale side down, and drizzle with some of the herb butter before serving.

Smokey & Savory Sea Bass

Ingredients:

- 24 oz skin-on boneless sea bass fillets
- 2 tbsp olive oil, divided

- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp cayenne
- 1/4 tsp cumin
- 1/2 tsp oregano
- 1 tsp paprika
- 3/4 tsp salt, divided

- 6 oz corn kernels
- 3 1/2 cups cooked medium-grain rice (from 1 3/4 cups uncooked)
- 1/4 cup scallions, chopped
- 1 tbsp lime juice
- 2 tbsp parsley, chopped

Directions:

Marinate the Sea Bass:

Add 1/2 tsp ground black pepper, 1/2 tsp garlic powder, 1/2 tsp cayenne, 1/4 tsp cumin, 1/2 tsp oregano, 1 tsp paprika, and 1/2 tsp salt to 24 oz fillets. Rub well to coat both sides evenly.

For the Blackened Sea Bass:

Mix the rice: In a large mixing bowl, add 3 1/2 cups cooked medium-grain rice, 6 oz corn kernels, 1 tbsp lime juice, 1/4 tsp salt, and 1 tbsp olive oil. Toss well.

Cook the sea bass: Add 1 tbsp olive oil to a skillet over medium heat, then place the



fillets skin side down and cook for 8 minutes. Flip to the other side and cook for 3 more minutes.

Garnish and serve: Transfer the fillets to serving plates with mixed rice. Sprinkle 2 tbsp chopped parsley and 1/4 cup chopped scallions on top. §

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Sisters Michelle Lambie of Rehoboth, DE and Darlene Lambie White tore up the sea bass on a trip to the Del Jersey Reef with Capt. Beau Fibelkorn on the charter boat “Undaunted” out of the Indian River Inlet. Michelle (left) caught a 2.7 lb. knothead. Sister Darlene (right) who was not to be out done hooked a triple header! All were caught using rainbow clams.

2024

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 37" Minimum • 1 per person or vessel</p>
 <p>CROAKER 8" Minimum • No Limit</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 20-27" minimum 5 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD No limit</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 12" minimum No creel limit</p>
 <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 16" minimum 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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Reading, PA natives Rhonda and Jeff Klick may be in the running for best photo pose! Rhonda caught this 35" bluefish using mullet off of Conquest Beach. They were fishing with Chris & Angela Klick from Douglasville, PA and the group caught a total of 7 bluefish for the day as well as a skate and a 3.5' shark!



Birt Webley had a secret weapon in his arsenal on this trip to the Oceanic Fishing Pier in Ocean City. Hidden under that hoodie is a Coastal Fisherman t-shirt! That gave him the edge and he landed this 34" chopper bluefish.



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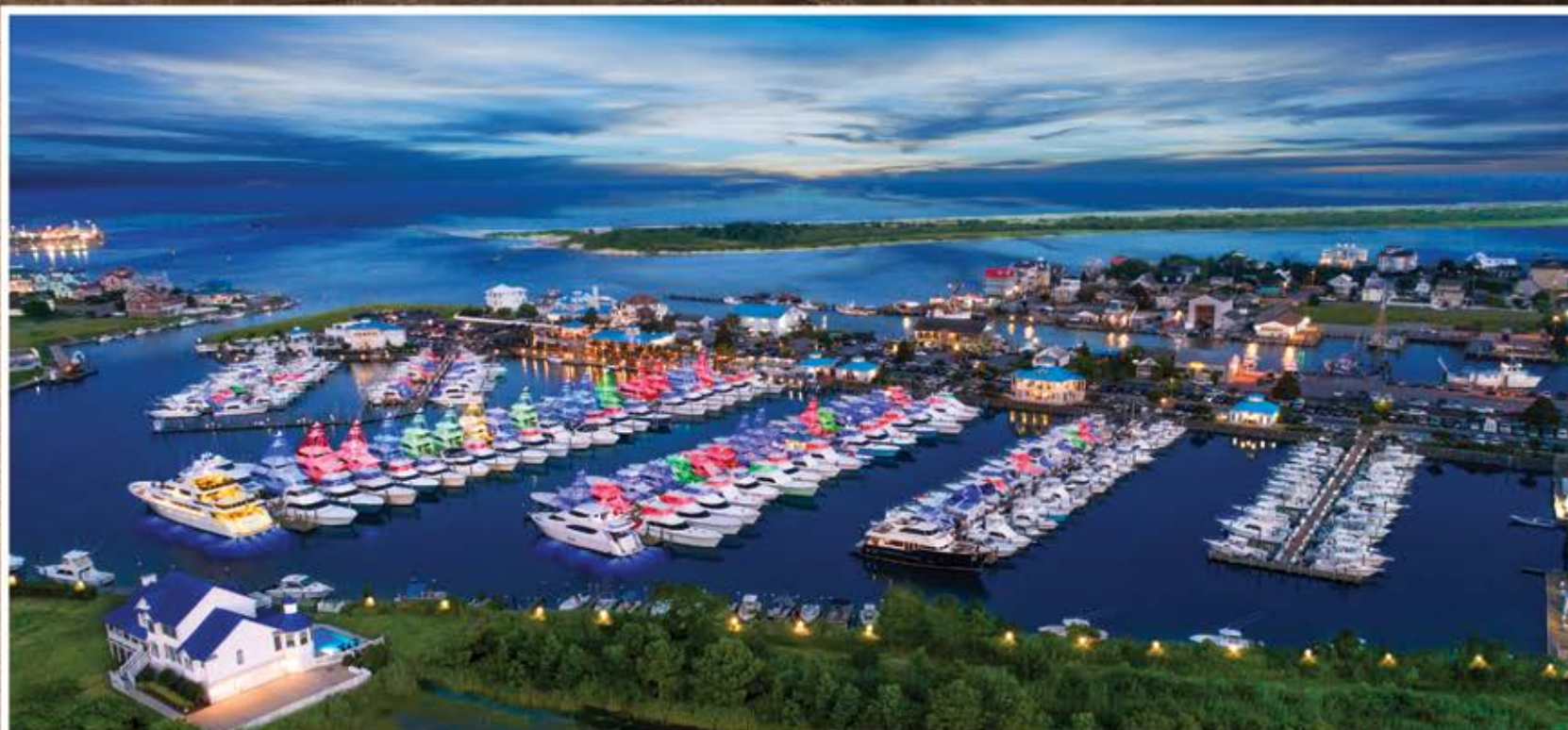
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Lewes Harbour Marina Owner Billy Swords (left) handed out some serious money last Friday after the Lewes Canal Flounder Tournament. Despite the weather it was one of the biggest turnouts ever. Big money was on the table, but at the end of the day angler Freddy Wilkerson dominated the leader board with a 5.69 lb. flatfish. Interestingly, Freddy bought his boat just a week before the event and worked with Lewes Harbour Marina on what to use. He settled on a Long Neck Lure Poison Tail and landed the winning fish after only 20 minutes from the start.

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Chad Mitchell locked into 2nd Place at the Lewes Harbour Canal Flounder Tournament last Friday with a 3.73 lb. flounder he caught mid day. That fish earned him a cool \$4,000 prize!



Herbie Richard got a couple of prizes during the Lewes Harbour Marina Canal Flounder Tournament last week. He posted early in the day with a 3.54 lb. flounder that held on to take 3rd Place overall. In addition he used an Aqua Clear Lure that earned an additional \$1,000 from the manufacturer for a total payout of \$3,000.

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Renee Hartman slipped into the scales with only a few minutes to spare during the Lewes Harbour Marina Canal Flounder Tournament last week. This 2.12 lb. flounder secured her spot as top Women Angler for the event and a custom rod & reel combo.



Another chopper bluefish from the surf at Assateague Island! This time it was Chris Owens of West Ocean City. He landed this 29" and 9.5 lb. blue using finger mullet.

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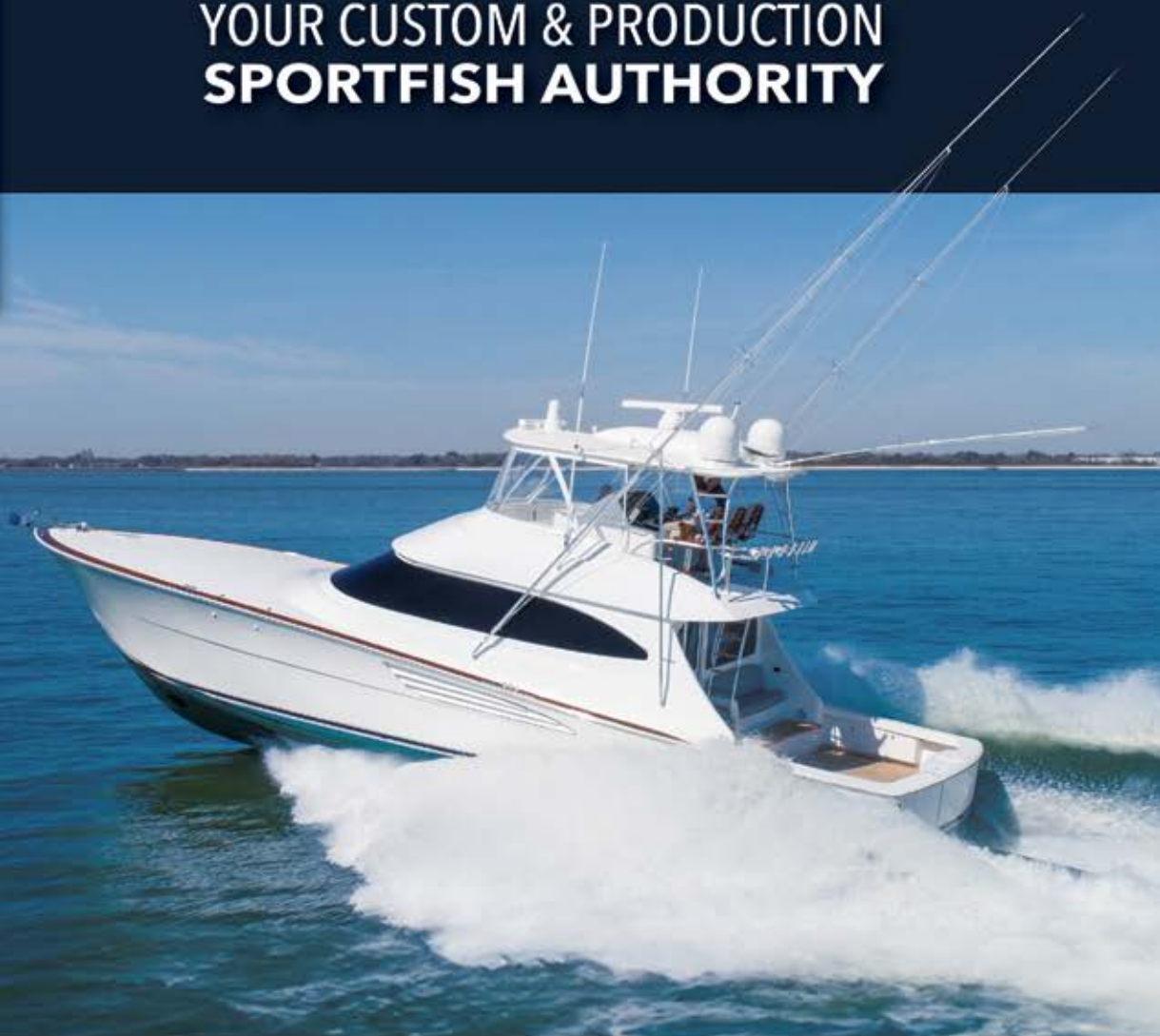
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Snarky Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson



What We Know (Part 2)

In last week's column I relayed a true story from 1978 about a 14-year old boy who caught a 124-pound swordfish from a Fenwick Island beach, thus proving beyond a shadow of doubt that "maybe" there's a "chance" swordfish might be spending at least some of their time meandering about our surfline and perhaps no one else has ever caught one from the beach because no one has been fishing for them. Recreational fishermen, commercial fishermen, marine scientists - we all think we know so much about the fish out there, but I don't think anybody saw that one coming!

So that has me wondering if maybe we're missing opportunities to catch other types of fish in places we'd least expect them to be just because we've never fished for them there. For instance - "marlin in the bay". Who do you know has ever tried to catch a white or even a blue marlin in any of our back bay waters? I know what you're thinking, "considering all the people who fish the bay each year, and all the boats

that use the coastal bay waters "someone" would have caught or at least seen a marlin if there were any in the bay!" Well "yes" maybe by now some evidence of billfish in the bay could have or should have shown up. But let's face it, have you ever heard of a blue marlin crashing a Roy Rig or a white marlin snatching up a Gulp paddletail or a shiner that's being bounced along the bottom? Never! We all know that Marlin don't eat little things like that, that's why offshore anglers troll rigged ballyhoo, mullet, squid and other relatively big baits for them. So of course no one is going to catch a marlin in the bay, just like hooking a swordfish in the surf, everyone is using the wrong bait! It just stands to reason that if you want to catch a marlin in the bay you've got to fish for them properly.

Naturally, marlin fishing in the bay might lead to some confusion during any billfish tournaments that stipulate what time boats are allowed to leave the inlet in the morning. After all, a team that fishes in the bay won't leave the inlet at all, so does that mean they can fish

whenever they want to or must they follow the same fishing schedule as all the fishermen who will be running 60-miles out to catch fish that might be swimming around their docks? And if a team shows up at the weigh-ins with a marlin that's still alive (because they caught it 5 minutes ago just 100-yards away) can they win the heaviest fish category then turn it loose and get release points as well? These are questions the tournament organizers must be prepared to answer once bay marlin fishing is discovered and becomes popular.

Certainly once they start catching swordfish in the surf and marlin in the bay anglers will be looking to land other offshore species in locations they've never considered. I've never tried it but I'm wondering why chunking for tuna off the Rt.w 50 bridge might not work? There's a lot of natural bait that hangs out under that structure and I'm sure the rockfish and bluefish aren't eating them all. As a matter of fact, the local stripers and blues probably make for a nice snack for any giant bluefins that might be swimming about the bridge

pilings.

Of course catching tuna from the bridge might not be as easy as it seems as it would require anglers to not only be able to hook and fight the fish to the bridge, but also get the thing 20-30 feet up and over the railing. I envision a really large bridge net and more than just a couple pair of hands to haul the catch up from the water. And as it's not uncommon for fish to fall back in the water while they're being lifted up, it would probably be good for tuna anglers on the bridge to make sure there aren't any curious boaters below during the landing process as 50-pounds of tuna falling from the sky never seems to end well for those on the receiving end. However, such concerns for the well-being of anyone on a PWC is entirely unnecessary being that so many of them obviously liken themselves as some kind of kama-kazi thrill seekers and would probably find it a badge of honor to be crushed by a tuna. Of course bridge anglers who have not yet caught a tuna should feel free to deliver fish carcasses, horseshoe crabs, or rotten bait until they have acquired a tuna fitting for the occasion.

Hearing all this, I'm sure a lot of folks are already beginning to worry that the bay is going to become an even more crowded

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place to be if all the offshore guys start fishing inshore. Fortunately, nature always seems to make things like this work out. Just as ocean species could be in our bays, there's no reason not to expect that bay fishermen might not be able to catch their quarries offshore. Think about flounder - it used to be that no recreational angler went out on the ocean to catch flounder. Now, that's where almost all the big ones are taken. So if flounder, then why not other bay targets like blue crabs, clams, or anything else you can catch from a kayak or a 20' tri-hull deck boat with a 900hp motor? Yeah I know, crabbing in 300 feet of water is going to require a lot more string and probably bigger chicken necks, and clammers will need extensions on their rake handles, but knowing local anglers the way I do I'm certain that in time they'll figure out a good system to make it work. After all, they know everything about everything! §



Josh Barfield headed out to Assateague Island on a sunny day to test out his new custom rod built by Chase Haugh. The new rod did the trick getting Josh onto a couple rockfish for the day.

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Capt. Alex Hionis of Bowers Beach, DE and Jon Zeller from Coatsville, PA set out on the "Shallow Minded" from Slaughter Beach in Delaware for some late day fishing. They reported very choppy waters and slow fishing, but the pair managed to catch these two black drum with the largest at 40 pounds. Both were caught using fresh crabs and clams from a local tackle shop.



Capt. Chris Ragni bypassed his canyon runner charter boat the "Bill Slayer" and brought out the pontoon for the Lewes Harbour Marina Canal Flounder Tournament. It's a tradition for his crew. While they did not place, they caught 6 and kept one using Aqua Clear rigs.

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. MAY 22	High 07:39 am High 08:16 pm	Low 01:53 am Low 01:29 pm
THUR. MAY 23 Full Moon	High 08:22 am High 08:58 pm	Low 02:32 am Low 02:05 pm
FRI. MAY 24	High 09:05 am High 09:42 pm	Low 03:11 am Low 02:44 pm
SAT. MAY 25	High 09:48 am High 10:26 pm	Low 03:53 am Low 03:27 pm
SUN. MAY 26	High 10:33 am High 11:11 pm	Low 04:37 am Low 04:14 pm
MON. MAY 27	High 11:21 am High 11:59 pm	Low 05:27 am Low 05:07 pm
TUE. MAY 28	High _____ High 12:14 pm	Low 06:19 am Low 06:06 pm
WED. MAY 29	High 12:51 am High 01:14 pm	Low 07:13 am Low 07:09 pm

source: usharpbors.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

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Chase Holden of Millsboro, DE fished the Indian River Inlet one night last week and was rewarded with this *in the slot* 29" striper. He was on the "Pretty Women" and used a Storm Shad Lure to fool the striper.



Just a picture of our man Big Bird Cropper doing what he does, slay bluefish. He shared that the blues were on fire on this trip, biting on both the incoming and outgoing tides. The lure of choice was, of course, his Roy Rig.

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Batteries

What is 12.6? That is the voltage of a fully charged standard lead acid (traditional, sealed or AGM) marine battery at rest. If you have a 24-volt system, then 25.2v represents a fully charged 24v bank. If your battery is reading 12.0 volts at rest, it is 50% discharged! If a battery remains discharged, sulfation can occur.

Sulfation is a buildup of lead sulfate crystals and is the number one cause of early battery failure in lead-acid batteries. Sulfation occurs when a battery is deprived of a full charge, lead sulfate crystals build up and remain on battery plates. When too much sulfation occurs, it can impede the chemical to electrical conversion.

Sulfation can be avoided by properly charging and re-charging your battery.

What's that smell?

When your engine is running or your battery charger is on, the battery voltage should be between 13.7 volts-14.7 volts. If your battery area smells like rotten eggs, then you have a battery problem.



Batteries contain an electrolyte comprised of water and sulfuric acid. When overheated, the sulfuric acid is converted into a gas called Hydrogen Sulfide and it is this gas that smells like rotten eggs. Over-charging a lead acid battery can also produce hydrogen sulfide gas. The gas is colorless, poisonous, and flammable. If you smell this odor on-board your boat, turn off the charger, vent the area and stay away until the odor disappears.

Most marine batteries last 3 to 5 years, depending on how they are cared for and how many discharge and recharge cycles they have been through. There are some technical differences between standard lead acid batteries (traditional, sealed or AGM) marine batteries and the popular AGM style batteries,

though a little bit more expensive, are very resilient to charging and discharging and have become the high-performance standard for marine batteries.

Recharging

If your only source of power to recharge your battery is the alternator on the boat's engine, it is a good idea to confirm your alternator(s) are working properly. Alternators produce electricity measured in volts and amps. Most alternators produce about 14 V of DC power and the amperage varies depending on the size of the engine/alternator combination. Minimally, a small outboard alternator may produce around 30 A and upwards to over 100 A on a large diesel engine.

Voltages are easy to measure and confirm since the volt reading is easily available on the engine gauge or other gauges on board the boat.

The alternator(s) amperage is more difficult to measure and often, an amperage gauge is not included in a standard package. The voltage should be consistent, and the amperage

will vary depending on the load. Once the batteries are charged, and the electrical loads are reduced, the amperage will automatically lower to a minimum amount.

If you do not have an amp gauge, there is no need to worry since the volt gauge can still give you the relative health of the electrical system. If the voltage is consistent and steady, your alternator is most likely working properly and producing the correct number of amps.

Though, if you notice your voltage dropping during a boat trip, it would be a prudent idea to investigate the cause, because today's modern engines rely on good electrical power.

If your boat has an onboard battery charger, the battery charger will maintain and top off the batteries to keep them full, with or without the engine alternator operating. A modern battery charger will slow the charge down as batteries become full and maintain their charge by using a small amount of voltage and current called a float charge. A charger without this feature could overcharge the batteries and permanently damage them.

Checking the health of your batteries and maintaining them throughout the season will help provide a reliable season of battery power. §

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Greg stopped by Hook'em & Cook'em Outfitters in South Bethany, DE with a real chopper bluefish he pulled in from the surf. This one tipped the scales at 11.5 lbs.

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Our man Shaun Flaherty has a naked chin, or almost one! He survived the Mother's Day trim and got right back on the hook. This outing to the Rt. 50 Bridge last Friday saw an in the slot 31" rock.



Jack Cael and Devon Schera worked the Coral Beds in the Delaware Bay early last week and boated 4 good sized black drum. The heaviest was 42 lbs. Pictured and weighed at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.



More proof you don't need a boat to get in on some nice fish. Angler James Jones headed down to Massey's Pier and hooked this big bluefish. Once at Rick's Bait & Tackle it measured 33" and weighed 9.2 lbs.

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VIRGINIA

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



Wicked Easterly's have swept across our bountiful paradise, pushing up tides and adding environmental obstacles that would dampen the hopes of even the saltiest of shore men. However, tides turn, seas calm and fish have to eat. So get out there and make wonderful whitecap memories with your friends and family.

The Chesapeake has offered some sheltered shallow shorelines which has supported some superb spec, spot-tail, and striper action. And yes, I did say striper, as the long awaited Maryland and Virginia rock season has finally commenced. Both states are supporting a 19-24 inch slot limit and one

fish per person Chesapeake regulations. Most of those who seek saltwater sport have done so with chunks of crab, both presented on fish finder and top and bottom rigs, as well as under a popping cork. Some of the red action has consisted of not only trophy reds that we had come to expect, but also a few slot puppies to invite home for a delicious dinner. In addition to skinny water scrappers, some black drum have taken up residence on the knolls and shoals of the lower Chesapeake. Anglers dropping chunks of crab and clam have tested their rigging on these head shaking heavyweights in depths of water to 25 feet. If you are lucky enough to connect

with one of these Chesapeake treasures, keep in mind the 1 fish per person creel limit.

The barrier islands have been equally as fruitful even during these C- conditions. Flounder fishing has been good on the tides where the turbidity has allowed some visibility. Silversides and minnows coupled with squid strips and or Gulp have provided opportunities to use your landing net as well as your frying pan. Due to the cloudy water brightly colored teasers like chartreuse, pink and orange have conjured up bites from the hungry hunters of the salty seaside. While searching the coastal bays for fillets of flatfish, a few anglers have been the recipient of a true springtime

surprise. Chopper blues have bent rods and breached the surface. Some of these fork tailed torpedoes measured up to the low 30 inch mark, which could only have been dwarfed by the size of the smile of the lucky guy on the order end of the line.













The sands have been anything other than serene as big surf made most of the week unfishable. However, during the first part of the week our very own Mean Dean PHD beached what only could be considered the trip of a lifetime as he and his buddy beached over 30 rock and blacks on peeler chunks soaked on modified fish finder and hi-lo rigs. Just remember, the coastal rock regs are 1 fish from 28-31"

Even if the wind is howling and the rain is falling, grab some bait, find a leeward bank and revel in this wonderful place we call home! \$

2024

VIRGINIA REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - July 6 August 9 - 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 40" minimum / Only 1>50" 1 per person/day • 2 per boat/day 6/15 - 9/15</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 16" minimum 4 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1-5/15 & 7/1-12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 12" minimum 1 per person/day All Year</p>

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JT and Sarah found some sweet flounder with "Sea Hawk Sports Center" charters in ESVA. They hooked these with silversides and minnows.

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Call Jimmy Fields**



**EL BENDIDO - 2004 61' Blackwell
Call Jimmy Fields**



**BARRATUNA - 2008 53' Sculley
Call Steve Hedrick**



**2022 42' Freeman
Call Ronnie Fields**



**2023 41 SeaHunter
Call Colton Cunningham**



**1985 47' Hines-Farley
Call Ronnie Fields**



**DAY BY DAY - 2003 62' Ocean Yacht
Call Jimmy Fields**



**FULL CIRCLE - 1984 50' Buddy Davis
Call Jeff James**



**2023 39' HCB Speciale
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**GAL-O-MINE - 1988 46' Hudson
Call Jeff James**



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Call Adam Peeples**



**2019 35' Boston Whaler
Call Chris Workmon**



**MAMA LOVE - 1999 56' Ocean Yachts
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**2003 38' Fountain
Call Terry Layton**



**2001 24' Pursuit
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