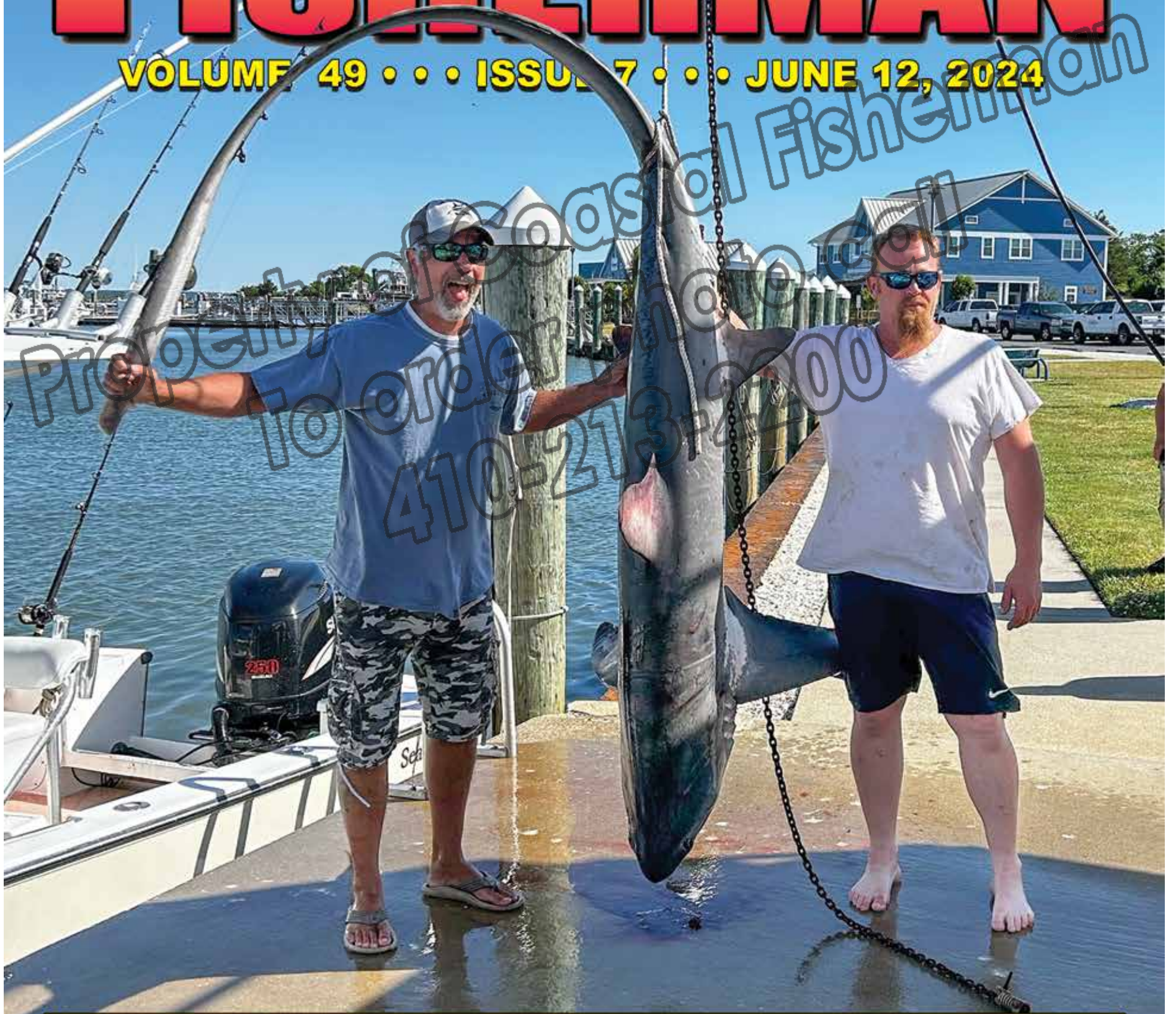


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COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME 49 • • • ISSUE 7 • • • JUNE 12, 2024



It has been a long while since we have seen a thresher shark on the docks and at least several years for the crew at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina. Angler Paul Plummer of Ocean View, DE was fishing on the "Salty Hooker" at B-Buoy when he hooked the big fish on a mackerel. He is pictured here with the 250.6 lb. and 80" shark with fellow angler Eric Daughtry from Fleetwood, PA.



Larry Hambright reeled in a real beauty of a flounder from B-Buoy using Gulp from Hook'em & Cook'em. This fattie measured 26.25" and weighed 7.2 lbs.



Young 6 year old Finn Falgowski of Lewes, DE set a new personal best with this 29" keeper striper. It was caught using a Mann's Diving Lure of an ocean structure. He was fishing on the charter boat "Hellbent" with his cousins, uncle and father.

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Constantine Powers from Delmar, MD was one happy angler after catching this 27" tog, his first ever! It was caught using a Nomad Streaker Jig at a wreck in 18 fathoms. Unfortunately for Constantine, tog is out of season, so this one went back in the drink.

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Hard to believe we are publishing our 7th Edition for 2024 on June 12th and the offshore condition in the canyons remain poor for pelagic life. While we have reported the capture or release of many canyon runners like the first white marlin and all tuna's except longfin, the bite remains elusive. For the week past we only have reports of one or two tuna caught, even though I am sure there were some other single catches that did not get to us. Even with this *doom & gloom* opening there were a couple highlights to the week.

Most notable was the 250.6 lb. thresher shark caught by Paul Plummer on June 8th. It graces our cover on the tournament scales at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River

Marina. It has been a couple years since we have seen one at the Coastal Fisherman and even longer for the crew at Hook'em & Cook'em. Paul was fishing with Eric Daughtry on the "Salty Hooker" around B-Buoy when the 80" fish hit on a whole mackerel. Coincidentally, a thresher was spotted swimming around the Rt. 50 Bridge chasing the bluefish. I don't think any of the boats nearby where set up to chase that one! All in all it was great to see one on the dock as they are a challenge to catch, and especially to get to the boat without being slapped by the tail!

As for a tuna forecast, it's hard to say. According to Ripcharts and the Sea Surface Temperature charts we follow from Rutgers University, the

water in the canyons and well to the west of them is in the mid to upper 60's. Even warmer south of the Washington Canyon and in the Norfolk. It seems the water is there and a lot of sea life like the whales we have been reporting, just not tuna and billfish. As I pen this report on Monday, I got a report from Capt. Chris Ragni on the charter boat "Bill Slayer" that as of 9AM they already had three bigeye tunas in the boat, and one looked quite a nice size. He was trolling outside the Baltimore Canyon when 4 eyeballs hit. Not much of the fleet is out today, so we will have to see how the others fare.

This does allow me the opportunity to open a discussion about an event I witnessed last week while on the docks. A charter boat had just returned with a charter group of 6 and they put a single small yellowfin on the dock. While not naming names, this was a boat known for their tuna fishing prowess. I observed one of the charter guests was quite agitated, seemingly at the lack of more fish in the box and was engaging the captain in an aggressive manner. In a nutshell, this charter group berated the captain and decided to not tip the mates for the trip. I can understand the frustration as I have had a couple tuna trips with no fish, one did not even have a bite! That however is not an excuse to insult the captain and shortchange the mates. I often find they work even harder to find a bite when things are hard. Mates work exclusively for tips, so to not respect their effort at all is a crime.

As the age old saying goes it is called fishing, not catching. If you do charter, please make sure you communicate with your captain about the current conditions and what is being

caught around the time of your trip. Most will offer to cancel the trip if your heart is set on tuna, but they are not hot. Even better, they can set your group up to catch any number of other species like tilefish, sea bass and maybe a swordfish if you are up for it.

Speaking of tilefish, that action does remain solid. Lots of blueline tilefish boat limits were reported with some nice goldens in the mix. Most of these fish are being found around 100 fathoms or a little less. It is quite the challenge if you decide to reel in these deep water fish manually. Hauling in a 15 lb. fish with a 5 lb. weight from 600 feet can challenge any angler! Of course, most charter boats have electric reels to offer when targeting deep water fish. The "Reel Desire" out of Fisherman's Marina caught 15 goldens up to 24 lbs. as well as some bluelines and sea bass in 100 fathoms. Capt. Chris Ragni on the charter boat "Bill Slayer" based at the Indian River Marina put a boat limit of 30 bluelines on the dock on one trip last week. They were deep in the Baltimore Canyon on 500' of water. The private boat "Sea Hunt" caught a limit also using cut ballyhoo in the Baltimore Canyon. If you enjoy catching these fish it is a great time to get on a charter.

We are entering tournament season in earnest and one of the more recent and popular ones is this weekend, the 3rd annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament. This is a spirited event that includes of course, the excitement of the weigh ins, but anglers also create team themes and dress accordingly! There is also a vendor fair and the new and expanded Mickey Finns! So consider dropping by the Ocean City Fishing Center and check out the action.

Until next week I will see you at the scales and hopefully some tuna too! \$

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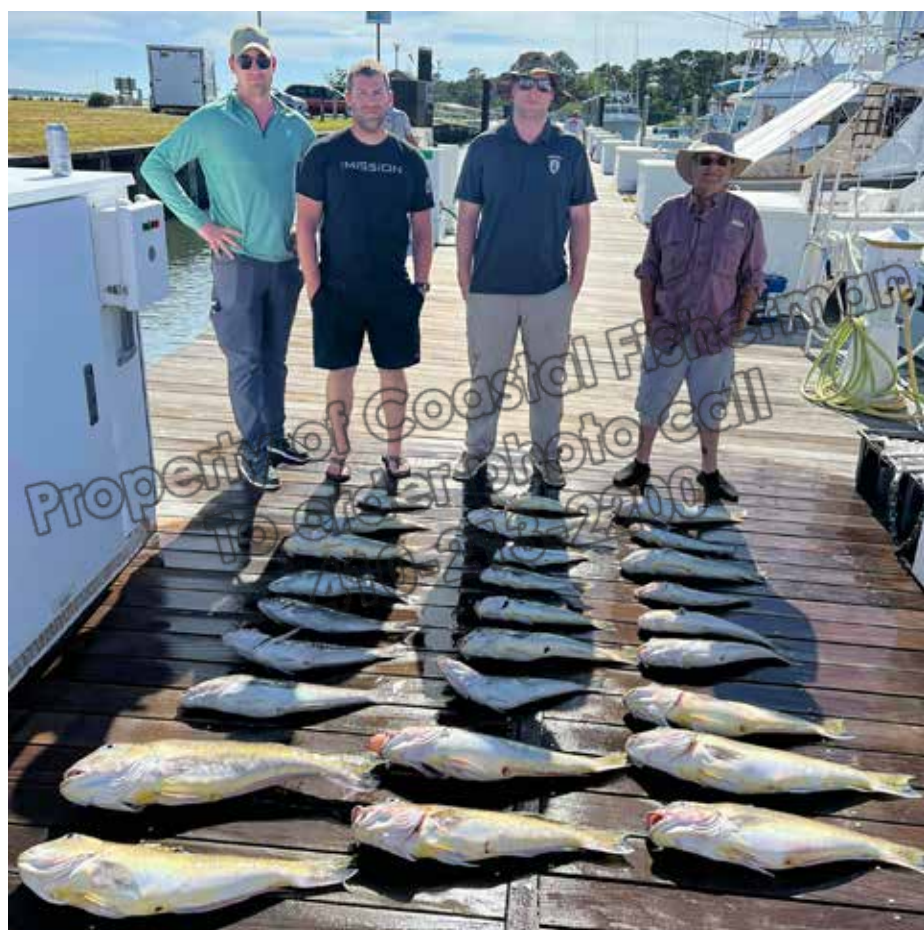
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Upcoming Tournaments

- **The 3rd Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament** returns to the Ocean City Fishing Center on June 14-15th. This event is always a show with lots of action, vendors and fun at Micky Finns. Weigh ins are from 4-7PM each day. More at TunaandTiaras.com or on Facebook.
- The weekend of June 22-23 will be a busy one with three concurrent tournament events.
 - First is the family friendly **Indian River Marina Kid's Catch All** from June 22-23. This is a great event for kids of all ages, even for those just coming out to see what is caught. Weigh ins are 3-6:30PM on Saturday and 3-6PM on Sunday. More at kidscatchall.com.
 - The Ocean City Marlin Club holds it's **Small Boat Tournament** June 22-23. You do not have to be a member to participate. You can check out the action from 3-6:30PM at Sunset Marina. More at ocmarlinclub.com.
 - Kayaks will swarm the Ocean City bays for the **6th Annual Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam** on June 22 & 23. This event showcases some great fish, and is one of the premier kayak tournaments on the East Coast. Fish will be weighed in at Atlantic Tackle in West OC from 12-4PM each day.



Capt. Jon Azato on the charter boat "No Limit" had a pretty good trip with open boat crew. After some time chasing tuna they hammered down on tilefish, catching a mix of blueline and goldens up to 15 lbs.



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We have not seen many rays this year, so we thank Tony Nicholas for sending this one! He was on the beach in north OC trying to get in on the bluefish run using bunker and sand fleas, but only hooked this ray and another smaller one. It took 20 minutes to get it to the sand and was released.



We are starting to think there is a dress code for lady anglers at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE! Melissa Brozefsky brought in 3 bluefish including a 12.2 lb. citation class fish that she caught at the Indian River Inlet.

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FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



As the water begins to warm into the mid 60's we are seeing the spot fish begin to show up, indicating our summer fishing season is upon us. As these bait fish begin to swarm the inlets and back bays, the fluke and croaker will not be far behind. The back bays of OC are producing lots of short fluke with a few keepers thrown in. The nearshore wrecks are still struggling to produce keeper bass but giving up more and more keeper flounder. The surf fishing has slowed a little with the warmer water but a few big blues, stripers and drum can still be had as the last of these fish come through our area while heading north.

Back Bays & Inlet

The inlet and bay areas are alive with bait fish. The spot have arrived bringing with them a plethora of feeding fish. Bluefish and stripers can still be found along the rocks of the inlet as well as below the Rt. 50 Bridge. Better catches of keeper fluke have been showing up. The "Happy Hooker" has been out on the bay most days providing both a nice cruise on the water as well as a great

chance to catch some of OC's prized inshore fish. The crew reports many small flounder along with a few keepers are being caught all over the bay. The "Miss OC" had 8 year old Gaga Katzenstein along with his dad and sister. Gaga ended up being the top hook on the boat that day with 3 flounder. Great job for such a young man! Mary Hunsberger caught a nice 19" fluke to bring home for dinner. The "Bay Bee" has been doing daily trips with a few flounder being caught by their anglers. The boat also does sunset cruises with music by Bill Dickerson. These back bay head boats are a great way for families with small children to experience bay fishing and all that Ocean City has to offer. The crew is always there to make your day as enjoyable and prosperous as possible.

Rick Fiore caught a nice striper off the rocks of the inlet using a Roy Rig. Rich also landed a few nice flounder from the bay later in the week. Seth Price was also fishing the inlet and stated the grind paid off with a mix of blues, stripers and one solid weakfish. Brian Reynolds

was not to be outdone by other anglers having a great night on Thursday, landing 5 bluefish along with 5 rocks. The biggest striper caught was 32 inches. Great job Seth! Steven Bassett Jr. caught blues all day long including his personal best, a big 32.5 incher. That must have been one hell of a fight as big and powerful as those fish are. Jake Evans from Freedom Baits and Delmarva Sports was out at the Rt. 50 Bridge with Craig Cropper and landed some blues along with a few rockfish. I wonder what lure Craig had them using?

That brings us to the Blues for DU Tournament which ran from June 7 -9. The winners are as follows: Craig "Big Bird" Cropper in first place with a 12 lb. blue, second place was Brian Reynolds with 11 lbs. 2 ozs., and in third place went to Pat McGean at 10 lbs. 2 ozs. Big Bird of course used his Roy Rigs and Pat used the Freedom Baits paddle tail.

Nearshore Wrecks & Reefs

Nearshore fishing remains slow for sea bass with small jig fishing with very fresh clam

working best. The deeper water near the Jack's Spot and NJ/DE reef remain the hot spots. Nearer to shore the flounder have really started to bite on the down current sides of the wrecks. Gulp and long squid strips are the best bait for these fine flat fish. The "Ocean Princess" stated that fishing is improving from a slow start in May. They are catching some fat sea bass even though the number of keepers per angler is still not the greatest. The crew reported they are catching some big flounder on most trips. The "Angler" reports better numbers with the bigger fish weighing around 4.5 lbs. They said that flounder are being caught on many of the trips with some limits even being found. The good news has been the flounder bite, which is getting stronger by the day. As the water warms the main catch will be flounder with an occasional sea bass thrown in. Gulp baits and squid are your "go to" baits. Remember to keep these baits at or near the bottom, because unlike sea bass, fluke will not chase a bait very high in the water column. Brendan Kashuba along with Ben's Marine Construction fished with Captain Kane Bounds and Kevin Twilley aboard the boat "Fish Bounds" landing some real doormats. The crew stated this group fishes hard

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every time they come out and always end up landing some quality fish.

Surf Fishing

Surf fishing on Assateague Island is beginning to transition into the summer mode as waters warm. Kingfish skates and sharks are becoming the primary catch. A few anglers are still catching some decent blues, rockfish and drum, however, many anglers are opting for the smaller kingfish or pompano rigs to target spot and smaller kingfish from the surf. Chase Haugh had a lot of fun reeling in a big red drum last Saturday. The fish was caught on a falling tide. It seems like each year we see more and more of these trophy reds coming further north into our waters. The larger reds are primarily in the Virginia waters and south. During the fall runs when the water is warmer, we see a lot of puppy drum on the back bays of the island, but not as many in the spring. Fresh cut bait, shrimp

and clam are some of the best baits you can use to target the bigger fish in the surf. It is always good to keep a larger paddle tail on a spinning rod when near shore on a boat, as many times a group of reds or cobia will swim by and offer an opportunity to be hooked. Frank Spence got a 22" blue from the surf near the DE line using a whole finger mullet on an outgoing tide. Will Holden said he was looking for a flattish in the surf but wasn't unhappy when he pulled numerous kingfish from the water. Pompano rigs tipped with bloodworms or small pieces of shrimp or even Fish Bites work very well during the summer months for these fine tasting fish. Only about one more quiet week remains until all schools are out and we grow to our summertime population. So get out and enjoy the quieter water before the masses arrive!

Till next week...

Tight Lines and Fins Up



Ocean City's Jeff Weeks sneaked out for an hour in the evening one day last week to work the Rt. 50 Bridge with roy rigs on an incoming tide. While he found no stripers, he did get his limit of bluefish with the largest at 31.5".

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Brian Reynolds of Berlin, MD caught a *heartbreaker* of a striper from the Rt. 50 Bridge last week. At 31.5" it was just over the slot so back down it went. Brian caught 5 rocks that night as well as 5 bluefish up to 32" using live spot. Extra points for holding the fish in a way that improves survivability.

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Julie Stevenson reported having just a perfect day fishing at B-Buoy. The weather was warm, the sea calm and she boated 2 keeper flounder with this largest one at 23".



Anglers are still finding big drums in the Delaware Bay. Bill Humpleby caught two on this outing with the largest at 40 lbs. using clams from Lewes Harbour Marina.



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Another First Fish category is filled for 2024. Chuck Guerra from Ocean View, DE shared this pic with Fenwick Bait & Tackle on June 1st. This keeper sized cobia is the first we have seen for the year. He caught this one and another smaller one using bunker off the beach in Ocean City.

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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 	 June 7 Craig Cropper Rt. 50 Bridge 12 lbs.	May 17 Josh Frantz 3R's 12.25 lbs.	Weakfish 	May 21 Jim Hitchens Delaware Bay 7.26 lbs.	May 17 Eleuturiu Abreu Indian River Inlet 5.2 lbs.
Black Drum 		May 3 Lacey Moffett Coral Beds 58 lbs.	Bigeye Tuna 	May 31 Tyler Lanza S. of Poorman's Canyon 143 lbs.	
Cobia 			Bluefin Tuna 	May 31 Andrew Link Poorman's Canyon 122 lbs.	
Summer Flounder 	May 21 Doug Brissey Ocean Structure 7.1 lbs.	May 26 Michele Lambie Site 11 7.64 lbs.	Longfin Tuna 		
Sea Bass 	May 24 Tom Sullivan Ocean Structure 5 lbs.		Yellowfin Tuna 	May 30 Eric Milton Poorman's Canyon 88.5 lbs.	
Sheepshead 		May 7 Joe McNeal Ocean Structure 11 lbs.	Dolphin 	June 1 Joel Hoover S. of Poorman's 17 lbs.	
Striped Bass 	May 19 Justin Field Rt. 50 Bridge 13 lbs.	May 13 Chic Stearrett Indian River Inlet 42 lbs.	Swordfish 	June 1 Bobby West Poorman's Canyon 125 lbs.	
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



When the tuna aren't biting, you switch up the game. That is just what Pete Renzi, Capt. Randy Buttton, Jason Daly, Skip Courtney and Sam Glass did on their trip on the "Reel Desire". They changed to deep dropping in 100 fathoms and used electric reels to bring up 15 golden tilefish as well as 2 bluelines and some sea bass. Pictured at the improved Fisherman's Marina.



It seems Bruce Johnson from Ocean City, MD cannot believe his eyes! He caught this very nice 27" and 5.5 lb. weakfish at the north Ocean City Jetty using a white bucktail on an outgoing tide.

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FISHING CHARTERS



If your nick name is Sea Bass Bob, you had better bring your A game when fishing with Capt. Chris Mizurak on the head boat "Angler". Bob did not disappoint on this trip, catching these two heavy knobheads despite a slow bite..



Capt. Jon Azato on the charter boat "No Limit" reports that sea bass fishing has been a grind, however many of his recent charters eventually getting their limit like this group. They also found some ling fish. Pictured at the Indian River Marina.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Hook'em and Cook'em reports that the wind, weather and the new 17.5" minimum for flounder have not been their friend for the headboats "Judy V" and "Capt. Bob II". Still they persevered bringing back solid catches of sea bass and flounder like this pool winner for Tom Y.



It is always an adventure on the headboat "Bay Bee" based at the Ocean City Fishing Center. They put anglers on many types of fish like this juvenile ray caught last week.

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FISHING CHARTERS



The headboat "Judith M" out of the Bahia Marina hosted a crew from First Service Residential property management services for an employee appreciation day. There were smiles all around as the weather and the bite were good that day. Anglers had plenty of action on sea bass catching many shorts, but still getting a decent amount of keepers.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Dave Caffrey from "On the Run" charters has been having solid trips in and around the Ocean City Bay. Richard, Bryce and Dylan Brown from Newark, DE (left) reeled in 6 keeper flounder from the Thorofare using white Gulp on their 4 hour trip. The largest was 20" and 3 lbs. PA anglers Ron and Carol Lukehart with Steve McDonald and Pam Warr (right) also hit the Thorofare on their trip landing a 33" bluefish and a 21" flounder. Both pictured at the Bahia Marina.

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The tuna may not be cooperating lately, but that does not mean there is not a lot of action to be had. The Briese crew headed out of the Indian River Marina with Capt. Chris Ragni on the charter boat "Bill Slayer". After trolling for tuna with no luck, they switched to deep dropping for tilefish deep in the Baltimore Canyon in about 500' of water. The 6 man crew put a boat limit of 30 in the box using squid.



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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Brin Parsons reported finding no sea bass on this trip aboard the "Thelma Dale V" out of Fisherman's Wharf. That was OK however, the flounder came knocking, and they knocked hard! Anglers caught as many shorts as they did keepers and some good size fish like these two.



Capt. Kane Bounds on the Talbot Street Pier based charter boat "Fish Bound" reported lots of full coolers from his recent trips. Anglers were catching sea bass, flounder, bluefish, spanish mackerel and tilefish when the weather allowed!

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Should I Stay or Should I Go?

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Every fishing captain checks the weather and sea conditions before heading offshore - it's just common sense. Only a serious risk taker would start their trip without knowing what conditions may lie ahead.

The decision to head out or stay in can be stressful. There is often some pressure involved in making the go/no-go call, especially if conditions don't seem too bad or have the chance of improving. The idealist may think of the best-case scenario and maintain the possibility of keeping fishing plans in place. Of course, this bit of optimism is often accompanied by some doom and gloom thinking and perhaps even some mental wrestling as this critical decision looms. On one hand, you consider that your time to fish is limited, the season is short, the bite might be hot - you never know what you might miss if you don't go. On the other hand, you could be taking a risk that has severe consequences if you go. Beyond wasting time, effort, and money, the thought of putting yourself and your crew in harm's way is daunting. Plus, the emotional blow of turning back mid-way, knowing you should have stayed at the dock, is a real downer.

If the forecast is calling for flat seas and calm weather, conditions are unlikely to change. But in all other potentially unfavorable scenarios, it's wise to consider some weather intel that goes beyond just making the morning go/no-go decision. Anyone who has spent enough time offshore fishing can



With SiriusXM weather aboard, you can overlay near-real-time weather right on your chart plotter screen. Screen shot on Garmin display courtesy of SiriusXM.

attest to the fact that weather forecasts are unpredictable, especially in summertime with afternoon squalls and pop up thunderstorms. While the 50'+ sportfishing battlewagons have more comfort and protection than the center consoles, both are at the mercy of the weather without access to up-to-date weather information while out on the water.

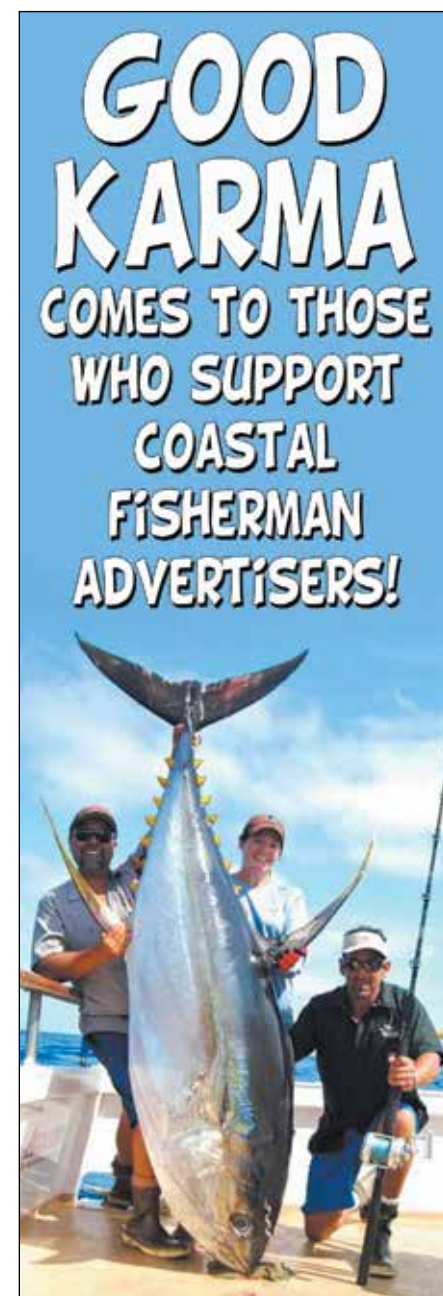
Including weather intel into the game plan can make the difference between a great day and a miserable one. And while we all have our own favorite weather forecast services, remember that this is an area where having SiriusXM Marine Weather on your boat can provide

critical situational awareness and serious peace of mind. The benefits this service has provided to offshore anglers all over the United States are innumerable. The satellite delivered service provides up-to-date weather (weather radar, lighting, wind, waves and much more) and forecasts while you are offshore. With the data overlaid on your MFD, you can see weather in a large screen format, front and center as you navigate. No need to look at a tiny cell phone screen underway using your favorite weather app (if you even have cellular or internet service) or trying to figure out the breadth and depth of a storm just by looking at your onboard radar. The ability to



Graphical sea surface temperatures help in finding the hot spots that attract game fish.

change plans on the fly, rather than depending on what you saw before you left shore, provides peace of mind. The awareness and confidence boost it gives you by being able to track impending storms and lightning strikes right on the MFD is priceless. The weather receiver hardware is provided by all major chart plotter brands - Garmin, Furuno, Simrad, and Raymarine. Beyond weather, the service also counts when it comes to boosting your catch rate. SiriusXM Marine's Offshore Plan comes with graphical SST (Sea Surface Temps), so you can see where the biggest temperature breaks are located. Stay informed while you are on the water and check it out for yourself: www.siriusxm.com/marine



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Big Bird Cropper had Chad Harner and his son Kaden out on the "Lost Time" for some blue fishing. The group worked the north Ocean City Jetty using Roy Rigs and then the Rt. 50 Bridge with Stretch Lures to get their triple limit of bluefish.



Evan Wilbert of Philadelphia, PA was one proud angler after catching this 18.5" flounder in the Thorofare. He was fishing on the "Cindy Lou" with Capt. Kevin Scruggs and mate John Beauregard with fellow anglers Dan Hunsinger and Tom Rossberg.

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Chesapeake Medical Systems Mike Halsey from Centreville, MD got into some hot red drum action in May fishing the Little Choptank River with peelers. Mike's red was 48" and his fellow anglers boated big ones too. Buddy Callahan from Cordova, MD boated a 52 inch; Jason Council of Cordova, MD also reeled in one at 48" and Jason Dodd from Wye Mills rounded out the catch with a 45" red.

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DELAWARE

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Last week in Delaware the fishing remained pretty stable. The sea bass are still slow with the largest catches coming off anglers using small jigs on 10-20 lb. line. The nearshore grounds are starting to see a lot of flounder being caught with many over the new 17.5" size limit. The Delaware Bay is still producing big black drum along with bluefish. The nearshore shoals such as Fenwick Shoals are loaded with bluefish as well as Spanish mackerel showing up in small numbers.

Back Bays & Inlets

The back bays are heating up with bigger fish coming over the rails each day. Rockfish and blues are being caught along the rock walls of the inlet as well as the main tributaries and canals. Lorrie Shumaker was out and her crew pulled in a 29 inch bluefish from the inlet. Nick Garcia made his first trip on the Delaware Bay. He fished with his Grandpop for this shakedown run. The morning was a little dead although he reported tons of spot fish all over the bay. By afternoon they had caught

several throwback fluke and bass during the incoming tide. The two ended up with 2 keeper flounder and around 10 shorts. In the Delaware Bay, Mat Mckaskill was out hitting the coral grounds and hooked into a big over slot rockfish. Although the fish had to be returned, Matt said the fish was epic. Brian Bergeron fished the bay with his son on Tuesday and was rewarded with a big black drum from the humps outside of Lewes. Kyle Siler fished from his kayak again bringing home some nice fluke for dinner. Joe Chaney caught a 20" fluke off the pier Wednesday night. Cedric Smith caught a big 46" 53 lb. drum in the bay using fresh surf clams. Nice to see some of these big girls are still around with the warming water. Ian Le Osten caught 6 rockfish from the rocks at the inlet. All the fish were overslot and returned safely to the water.

Nearshore Wrecks & Coral

The nearshore wrecks and reefs are really starting to come alive. The recent warming trend in the 80's has warmed up the water to around 65, and

the flounder have really turned on. Sea bass remains very spotty with fish just unwilling to bite the bait. Small jigs on very light lines, 10-20 lbs. are working best to entice these black beauties. I am not sure if it is truly an attraction or just a reaction from the fish, however it is the best option for catching bass right now. I have watched boats right next to each other, one using fresh clams and squid and not getting a bite while the boat 3 feet away is using jigs and pulling in keeper after keeper. The use of light spinning tackle also makes the fight much more interesting. Make sure you adjust your drag for the lighter line to assure the line does not have too much tension in it. "Daylight's Wastin' Time Charter" out of Lewes Harbour Marina had their crew trip catching both sea bass and flounder off the nearby bottom structure. The crew safely released a ton of fish and even kept a few for a nice dinner. Ted Proseus used their OA squid and a 2 oz. vertical silverside jig to fool the sea bass, fishing open bottom on the Old Grounds. Ted said the water temp was

64 degrees and the flounder fishing really started to pick up. They caught several of the flatfish along with a limit of bass. Billy Talbot and Cathy fished the coral bottom and brought home 3 big flounder in the 20" range. Rick Strauss was asked by his crew to go sea bass fishing, being that it was a little early for flounder. Well, what they found was they couldn't keep the fluke off their lines. In 3 hours they had their limit of the flatties. The fish ranged from 18-22 inches. Great job guys! Jeff Reed hit the Old Grounds and caught 4 keeper fish with the biggest around 3 lbs. and 20 inches. "Captain Ike 2" stated their client had to work for them but managed a cooler full of the flatfish on Wednesday. With the offshore bite heating up, many of the charter boats will begin to switch from inshore to offshore this week.

The head boats in Lewes as well as Indian River will become your best bet for the nearshore reefs. Fisherman's Wharf as well as Indian River's Hook 'Em & Cook 'Em Bait & Tackle offer full and half day fishing trips. The boats are very family friendly with helpful crews to provide you with a successful day on the water. Many local restaurants will cook your fresh catch for dinner making it a day to remember. "The

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Judy V" and "Captain Bob" reported numerous limits of flounder along with mixed bags of sea bass. Captain Chris Adams brought in this year's first fluke limit with hopefully many more to come. "Bad Wind Charters" also had a good day out on the grounds with Eddie Hearn bringing home several fish for dinner. Steve Kuhlman stated he caught over 50 sea bass, including 4 keepers, and released a small fluke and skate while fishing at site 11. Site 11 which is usually a hotspot early in the year has been very slow to produce keepers this year with many anglers striking out.

Surf Fishing

The surf fishing is a little slower this week with more kingfish and spot being caught rather than the blues and drum we saw in past weeks. A few big blues are still being caught such as Mike Dipaolo and son who caught a big 31" blue off the surf on an incoming tide with fresh mullet. Mike checked into Henlopen Bait and Tackle a big blue he caught right at sunset using a mullet rig. Joe Corbino was out on the beach and cast no more than 20 yards out when he hooked a nice 6 lb drum on cut bait.

Crabs & Clams

Crabbing has really reached its summertime high with most pots producing 8-13 keepers per pot. I am receiving numerous reports of thieves stealing the crabs and pots from the bay so make sure you check your pots regularly or transition to traps and trot lines. Clamming is getting very good with DE bay and the area near Holts Landing as the hot spots this week. Several smaller clams are being pulled from the sand along with the big soup ones so get out and do some raking before the good eating ones are gone and only the big ones remain.

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JULY 12-14²⁰²⁴

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The private boat “Partly Cloudy” had a productive morning fishing just to the east of the Old Grounds. Capt. Ed Lucas with anglers Kevin Boblits and Don Todaro 3 keeper flounder and some sea bass. Kevin took top honors with a 23” flattie.



Fenwick Island’s beach has been the place to be for chopper bluefish from the surf. Matthew Ramano from Frankford, DE was there and snagged this 33” blue on a sand crab.

OCEAN CITY INLET

TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. JUNE 12	High 12:46 am High 01:07 pm	Low 07:23 am Low 07:07 pm
THUR. JUNE 13	High 01:31 am High 02:02 pm	Low 08:07 am Low 08:04 pm
FRI. JUNE 14 1st Qtr. Moon	High 02:18 am High 03:00 pm	Low 08:47 am Low 09:02 pm
SAT. JUNE 15	High 03:07 am High 03:55 pm	Low 09:25 am Low 10:00 pm
SUN. JUNE 16	High 03:56 am High 04:46 pm	Low 10:03 am Low 10:58 pm
MON. JUNE 17	High 04:44 am High 05:33 pm	Low 10:43 am Low 11:53 pm
TUE. JUNE 18	High 05:30 am High 06:18 pm	Low 11:25 am Low _____
WED. JUNE 19	High 06:16 am High 07:04 pm	Low 12:42 am Low 12:09 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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Chris Baker put on his lucky Coast Fisherman performance shirt for his trip with Dave Orr, Jr. to drift the wrecks south of the Old Grounds. They use Gulp and shiners and came back to the Indian River Marina and loaded up the cleaning table at Hook'em & Cook'em with 5 keeper flounder.



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by Capt. Mark Sampson



Snakeheads Gone from Maryland Waters!

We all know that snakeheads are an invasive species of fish that no one stopped from illegally crossing over the border, into our state waters, and are now competing with resident fish for food, shelter, and the opportunity to raise their young and expand their population where they can enjoy the same freedoms and opportunities as do other species of fish that were actually born or hatched here.

A few years back, Maryland's DNR took a stab at stopping the surge of migrant fish by literally poisoning lakes and ponds to kill the snakeheads and keep them from spreading throughout the state waterways. But while

the lethal drugs associated with the migrant fish didn't work to stave the flow of snakeheads, it did succeed in killing thousands if not millions of resident fish that would otherwise be alive today if it weren't for the influx of the alien invaders. I'm sure that somewhere, someone might have suggested building some sort of barrier or "wall" to protect our local waters and the resident fish from the invading hordes of snakeheads, but apparently that idea was nixed because it was too simple and made too much sense, and after all, it's the government we're talking about here so, well - you know...

So in no time at all snakeheads wiggled their way into just about every drop of fresh or

brackish water that they could. Fearing that the aggressive predators were going to eat up all our indigenous fish species, state officials told fishermen to "kill em if you catch em" and since then a lot of Maryland fishermen have done just that and been happy to discover the joy of snakehead fishing for both fun and food. In fact, this new fishery has prompted the start of a nice little cottage industry of tackle dealers and fishing guides who specialize in hooking their clients up to Maryland snakeheads.

As it turns out, the original fears of armageddon by snakeheads in our waters has not been realized, but the benefits to fishermen have. So in some respects snakeheads have actually turned out to be not such a bad thing after all. But I guess the folks in Annapolis can't have that after all, too much of a good thing and the public might just decide they want "more" good stuff which could start a snowball rolling that could end in an avalanche of demands by the public to actually do something that makes sense for a change! But back to snakeheads ...

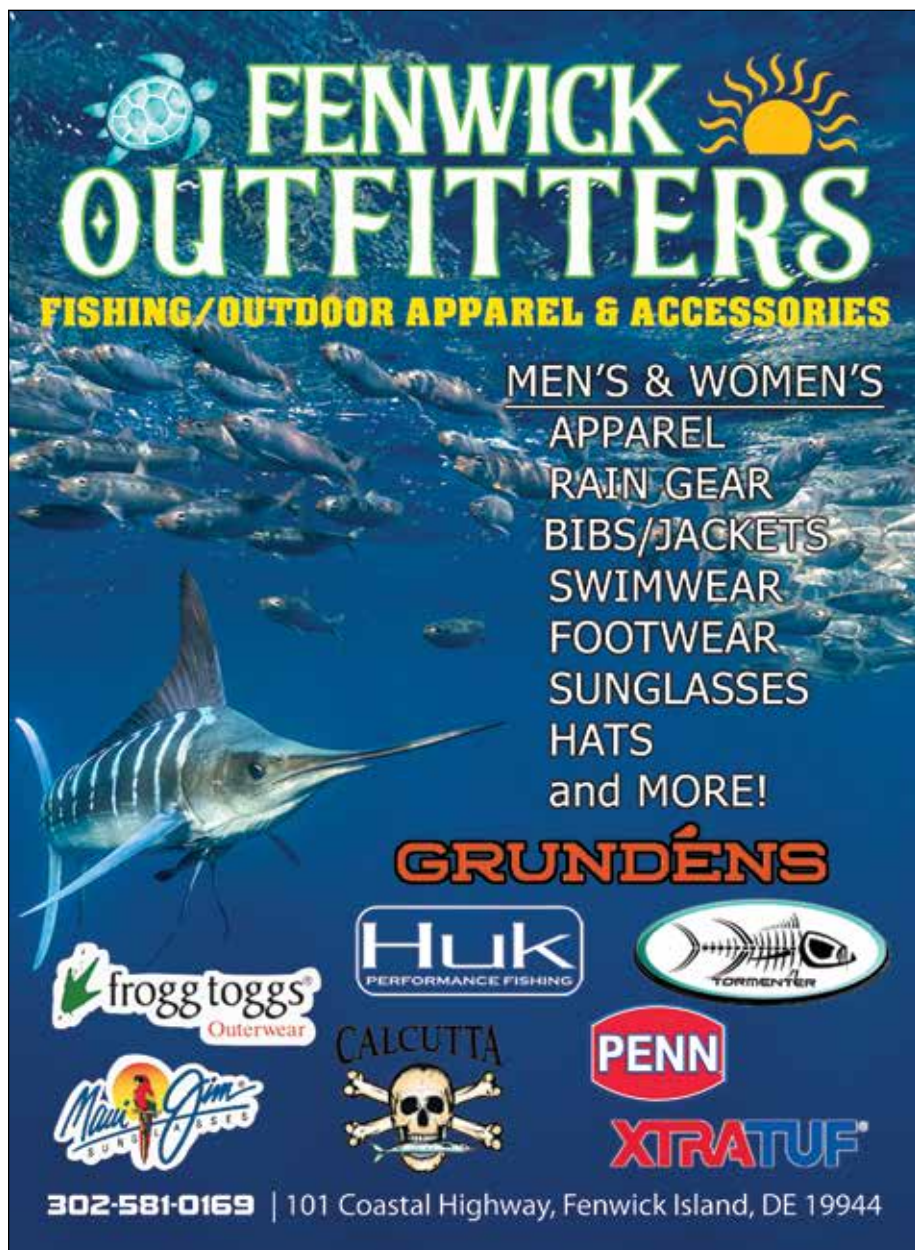
I hate to be so blunt about it but Maryland lost the fight with snakeheads. We've just got to face the fact that they beat us, they're among us, they're everywhere, it's that simple. And as a Maryland resident I can live with that. But apparently the Maryland legislators are such sore losers that not only will they not admit defeat but they've actually found a way to claim total victory over the illegal alien fish. In fact, according to the folks in Annapolis there are no more snakeheads in Maryland! Yep, they passed a bill to change the name from snakehead to..... (wait for

it)....."Chesapeake channa!" Yeah I know, it sounds like some kind of down-home backwoods dance, or perhaps more appropriately a cross between our local Chesapeake Bay retriever and a Mexican Chihuahua, but that's what they settled on. And while I don't know how it all went down in Annapolis the day they decided to change the name, I can only imagine it went something like this:

"Hey colleagues, we need to do something about the snakeheads that have taken over our state waters. Those alien fish are making us look bad because we failed to keep them from crossing the border into Maryland. How are we going to explain this to the public?"

"OK, I have a plan but first let's agree that we can't keep calling them "aliens" as that might hurt someone's feelings. Let's just refer to them as "fish that have been deprived of living in Maryland's waters". Then we change the name to something like... uuuuuh..."Chesapeake channa" so we can honestly say that there are no longer any snakeheads in Maryland waters. And if we publicize how good Chesapeake channa are to eat, those dumb redneck fishermen will never stop to realize that it's the same fish with a different name!

So just like that Maryland's "snakehead" problem is solved and we have a wonderful new species thriving in our waters known as the Chesapeake channa (which I think is pronounced "chaaaaaaaanna") and to make sure they won't be accused of pulling the wool over the eyes of us dumb fishermen, the folks in Annapolis put out a statement about the exciting new change which stated, "The change is intended to make this tasty species a more loveable fish to diners and perhaps more appealing to consumers when it's sold in seafood retailers and restaurants".



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So fishermen may have lost their snakeheads but they've gained a "lovable" fish and I'm sure that all the downhome-good-old-boys who have been toughing it out by mucking their way through the rivers and marshes to hook a snakehead or two will be the first to admit that the cute little name of "chaaaaanna" is a much better way to describe this tough, aggressive fish that very closely resembles the head of a snake and eats baby ducks, frogs, fish, and about anything else it wants.

Of course the name was not changed to appease the fisherman, it was done to dupe patrons of fancy restaurants when they read on the menu something like; "Fillet of lovable Chaaaaaaaanna with sweet creamery milkweed and bayberry sauce served on a bed of spring eelgrass" into thinking they're ordering anything but a fish that so closely resembles the head of a snake that God banned it

from the Garden of Eden!

I know our politicians had good intent with the name change and I hope it works out for everyone. I'm just afraid it might all backfire when the fish actually gets close to the final consumer. I'm imagining a customer seeing chaaaaanna on the menu and asking their server for details about the fish:

"I'm familiar with most fish here in Maryland but not the chaaaaanna. Can you describe one to me?"

"Yes, it's white flakey meat that's very tender and quite good."

"No I mean the fish itself, what's it like?"

"Well, if you were to take a big python and cut it's head off about two feet from its nose you'd have a Chesapeake Chaaaaaaaanna."

"Ok thank you... I think I'll have the meatloaf." §



It looks like Morgan Bartholomew of Ocean View has mastered the Delaware Stretch! She caught this fat flounder while drifting in the Indian River Inlet using squid.

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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



Fresh Baked Clams

Ingredients:

- 2 dozen clams, well scrubbed, hard shell
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 2 tablespoons parsley, finely chopped
- 3 tablespoons Italian breadcrumbs
- 1 lemon, cut into wedges

Directions:

Put clams in a large kettle or clam pot with the water; cook over moderate heat, just until the shells open.

Remove from the heat and when cool enough to handle,



pluck the whole clams from the shells; save half the shells.

Meanwhile, blend together the butter, garlic, parsley and bread crumbs.

Set each clam back into a half shell and spread about a teaspoon of the mixture atop each clam in a shell.

Arrange filled shells in a baking dish and broil 4" from the heat source until lightly browned, about 3-4 minutes.

Serve with lemon wedges.

Smoked Bluefish Dip

Ingredients:

- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley
- 1/2 medium red onion, minced



4 to 6 dashes of hot sauce

1/4 cup minced chives

1/2 pound skinless, boneless smoked bluefish, flaked

Toasts or crackers, for serving

Directions:

In a bowl, blend the cream cheese with the Worcestershire sauce, lemon juice, parsley, onion, hot sauce and half of the chives. Fold the smoked bluefish into the cream cheese mixture. Sprinkle the remaining chives on top and serve with toasts.

Quick and Easy Crab Pasta

Ingredients:

- 1/2 lb. linguine, spaghetti or pasta of your choice
- 3 tbsp unsalted butter
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1/3 cup dry white wine
- 1/2 lemon, juice only
- 1 cup ready to eat crab meat



1/2 cup finely grated fresh Parmesan cheese not pre-grated cheese

2 tbsp chopped parsley

Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Cook the linguine in a large pot of salted, boiling water according to package instructions.

Five minutes before the pasta is ready, set a large pan over low heat and melt the butter, add sliced garlic and sauté for 1 minute over very low heat without coloring it, then pour in white wine and lemon juice, turn the heat up to medium and let it reduce for a couple of minutes.

Stir in the cooked crab meat and take it off the heat. Drain the pasta once cooked and reserve 1/2 cup of pasta water. Add the pasta to the pan with the crab meat and toss to combine, add half of the reserved of pasta water and freshly grated Parmesan cheese (not pre-grated), stir over low heat until the cheese melts and coats the pasta. If the pasta is a bit dry add a splash of pasta water. Your pasta dish should be loose but not swimming in sauce, just lightly coated. Salt to taste. Sprinkle with fresh parsley before serving.


Bacon Wrapped Bluefish

Ingredients:

- 4 (5-oz.) skinless, boneless bluefish fillets

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Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

8-12 slices bacon

8 sprigs thyme

3 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil

Directions:



Heat oven to 425°. Season bluefish lightly with salt and pepper. Wrap each bluefish fillet crosswise with 2-3 strips bacon and tuck two sprigs thyme in between the bacon and each fillet; set aside.

Coat the bottom of a small baking dish with 1 tbsp. oil and place the fillets in the dish. Drizzle fish with remaining olive oil. Bake until fish are cooked through and bacon is crispy, about 12 minutes. Set oven to broil to crisp bacon, if necessary.

Tilefish with White Wine and Shallots

Ingredients:

1-2 lb tilefish fillet (skin-on, scales-off)

2 tablespoons honey

2-3 large shallots, sliced into rings

2 tablespoons butter

2 cups white wine

Salt

White pepper

Olive oil

Directions:

Simmer some butter in a small sauce pan on medium heat and add your sliced shallots. While they're browning, heat up a larger skillet on high and grease it lightly with olive oil.

When it is good and hot, place your fillets skin-side-down on the skillet and let them cook for a few minutes (you want that fatty skin to get nice and crispy so don't move or flip the fillets – leave them alone!). Toss the shallots so they brown all over and then add the white wine and butter, as well as a pinch of salt, and stir on low heat.

Once the flesh of the fish is white nearly all the way through, take a spatula and scrape the fillets off the pan and flip them over.

Turn off the heat, and quickly drizzle a spoonful of honey on the crispy brown skin of the fillets, then spread the honey evenly across the surface of each fillet. Sprinkle the fish with a pinch of salt and white pepper, then serve the fillets over a bed of rice, pasta, polenta or another grain of your choice.



Spoon the shallots and wine/butter sauce over the fish and enjoy!

Black Sea Bass with Zucchini Noodles (Gluten Free & Low Carb)

Ingredients:

2 4 oz. black sea bass fillets

2 tsp. seasoning mix (see ingredients below)

1 tbsp. butter or ghee

2 large zucchini

1 tbsp. avocado oil, coconut oil or extra virgin olive oil

1.5 tbsp. of diced pimentos

2 tbsp. capers

5 whole pitted kalamata olives, chopped

1/2 tbsp unsalted butter or



ghee

Splash of lemon juice

Extra sea salt and pepper for the zucchini noodles

1/2 tsp ground coriander

1/2 tsp garlic powder

1 tsp paprika

1 tsp ground cumin

1/2 tsp sea salt

1/2 tsp ground black pepper

Directions:

Make the spice mix. Combine all spice mix ingredients and mix well.

Prepare the sea bass. Dry the fillets and then sprinkle each sea bass fillet with 1 tsp of the

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seasoning mix. Set aside.

Prepare and cook the zucchini noodles. Spiralize the zucchini noodles with the small noodle attachment. Sprinkle with sea salt, pepper and 1 tbsp of oil. Toss to coat. Heat a 10 inch cast iron skillet over medium heat and add the zucchini noodles. Cook until tender, about 5 minutes, mixing often. Tongs work well for this. After cooking reduce the heat to the lowest setting you can - you just want to keep the noodles warm. Add the pimentos, capers, chopped kalamata olives, 1/2 tbsp butter and splash of lemon juice. Toss to combine.

Cook the sea bass. Heat 1 tbsp of butter in a 12 inch cast iron skillet over medium heat. If your sea bass has skin, place skin side down first and cook for 3 minutes. Flip over and cook for another 3 minutes. Flip back over and cook until the fish is flaky, 4-5 minutes.

Plate your meal. Divide the zucchini noodles among two bowls. Top with the seared sea

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bass. You can remove the skin from the sea bass before placing on top of the zucchini noodles, if desired sprinkle with parmesan cheese or feta cheese.

Blackened Flounder Tacos

Ingredients:

Tacos:

- 1 ½ pounds flounder fillets
- 1 ½ teaspoons smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- ½ teaspoon brown sugar
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 12 tortillas

Slaw:

- ½ small red cabbage, shredded

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¼ small green cabbage, shredded

½ medium sized onion chopped

½ cup cilantro, chopped

Juice of 1 lime

Avocado Cilantro Sauce:

½ cup plain greek yogurt

1 ripe avocado pitted and skinned

¼ cup cilantro

Juice of 1 lime

1 small jalapeno seeded and diced

Salt to taste



Directions:

In a small bowl combine the seasonings for the flounder. Sprinkle the mixture over both sides of the fish, rubbing the spices in on each side.

Combine all the ingredients for the slaw, cover and place in the fridge.

Combine all the ingredients for the avocado cilantro sauce in a food processor. Blend until creamy. Pour into a bowl, cover, and place in the fridge.

In a large non-stick pan, heat 2 tablespoon vegetable oil over medium high heat.

Once the oil is heated, cook the flounder in batches until it's all cooked. Each piece should cook for no more than 5 minutes per side.

Put together your fish tacos by assembling as follows: tortilla, fish, slaw, sauce. §

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The Battle for the Buckle Fishing Tournament earlier this month dealt with some really tough fishing. Tuna were few and far between, however angler Joel Hoover got a nice surprise when this bull dolphin hit the tuna spread. At 17 lbs. it is the Heaviest Reported this season. He was fishing with Capt. Steve Gladwin on the charter boat “30 Deep” based at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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 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



Anglers at the Oceanic Fishing Pier at the south end of Ocean City continue to find some good sized bluefish and small flounder.



Lots of big rock reports from the Rt. 50 Bridge at night. Angler Devin Pilarski of Berlin, MD worked the overnight hours and hooked into this 38" striper using a 5" paddle tail. He was quickly released.



The new flounder limit of 17.5" did not intimidate Brent Bortner of York, PA. He headed out June 1st to B-Buoy and hooked this 20 flounder with a Charlie's Bucktail teaser with Gulp tipped with cut bait. Most importantly he got approval from his son Archer.

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Mr. Night time Buddy Martin was busy on the Rt. 50 Bridge. He caught 2 big bluefish, almost twins with one at 33.5" and the other 34" and 11 lbs. 5 ozs.



Seth Price of Ocean View, DE wanted to get in on the great weakfish action we have seen this year. He headed out on his kayak in Ocean City and landed this huge 30" weakie on a soft plastic paddle tail.

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A white Hurricane pontoon boat with a black canopy is shown from an aerial perspective, moving across the water and leaving a white wake. Five people are on board: a man at the helm, two women in the front, and two men in the middle. The boat has 'Hurricane' written on its side.

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A Godfrey pontoon boat with a grey and black color scheme is shown from an aerial perspective, moving across the water. A family of five is on board. The boat has 'GODFREY' and 'AZURE' written on its side.

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Jordon Badorrek got a treat while visiting her uncle Eric Badorrek. The pair headed out to the Rt. 90 Bridge where Jordon caught a 16.5" flounder and Eric bagged an 18" incher, both keepers as they were caught on May 31st, just before the limit jumped!



Kale Falgowski out of Lewes, DE nabbed this clean 32" rock while fishing with a diving minnow at an ocean structure. After a quick pic it was released. He was fishing on the charter boat "Hellbent" with his dad and charter boat captain Cory Falgowski.



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Bobby Stewart finished May strong, catching this 31" bluefish from the surf at Fenwick Island. He was fishing with dad Rob when the chopper hit on a mullet rig during an outgoing tide.

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 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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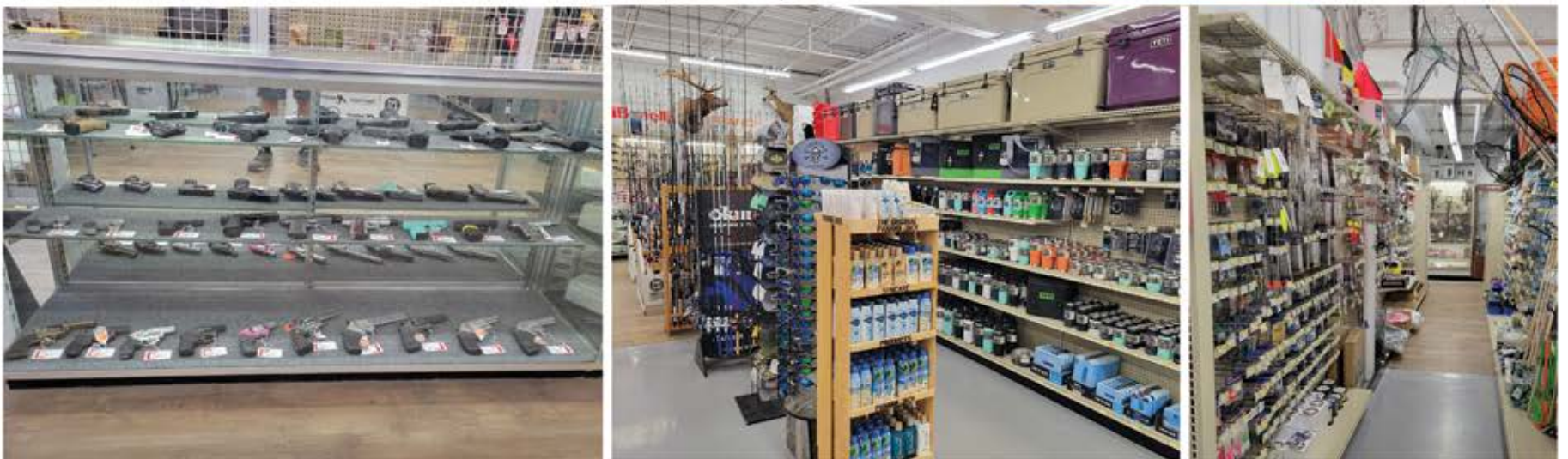


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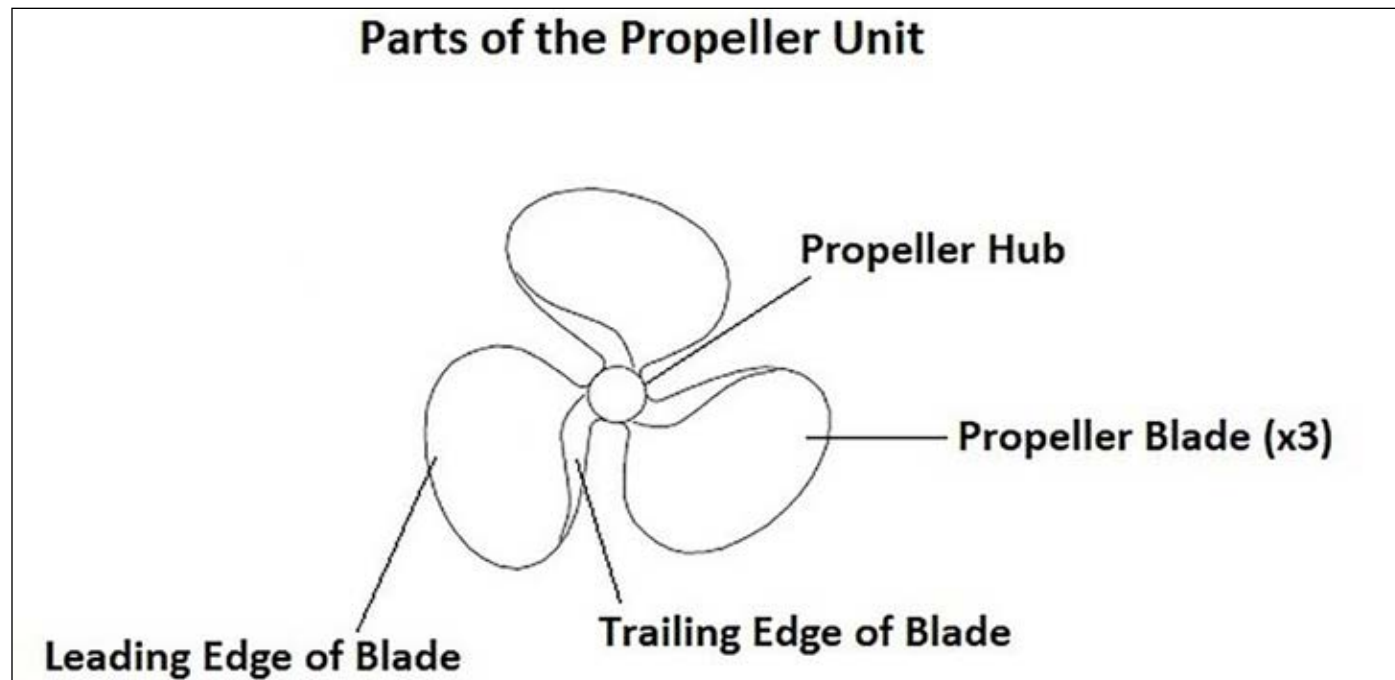
by Steve Katz



Propellers

Propellers or props are the most critical piece of underwater hardware needed to keep your boat running properly. There are many aspects that come into play when selecting and maintaining the proper propeller(s) for your boat.

A propeller is a complex design, often customized for your boat and operating style. Very minute changes in propeller geometry can have major changes in the boat's performance. A propellers job is to transfer the engines power to the water and create the force that moves the boat both forward and reverse. Any damage to a propeller, no matter how minor, should be fixed immediately to maintain the designed performance



and efficiency and to prevent damage to other mechanical components.

While a propeller is usually one solid piece of metal for most pleasure boats, there are many parts of the propeller we

need to be familiar with when discussing a propeller.

Hub - This is the solid center of the propeller that has a hole for the shaft and that the propeller blades are attached to. The design varies depending on if the propeller is used on an outboard or inboard engine, but its function is the same. There are various attachment methods of connecting the propeller to the propeller shaft.

Keyway - On a traditional inboard propeller there is a keyway cut into the inside diameter of the hub that matches with a keyway on the shaft. The propeller and shaft are then locked together with the use of a key, long square metal pieces, inserted into the common keyway. Along with the tight taper, the key keeps the propeller from spinning the shaft. The size, shape, material of the key and fit are critical to the performance of the propeller system.

Blades - The propeller blades are the twisted fins that extend outward from the hub. Propellers can have any number of blades, though three or four are the most common in pleasure boating. These blades are where most of the work happens between the engine

and the water. Blade design is the main factor of propeller performance.

Blade faces - The side of the blade facing the back of the boat is the blade face. This is the

high-pressure side that pushes the water to move the boat forward. The opposite side is called the blade back. This side faces forward and is the low-pressure side of the propeller blade.

Blade Tip and Root - The root of the propeller blade is the area where the blade is joined to the hub. The blade tip is the outermost edge of the propeller blade.

Edges - The leading edge of the blade is the part of the blade that enters the water first and the edge that leaves the water last is the trailing edge.

Rotation - Rotation, left-hand, right-hand, clockwise or counterclockwise is the description of which way the propeller is designed to rotate. All references are envisioned while standing at the back of a boat and looking forward. A clockwise turning propeller that moves a boat forward, while looking at it from the back of the boat, is called a right-hand propeller. A propeller that rotates counterclockwise and moves the boat forward is called a left-hand propeller. There are a lot of propeller elements that can be modified at a propeller shop, but right-hand and left-hand propellers

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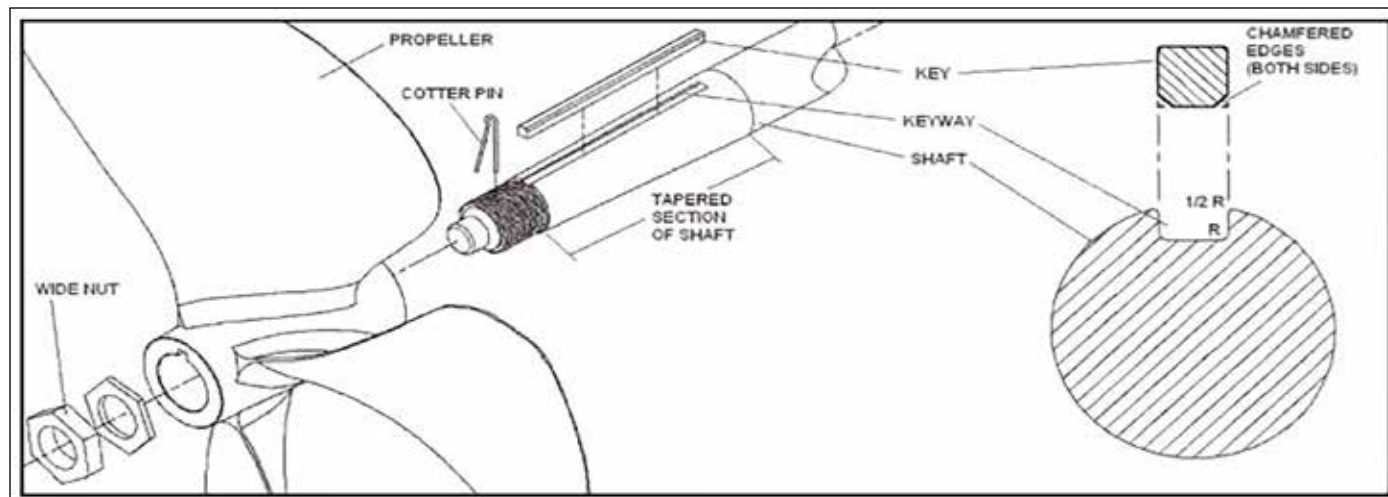
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Selection

cannot be changed, even if they are turned around! Single engine boats most often use a right-hand propeller. In a twin-engine boat, most often the propellers turn outward with the right-hand propeller on the starboard side and left-hand propeller on the port side. This set-up provides the best propeller efficiency. A twin engine boat with both propellers turning the same direction will have handling problems and is not recommended.

All the above elements come together to create a propellers design.

The engines power and boats specifications, particularly RPM, size and weight of the boat are critical in selecting the proper propeller for your boat. Engine manufacturers have an operating RPM range that needs to be obtained and maintained for best performance and operation. An undersized or oversized propeller is bad for the engine and boats performance.

When shopping for a propeller, the initial criteria is diameter and pitch, along with a few other tweaking specifications.

The propellers diameter is the distance across the circle formed by the tips of the propeller blades. Diameter is the single most important factor in propeller selection. Generally, the larger the diameter the better the performance, but an oversized or undersized propeller can be detrimental to the operation of the engine and the overall boats performance.

The propellers pitch is the theoretical distance the propeller travels through the water in one revolution. This cannot be measured using a ruler while looking

at the propeller. The pitch measurement is a theoretical distance since the propeller may "slip" in the water while turning and not cover the calculated pitch distance.

Other aspects of propeller design and selection include blade rake, blade cup, number of blades and other elements that can be adjusted by a propeller shop to obtain the best propeller for your use.

When it comes time to re-evaluate your current propeller or select a new one, many factors are involved. Fortunately, propeller manufacturers and propeller shops can walk you through the necessary steps to select or design the best propeller for your boat. While an out-of-the-box propeller may work for many applications, those Captains looking for a little more speed, fuel economy, and a smother ride will team up with a custom shop to tweak different parts of the propeller to obtain the best results. §

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Apparently mate Cake Christy has an affinity for breakfast pastries while fishing. Fortunately he was able to resist them long enough on this trip to just inside the Baltimore Canyon aboard the private boat "Sea Hunt" to catch a limit of tilefish, including this golden.

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First woman Director for the International Game Fishing Tournament Observer Organization is Appointed

Lynette Catha has been appointed as the first woman Director for the International Game Fishing Tournament Observer (IGFTO) organization and is also its Treasurer. The IGFTO is a charitable tax-exempt organization dedicated to the preservation and conservation of game fish worldwide. They provide trained and insured observers to authenticate the "Catch & Release" of billfish & game fish during international big game fishing tournaments. Their members include experienced professional and amateur sport fishermen with a variety of backgrounds across different professions including physicians, bankers, military veterans, and numerous successful business owners. Their members average more than 30 years experience on the water.

The IGFTO members have a passion for sport fishing and recognize the need to conserve and preserve pelagic life and see that game fish are declining due to poor fish management and tournament overkill. They fear that our children and grandchildren will not experience the joys of catching and releasing and they support all organizations dedicated to the conservation and preservation of game fish.

Lynette has observed fishing tournaments in Guatemala, Quepos, and the Triple Crown in Costa Rica. In some of the tournaments she has logged over 24 releases in one day. She is also involved in local fishing tournaments which include the HUK Big Fish Classic based at the Talbot Street Pier and the Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam held at Atlantic Tackle in West Ocean City. She is also an avid fisher-woman and participates in many local tournaments. She is pictured below with IGFTO President Evan Hipsley.

Outside of her IGFTO duties you can usually catch her fishing on the "Christine Marie". Lynette lives in West Ocean City, MD and is also a licensed Real Estate Agent for Hileman Real Estate and is licensed to sell in Delaware and Maryland.



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Robin Goodman of Lancaster, PA must know the hot spots for flounder in the Delaware Bay. She caught this 18.5 " and 2.66 lb. fish on a jighead with a minnow near Massey Landing.

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Bluefish 	April 19 Aiden Sparano Assateague	April 19 Dave Moore Assateague Island	Weakfish 	May 2 Jim Hitchens Delaware Bay	
Black Drum 	March 31 Chris Taylor Assateague	April 3 Jeremy Zinn 145th Street, OC	Bigeye Tuna 	May 31 Tyler Lanza "Canyon Crew" S. of Poorman's Canyon	May 5 Jeff Rosenkilde "Full Service" Baltimore Canyon
Cobia 	June 1 Chuck Guerra OC Beach	July 4 Gabriella Kendus Faithful Steward	Bluefin Tuna 	May 31 Andrew Link "Marli" Poorman's Canyon	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 28 Finbar Rishko Baltimore Canyon	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 1 Bobby West "Relentless" Poorman's Canyon	June 16 Crew "Wrecker" Poorman's Canyon
Tautog 	January 8 Anthony Emerick Ocean Structure	January 31 Josh Schwemiein Ocean Structure	Blue Marlin 		June 1 Steve Sylvester "Talkin' Trash" Norfolk Canyon
Wahoo 		June 9 Josh Short Poorman's Canyon	White Marlin 	June 1 Jake Emche "Fish On" E. of Baltimore Canyon	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



It still seems one of the best ways to catch a big flounder is to go sea bass fishing! John Rohe was drifting for knotheads with clams at the Great Eastern with Capt. Pat Hurley when he reeled in this big flatfish.



South Bethany, DE has seen some decent bluefish action this year. Bill Stidham from Newark, DE was there and landed this 28" and 7 lb. blue using whole mullet on a mullet rig.



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

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

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

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

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

66th ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT *

TBD

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Day 1 dominated the 3rd Annual Blues for DU Bluefish Tournament held at Bahia Marina. Big Bird Cropper and Shaun Flaherty were first to the scales as usual and put some impressive fish on the scales. It was Bird's 30 7/8" and 12 pounder caught on a Roy Rig however that set the bar for the event. It remained unchallenged taking the top spot for Heaviest Bluefish and securing the Winner Take All calcutta netting a cool \$4,500 in prize monies.



We don't suspect there weren't many bluefish left in the Ocean City Bay after Day 1 of the 3rd Annual Blues for DU Bluefish Tournament held at Bahia Marina. Angler Brian Reynolds with Taylor Bakke spent the day at the Rt. 50 Bridge fishing with live spot on a Freedom Baits Paddle Tails. They caught several, including these 4. Brian's blue at 11 lbs. 2 oz. and 31 7/8" slid into 2nd Place where it finished the tournament earning \$1,120.



Tournament RESULTS

June

7-9 2024

1ST PLACE
 Craig "Big Bird" Cropper
 12 lbs. \$4,500

2ND PLACE
 Brian Reynolds
 11.2 lbs. \$1,120

3RD PLACE
 Pat McGean
 10.2 lbs. \$1,301

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3rd to the scales during Day 1 of the 3rd Annual Blues for DU Bluefish Tournament held at Bahia Marina were Pat McGean, Kevin McNelis Sr. and Kevin McNelis Jr. They caught a mess of bluefish at the Rt. 50 Bridge using Freedom Baits Paddle Tails. It was however, Pat's 29" fish that tipped the scales at 10 lbs. 2 oz. that locked him into 3rd Place for the event earning \$1,301.

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443-864-7681

JACKED UP



45' Ocean
Capt. Dean Metcalfe 717-404-3331
Capt. Nick Skidmore 717-615-0644

ANOTHER MARGARITA



38' Bertram
Capt. Troy Collins
301-928-7620

CAH-CHING



35' Cabo Flybridge
Capt. Steve Martin
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VIRGINIA

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



Thunderstorms and water that warms are the setting for June Eastern Shore action. The temperature is changing and so are our fishing opportunities. With these new found options our techniques need to adapt, to ensure bent rods and citation sized smiles.

Cobia are kicking off in a big way. While the season doesn't open till 6/15, the catch and release fishing has been off the hook... or maybe on the hook is a better description. Anglers have been soaking bunker chunks on fishfinder rigs with 8/0 hooks to entice the battlers in brown suits. Most bites have come in 15-25 foot depths from just below the Pocomoke Sound down to the more recognizable spots near the CBBT.

The sweet water of the Chesapeake is still supplying

superb pullage as flats fishermen target the big three (rock, reds, and specs). All species have been prevalent in the picturesque pristine waters of the Tangier and Pocomoke Sounds. However, the concentration of slot reds really has me excited with regards to what the year possibly could offer for those of us who have a fondness for the flats. While bait fishermen have been casting chunks of crab, light tackle lure anglers have found paddle tails (with and without popping corks) as well as suspending mirrolures and x-raps have gotten the boat good and fishy.

Elsewhere on deeper structure of the southern Eastern Shore, sheepshead are starting to show up on the lower Chesapeake as well as the seaside. Tog jigs

baited with a precious piece of peeler have provided pull for folks in search of a prize with funny look'n teeth. Oyster rocks have heard the bellowing brawling black drum as crab baited lines await a bite and battle.

The new flounder size limit of 17.5 inches has been anticlimactic for anglers targeting fillets for the freezer. The best action has centered around high water as flatfish find themselves on the flats. A mixture of silversides and squid have summed fish to the net but in most cases returned to the salty sanctuary to secure future generations.

The deep shades of azul have hidden some of our most sought after pelagic species. However, bottom fishing for tiles has taken the edge off for those who

desire the deep. Sea bass fillets continue to fill frying pans as knotheads cross the gunwale. The nearshore flounder and spade/ trigger bite should start soon on the many structures just off Chincoteague and Wachapreague.













Don't forget, we at Sea Hawk Sports Center are hosting the second annual "Michael C. Taylor Flounder Frenzy" on June 14th & 15th. This is a memorial tournament for the family of Mike who was a friend of mine. All proceeds go directly to the National Down Syndrome Society, a charitable group that was dear to Mike's heart.

So if you are looking for something to do that will provide a bunch of fun that supports something positive, while remembering someone we miss, stop by or give us a call. Let's catch some flounder and show everyone that we know, how blessed we are to live in this wonderful place that 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 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>

eregulations.com



Our own Capt. Matt Abell got this group from the Mid-Shore Anglers Club out on the backwaters of the eastern shore of Virginia on his charter boat. Among other catches included this mix of a striper, sea trout and a bluefish.

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Erik Anderson
850.974.5600

Charley Pereira
252.216.6291

Mark Pagano
561.309.7867

Colton Cunningham
561.718.4182

FEATURED BOAT


TROUBLEMAKER - 2003 57' DEAN JOHNSON - CALL KAYVAN BAHRAMI

HAPHAZARD - 2004 61' Billy Holton
Call Jeff James

PREDATOR - 2014 66' Viking
Call Joe Crawford

EL BENDIDO - 2004 61' Blackwell
Call Jimmy Fields

DONA LUCY - 2022 58' F&S Boatworks
Call Jimmy Fields

GAL-O-MINE - 1988 46' Hudson
Call Jeff James

THE 3 G's 2021 38' Fountain
Call Adam Peeples

2022 42' Freeman
Call Ronnie Fields

2023 41 SeaHunter
Call Colton Cunningham

2010 36' Yellowfin
Call Jimmy Fields

2019 35' Boston Whaler
Call Chris Workmon

FULL CIRCLE - 1984 50' Buddy Davis
Call Jeff James

1985 47' Hines-Farley
Call Ronnie Fields

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

BARRATUNA - 2008 53' Sculley
Call Steve Hedrick

2006 36 Grady White
Call Chris Workmon

2003 38' Fountain
Call Terry Layton

2001 24' Pursuit
Call Terry Layton

MAMA LOVE - 1999 56' Ocean Yachts
Call Jeff James

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