

Priceless

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# COASTAL FISHERMAN

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Tommy Hinkle of West Ocean City, MD became the first two-time winner of the White Marlin Open when he captured this 79.5 lb. white marlin on the 4th day of the tournament and held on to win the White Marlin Division. The 72-incher was hooked in the Wilmington Canyon on a naked ballyhoo off the short shotgun bridge rod and took an hour to get to the boat. Tommy was fishing on the "Fish Whistle" with Pat Horning, John Horning, Dave Gorelick, Capt. Charlie Horning and mate Walt Schrade. Tommy's last win was in 2008 on the "Fish Whistle" when he caught an 81 pounder and won \$956,275 in award money. For this years win, the "Fish Whistle" team took home a check for \$1,504,719.





While fishing on the "Ocean Drifter" in the Wilmington Canyon, anglers Christian and David Ostrowski teamed up to boat this 225 lb. bigeye tuna after a 2 1/2-hour fight. The guys hooked the fish on a trolled lure while fishing with John and Carmean Ostrowski. Weighed at the Hook'em & Cook'em Tackle Shop in the Indian River Marina.



Chris Gaba from Edgewater, MD was fishing with clams and squid at the South Jetty when he hooked into this 12 lb. 1 oz. sheephead. Chris was fishing on his boat, "Offshore Country".

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On the final day of the 2019 White Marlin Open, John Belansen, II on the "Beast" arrived at the scale with a 73 lb. white marlin, just missing 3rd place by a 1/2 lb. John hooked the fish in 1,000 fathoms outside the Wilmington Canyon on a skirted ballyhoo. The marlin measured 69 1/2-inches and had a girth of 26-inches. John was fishing with Tom and Julia Belansen, Bob Fritsch, Sean and S.P. O'Donnell, Jim Heinold, John Orcutt, Donald Sowers, Lori Wurster, Capt. John Belansen and mate Kenny Waters. The anglers also released 2 other white marlin during their trip. Pictured at Harbour Island.

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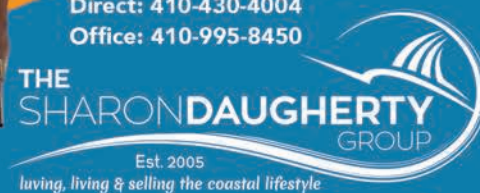
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# OCEAN CITY

## FISHING REPORT

by Larry Jock



### This Week Last Year

- "Weldor's Ark" catches 83 lb. white marlin in Norfolk Canyon to win the WMO.
- "Buckshot" breaks record with 75.5 lb. yellowfin worth over \$924,000. Caught in the Norfolk Canyon.
- Winning wahoo caught inshore of the Rockpile.
- Top boat, "Viking 72" released 12 white marlin while fishing in Norfolk, Washington and Spencer Canyons.
- Best flounder bite was on live spot in the East Channel.
- Inshore flounder fishing improved at the Old Grounds, the Bass Grounds and at Russell's Reef. Bucktails with strip baits worked the best.
- Good numbers of cobia showed up off the coast of Delaware.

What a week of fishing in Ocean City! We have to start with a super exciting White Marlin Open. The Trump flags were flying, the weather was nice and the billfish were really snapping, evidenced by the tournament record set for white marlin releases. Here's what the species count looked like when compared to last year:

White Marlin  
Released 1,429 vs. 705  
Boated 30 vs. 18

Blue Marlin  
Released 45 vs. 57  
Boated 2 vs. 1

As with most White Marlin Open's, the busiest days were on Monday and Friday, both in the number of boats fished and also the number of winning fish weighed. In the 14 leaderboard positions, the final day had the most changes to the leaderboard with 43% of the winning fish weighed that day.

Monday 29% (4 fish)  
Tuesday 21% (3 fish)  
Wednesday 0% (0 fish)  
Thursday 7% (1 fish)  
Friday 43% (6 fish)

In the White Marlin Division, it didn't take long to set the bar when the "Chasin' Tail" was the first boat to arrive at the scale, weighing a 74 pounder that was caught in the Norfolk Canyon that sat in 1st place until Thursday when the "Fish Whistle" arrived with their 79.5 pounder that they hooked in the Wilmington Canyon and ultimately won the tournament. In between these catches, "The Natural" received a scare when the "Backlash" showed up with a white marlin that was a 1/2 lb. shy, weighing 73.5 lbs. Like many of the marlin we saw throughout the week, the 3rd place fish caught on the "Backlash" was hooked in the Wilmington Canyon.

There was only one blue marlin that hit the qualifying length and that one came in on the "Haulin' n Ballin'" on the 2nd day of the tournament. Craig Dickerson caught the fish after hooking it on a plug in 750 fathoms behind the Washington Canyon. There was another blue marlin boated later in the week, but unfortunately it didn't reach the 114-inch minimum length requirement.

Tuna fishing in recent weeks hasn't been very good, so everyone was interested in seeing how the Tuna Division would end up. We did see quite a few yellowfins hit the scale and a couple of allisons ended

up on the leaderboard, but the winning fish was a bigeye tuna caught on opening day by Russ Garufi on the "Crisdel". The bigeye was part of a doubleheader where one fish was cut-off so they could concentrate on the larger bigeye. It looks like it was a great decision. The 201 pounder took 2 hours and 45 minutes to get to the boat after being hooked on a ballyhoo in the Wilmington Canyon. On the second day of the tournament, Ronnie Fields on the "Mjolnir" weighed a 145.5 lb. allison yellowfin that he hooked on a naked ballyhoo in the Baltimore Canyon. Ronnie's yellowfin ended the tournament in 3rd place in the Tuna Division. It wasn't until the final day of the event that the "Seakeeper" weighed a 150.5 lb. allison to jump into 2nd place in the Tuna Division. The big yellowfin was caught on a Laceration lure in the Baltimore Canyon.

Several other impressive yellowfins were caught throughout the week in the Baltimore and Wilmington Canyons with several over the 60 lb. mark and some into the 70s.

The final day also saw the 6th largest wahoo in tournament history when Anne Aramendia on the "Give It Away" weighed a 91 pounder that she caught on at the East Wall of the Wilmington Canyon. The bar was set early in the week when "The Natural" sat in first place since opening day with an 82 lb. wahoo that was caught in the Baltimore Canyon. Third place in the Wahoo Division went to the "Hubris" with a 76.5 pounder caught on Friday. They weighed an impressive catch that also included a 76.5 lb. yellowfin. Both fish were caught deep

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outside the Wilmington Canyon.

We definitely saw a lot of dolphin throughout the week, both on the scale and those left in the box, but again it was on the last day when all of the final leaderboard changes took place. The "Irene" came in on Friday with a 39 pounder that was caught deep in the Wilmington Canyon to briefly take over 1st place in the Dolphin Division. Their lead didn't last long when John Kreiner on the "Playmate" weighed a 41 pounder to take over the top spot. The big dolphin was hooked in 400 fathoms in the Wilmington. As if enough leaderboard changes didn't take place already, one of the final boats to the scale was the "Miss-Tres" with a 38 pounder that finished in 3rd place in the Dolphin Division.

Some years we don't see any sharks, but this year the "Polarizer" weighed a 277.5 lb. mako that they hooked on a ballyhoo while trolling for marlin. I'm sure they were surprised when the big mako surfaced in 300 fathoms in the Wilmington Canyon.

There was a new category

for Top Lady Angler this year and it was won by Jackie Tenuto on the "Lit Up". Jackie took the top spot by releasing 8 white marlin throughout the week.

Finally, the anglers on the "Big Deal" had a tournament to remember when they released 28 white marlin during their 3 days of fishing. This gave them 1,960 points, breaking a tournament record that stood for 39 years! In addition, angler Ed Russo won Top Angler honors for his 17 white marlin releases. Congratulations to Capt. Brian Rabbitt, Ed and the entire crew for their record breaking performance.

Outside the tournament, the big news was the cobia and mackerel bites. Cobia were quietly caught in good numbers, especially around Little Gull and Great Gull Shoals. We also saw them caught off the Bethany Beach coastline and out at Fenwick Shoal. Most were caught on bucktails tossed to fish cruising around schools of bunker.

Big king mackerel showed up at the Bass Grounds, but the big boys were caught around

Great Gull Shoal. On Saturday, Nick Watts on the "Saltwater Adventures" boated a 53 1/2-inch after hooking it on a Rapala X-Rap lure. Dan Hill was right behind with a 52-inch that he also caught at Great Gull Shoal. His 32 lb. 4 oz. smoker was hooked on a Stretch 25. Several other smaller king mackerel and a few Spanish mackerel were also caught in the same locations.

The black sea bass bite continues to be underwhelming. Fish are being caught, but getting enough to fill your limit has been difficult for anglers fishing with squid and clams.

It looks like we may have reached the point in the season where the flounder bite on ocean structure is better than the one in the bays. Nice fish are being caught in the waters behind Ocean City and Assateague Island with the East Channel, the Thorofare and around the South Jetty being the top spots for keeper flounder. Live spot or mullet have worked the best when it comes to catching larger fish in deep holes, however the old reliable

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white Gulp Swimming Mullet is still enticing flatties.

We did see some striped bass caught, including some keepers, around the Rt. 50 Bridge and in the Ocean City Inlet on rubber shads and Z-Man artificial baits.

One of the nicest catches of the week came in last Tuesday when Chris Gaba caught a 12 lb. 1 oz. sheepshead at the South Jetty on a chunk of clam.

#### Upcoming Tournaments

This weekend is the famous Capt. Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open at Bahia Marina. The tournament starts on Thursday and goes through Saturday. If you have never experienced the Poor Girls Open, it is definitely one to see. The ladies bring in some great fish and the enthusiasm is incredible.

On Monday, the MidAtlantic Tournament rolls into town and runs all week with weigh-ins from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Sunset Marina.

Until next week, I'll see you at the scales!

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Dan Zebroski (right) teamed up with Nathan Fee to reel in this wahoo after hooking it in 20 fathoms, west of Massey's Canyon. The guys were fishing with Nate Pritchett on the "Mahki" when they hooked the 45-inch, 23 lb. speedster on a Stretch 30.

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While fishing on the “Clamaholic” on the final day of the 2019 White Marlin Open, Jim Meyers from Mayetta, NJ caught a 73.5 lb. white marlin to tie the “Backlash” for 3rd place in the White Marlin Division, but lost the tiebreaker due to them gaffing their white marlin while the crew on the “Backlash” did not. Joining Jim were John Kelleher, who caught a 66 lb. white marlin (left) that didn’t meet the minimum qualifying weight of 70 lbs., Neal McPeak, Martin Truex, Capt. John Mumford and mates John LaGrove and Kyle Fisher. The qualifying white marlin measured 68-inches and sported a 26-inch girth. The crew also released 4 white marlin during their trip. Pictured at Harbour Island.



Allan Kazmierski caught this 45 lb. wahoo while trolling along the West Wall of the Wilmington Canyon. Allan was fishing on the “Chasin’ Tail” with Tammy Kazmierski when they also released 3 white marlin and had a blue marlin in their spread. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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## 3-200 Miles

 <p><b>BLUE MARLIN</b> 99” Lower Jaw Fork Length No retention limit</p>	 <p><b>DOLPHIN</b> No minimum length 10 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>YELLOWFIN TUNA</b> 27” Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day</p>	<p><b>SHARKS</b> <b>AUTHORIZED SPECIES</b></p> <p><u>No Minimum Fork Length</u> Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead,</p> <p><u>54” Minimum Fork Length</u> Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose</p> <p><u>71” Minimum Fork Length</u> Male Shortfin Mako</p> <p><u>78” Minimum Fork Length</u> Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead,</p> <p>Only 1 shark from the lists above may be retained per vessel per trip. In addition, 1 Atlantic Sharpnose and 1 Bonnethead may be retained per person per trip. If a hammerhead shark is retained, no tunas, billfish or swordfish may be retained</p> <p><u>83” Minimum Fork Length</u> Female Shortfin Mako</p> <p><u>Prohibited Sharks</u> Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White</p>
 <p><b>WHITE MARLIN</b> 66” Lower Jaw Fork Length No retention limit</p>	 <p><b>WAHOO</b> No minimum length 2 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>BLUEFIN TUNA</b> (Recreational) 2 per vessel/day/trip 27” to &lt; 47” CFL 1 per vessel/day/trip 47” to &lt; 73” CFL</p>	
 <p><b>SWORDFISH</b> 47” Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter)</p>	 <p><b>BIGEYE TUNA</b> 27” Curved Fork Length No retention limit</p>	<p>(Charter Boat) (Head Boat) 3 per vessel/day/trip 6 per vessel/day/trip 27” to &lt; 47” CFL 27” to &lt; 47” CFL 1 per vessel/day/trip 2 per vessel/day/trip 47” to less than 73” 47” to less than 73”</p>	
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On opening day of the 46th Annual White Marlin Open, Rob Gothier of Key Largo, FL caught a big 77.5 lb. yellowfin tuna while trolling ballyhoo in the Baltimore Canyon. Rob was fishing on the "Bar South" with Bonny Gothier, Andrew Cox, Al Smith, Capt. Raul Gonzalez and mates Cory Lednum, Rusty Reddish and Nathan Giunta. Pictured at Harbour Island.



Taking matters into his own hands, Capt. Brent Wiest dropped a bait onto ocean structure during his last drift of the day and caught this 7 lb. 3 oz. flounder. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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## What time is it?

Congratulations to the all participants and winners in this year's White Marlin Open. The challenge of running offshore for consecutive days in all weather conditions is a lot of work for the crew and catching a prize winning fish is even more difficult. Great job to all.

We also wish all crew and anglers good luck in The MidAtlantic next week.

Let's review a popular topic during fishing tournaments - Time of day.

While many crew members may not wear a watch while fishing, keeping track of the correct time is even more critical during a tournament. With so many electronic gadgets supplying the time, we expect the time we see to be correct and synchronized between all devices. A marine chartplotter or GPS, as with most modern time keeping devices, needs to be properly programmed to your location for the proper time zone and the use of day light savings time. Many of us have come

to rely on the time on the chartplotter or related devices for the proper time.

How does a GPS chartplotter know the correct time?

Chartplotters receive the time from the GPS satellites. In addition to longitude, latitude and altitude, the Global Positioning System (GPS) provides a critical fourth dimension - time. Each GPS satellite contains multiple atomic clocks that contribute very precise time data to the GPS signals. GPS receivers decode these signals to the UTC standard and effectively synchronizing each GPS receiver to the world's atomic clocks. This enables users to determine the exact time to within 100 billionths of a second, without the cost of owning and operating atomic clocks.

The manufacturers of GPS receivers' generally automate the device's time settings, allowing the time to be automatically adjusted based on your GPS location, just like a smart phone. Seems like a good idea, right? Well many of the devices may be too smart. They know when your

boat moves into a different time zone or time of year and even when it has exceeded the coastal 12-mile territorial waters of the USA. Once beyond the 12-mile coastal limit, the chartplotter often automatically eliminates the daylight savings time (subtracting one hour in the summer) on the way to the distant fishing grounds and then adds back the one hour on the return trip to port at that same 12-mile territorial water limit.

The best way to deal with this issue and synchronize the vessels time to the same time zone at port is to manually configure the time zone (or offset) of your GPS display systems. Often, the "Time of Day" menu on the chartplotter has a setting for display format and offset adjustment from UTC. Keeping the same time at sea and at port will also allow your calculated estimated time of arrival to be correct. Here in Maryland during the summer, the time zone is -4 (minus 4 hours) from UTC (Universal Time Coordinated).

Garmin chartplotter devices seem to need a manual time zone configuration more than other brands since they default to the automatic time zone settings for simplicity. The steps below are for the most popular current Garmin devices. Other brands may be

similar.

- Start from the Home screen.
- Select Configure/Settings
- Select Preferences
- Select Units
- Select Time
- Select Time Zone
- Select Custom

## GMT or UTC?

Many of us once referenced time based on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). GMT is actually a time zone in England that also happens to be the same as UTC. The Universal Time Coordinated (UTC) is an international standard referenced around the world. UTC is an atomic timescale. It usually has 86,400 seconds per day, but is kept within 0.9 seconds of the mean solar time by the introduction of occasional leap seconds. If you are curious, there are currently 37 worldwide time zones with some zones 30 or 45 minute intervals as compared to the traditional one hour differentials based on 1 hour per 15 degrees longitude.

*Captain Steve Katz is the owner of Steve's Marine Service and holds NMEA, AMEI and NMEA2000 certificates along with ABYC Master Technician certification and factory training from many manufacturers. To reach Steve, call 410-231-3191.*

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With 389 of the 404 boats fishing on opening day of the 46th Annual White Marlin Open, the weigh-ins were very busy and one of the boats that made it to the scale was the "Caneelin" with Sarah Bohlman's 54.5 lb. wahoo caught while trolling a Black Bart mini 1656 Angle Nose lure in the Baltimore Canyon. Sarah also released a white marlin while fishing with Josh Bohlman, who also released a white marlin, Capt. Randy Bohlman and mates Craig and Kevin Bohlman. Pictured at Harbour Island.

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Jack Burbage continued his good season of cobia fishing with a 48.3 pounder caught after fooling it with a live bunker. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em in the Indian River Marina.

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Maintaining his position as top flounder fisherman in the Hoffman family, Mike Hoffman captured a 23-incher while drifting live bunker in the East Channel. Look for his brother Scott to come in with a larger flattie to knock Mike off the throne.

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Two weeks in a row, Kyle Falgowski, Matt Baker and Chip Graves caught swordfish while deep dropping in 1,400 to 1,500 feet of water north of the Poor Man's Canyon. The swordfish measured 58 and 60-inches and were caught while using squid for bait. Courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.

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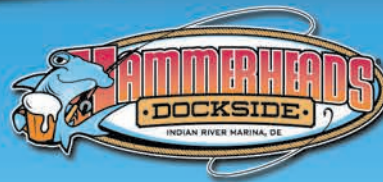
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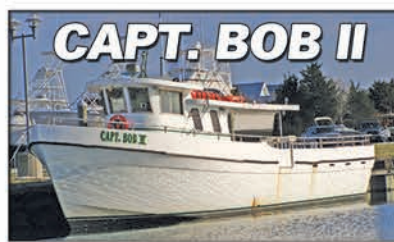
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# FISHING CHARTERS



Jeff Bennett from Frankford, DE used a live eel to catch this 28.3 lb. cobia while fishing out at Fenwick Shoal. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em in the Indian River Marina.



This 26 1/2-inch, 7 lb. 3 oz. flounder just couldn't resist the Gulp artificial bait being fished by Ryan and Andrew Kleban at the Old Grounds. Weighed at Rick's Bait & Tackle.

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 The advertisement features a large image of a fishing boat docked at a wharf. A Facebook logo is visible in the bottom right corner.



# FISHING CHARTERS



Burke Webb from Pasadena, MD caught 2 flounder, measuring 20 and 21-inches, while drifting with live bunker in the East Channel.



Erin Schuster was sight fishing off the coast of Bethany Beach, DE when she hooked into this 40 lb. cobia. Erin was fishing with Ray Halfen and Rory Schuster who each caught cobia measuring 47 and 42-inches respectively. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Not too many people spend as much time on the water as Big Bird Cropper and on this day he was rewarded with a 29-inch striped bass caught at the start of the incoming tide on a Roy Rig around the Rt. 50 Bridge. Pictured at the Coastal Fisherman office in West Ocean City, MD.



It was a slow pick on Sunday for anglers fishing on the headboat, "Angler" but they caught some nice sea bass, including this pair boated by Christian Glatfelter. Christian's largest fish weighed 2 lbs. 12 oz. and was caught on squid at a natural reef.

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Ella Zurad from Severna Park, MD caught this 17 1/2-inch flounder on a white Gulp Swimming Mullet while drifting in the East Channel on the charter boat, "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente and mate Willie Poole.



# FISHING CHARTERS



Sarah Valencia from Greencastle, PA caught a 2 lb. triggerfish during a trip aboard the headboat, "Judith M" with Capt. John Bunting. The fish was hooked while using clams and squid for bait at the Bass Grounds. Pictured at Bahia Marina.



While fishing on the "Foolish Pleasures", anglers Jim Frazetti, Scott Meyer, James Jones and Joe Williamson released 2 white marlin in the Baltimore Canyon. This white marlin was lured in with a Squidnation Flippy Floppy before hitting a pitch bait.

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# FISHING CHARTERS

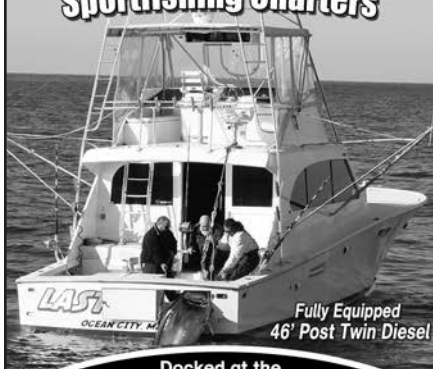


Ryder Ream, Austin Kehr and Mason Kehr are all smiles after catching 3 flounder during a trip on the charter boat, "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente and mate Willie Poole. The junior anglers hooked the flatties on white Gulp Swimming Mulletts in the East Channel. Their largest fish measured 20-inches.



Ben Jacobs and Evan Trakas, mates on the "Gale Force Charters" and the "Judy V" enjoyed a day off and went cobia fishing near Fenwick Shoal where they ended up catching this 30 pounder on a live eel. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



With the Lewes Harbour Stretch in full effect, Jeff Sherwood displays the 22-inch flounder he caught while fishing on the charter boat, "Katydid" with Capt. Brent Wiest. The big flattie was hooked with cut bait on ocean structure. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Ryan and Andy Patterson teamed up with Kirt Kugel to catch a bunch of Spanish mackerel while fishing with Capt. Dave Caffrey on the charter boat, "On the Run". The fish were hooked on trolled spoons at the First Lump. Pictured at Bahia Marina.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Patti and Mike Mobley from Stevensville, MD, Lisa Maly and John Fritz from Towson, MD and Aaron Grassmeyer from Lewistown, PA ended their day with a half dozen keeper flounder in their coolers after fishing on the headboat, "Tortuga" with Capt. Drew Zerbe and mates Serge Garder and Austin Korycki. Aaron led the way with an 18 1/2-inch that weighed 2 lbs. 7 oz. on the scale at Bahia Marina. All of the fish were caught on squid or minnows combined with strips of squid.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



On opening day of the 2019 White Marlin Open, Brandon Dick-Giordano from Roaring Spring, PA caught this 70 lb. white marlin while fishing on the charter boat, "Reel Chaos" with Anthony Matarese, Sr., Dan Harrison, Barry Kintz, Hunter Bounds, Paul Davolos, who released a blue marlin estimated at 400 lbs., Capt. Anthony Matarese, Jr. and mates Mike Matarese and Jake Graves. The 68-inch white marlin sported a 24-inch girth and was hooked on a naked ballyhoo in the Baltimore Canyon. Pictured at Harbour Island.



Steve Redden, Pat Petrera and Jeff Waxman were looking for cobia along the Fenwick Island coast when they caught a pair weighing 30 and 47 lbs. Both were fooled with Spro bucktails and weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em in the Indian River Marina.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Olivia, Norm and Lauren Thurston from Pasadena, MD caught a couple of keeper flounder while fishing on the charter boat, "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford and mate Ethan Nock. Both were hooked on live spot in the East Channel. Pictured back at Frontier Town in Berlin, MD.



The last boat to arrive at the scale on opening day of the 2019 White Marlin Open was the "Theresa Jean" with a 101 lb. yellowfin tuna caught by Chuck Metz of Newtown, PA. Chuck was fishing with Earle Hall, Theresa Tomasini, John Tomasini, Sr., Ryan Haney, Ray Thompson, Capt. John Tomasini and mates Robbie Valco and Danny Prettyman. Chuck fought the big tuna for 4 hours after hooking it on 20 lb. test line. Pictured at Harbour Island.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Zach Shustrick from Johnstown, PA caught a 32 1/2-inch king mackerel while trolling between drop sites on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins.



Capt. Monty Hawkins on the headboat, "Morning Star" said that "the ladies hammered the sea bass today" and he was right with quality catches made while using clams and squid for bait on a natural ocean reef. Pictured are Ashley Vece, Kim and Alyssa Heller, Sherry Goldberg, Rebecca Stillman and Aubrey, Tori and Angie Fasig. The "Morning Star" docks at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Rachel Tang from Richmond, VA is all smiles after catching a couple of black sea bass during a trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. The knotheads were caught on natural bottom while using squid and clams for bait.



On the second day of the 46th Annual White Marlin Open, Patrick Petrera muscled in this 77 lb. yellowfin tuna while trolling a ballyhoo with a Joe Shute head in 500 fathoms in the Poor Man's Canyon. Patrick was fishing on the "Priceless" with his dad, Pat Petrera who was sporting his stylish shades, Jeff Waxman and Rodney Evans. Pictured at Harbour Island.



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## 2019 SCHEDULE

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Awards Banquet: September 1, 6:30 PM

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Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 12, 13 & 14

Italian Night: September 13, 6:30 pm

Awards Banquet: September 14, 6:30pm

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# CHUM LINES

by Capt. Mark Sampson



We were fishing a few miles offshore when our chum line was suddenly invaded by a school of six-inch mackerel. They were fast little guys that would surge right up to the chum bucket, steal a few bites of chum and then quickly dart away only to rush back a few seconds later for another attack. Figuring they would make great live-baits for cobia, sharks or any other big critter that might show up that day, we decided to throw a few of the mackerel in our livewell until needed. Of course, before doing so we had to catch them first, a process that I originally expected was going to be a cinch considering we had a couple "Sabiki" bait rigs aboard that I thought would solicit immediate bites from the mackerel that were feeding so frantically behind our boat.

I felt so confident that we'd have live bait aboard in just a few moments that I asked my mate to get a rod ready to fish the bait from before I'd even dropped the Sabiki in the water. This was going to be a sure thing – I thought. But as it so often goes, just as soon as

you think you've got yourself a slam dunk the results just don't pan out the way you expected.

I dropped the bait rig among the mackerel in the chum line and they kept right on feeding in, over and around my tiny baited hooks without touching a single one! We tried jigging, putting tiny bits of bait on the hooks, letting the rig float free with the current, holding the hooks right at the surface and letting them sink down and out of sight, but nothing was working and still the mackerel kept feeding furiously behind the boat. They were just little baitfish and it really didn't matter if we caught any or not, but as a "fisherman" I like to think that I can "catch fish" when I need to and those little mackerel had me perplexed. I just had to figure out the secret to catching them!

As fishermen we often find ourselves in situations where we can see our quarry, but for one reason or the other the fish just won't take us up on our offer of a "free lunch" because it seems that no matter what we troll, cast or drift past their

nose they simply won't open their maws and take a bite. Frustrating? You bet! Particularly when the fish is a species or of such grand proportions that hooking it would be a special milestone in our fishing careers. But dealing with the challenges of rejection is as much a part of fishing as anything else.

Anyone who has ever tried to catch one knows that cobia are notorious for being finicky feeders, but they're just one of many species that will sometimes acquire lockjaw at the worst time for fishermen. In fact, at one time or another even some of the more voracious feeders such as dolphin, bluefish and sharks will refuse to bite what anglers are trying to feed them, but where there's a will there is usually a way.

When a fish won't bite, one of the quickest and most logical things an angler can do is freshen up their bait. After its been soaking a while every bait loses some of its scent-appeal, so even if the same "type" of bait is put back on the hook, changing to something that is a little (or a lot) fresher can trigger a bite. Another way to get a bait to release a little more aroma is to put some slices in it or just squeeze or smash it up a bit. Anglers might also find that using larger, smaller or

different shape baits will make a difference. Of course when anglers have the option, changing to a different type of bait altogether is always a logical move.

If all the different bait variations have been tried and the fish still won't bite, it's usually time for anglers to start changing up their terminal tackle because there could very well be something going on there that the fish simply don't like the looks of. It's likely that fishermen will have to start "lightening-up" on their rigs by using smaller hooks, lighter leaders, fluorocarbon leaders or use no leaders at all. While these alternatives could mean that once the fish bites there could be less chance of successfully landing it, sometimes it's the only way to get the bite.

Often, when fish have been lured in and are feeding on chum or chunks, they'll become so committed to the free offerings floating away from the boat that they won't touch anything else. Such times might require that anglers try to imitate what the fish are feeding on as closely as possible. Here again, small hooks and light leaders will likely be required, as will a presentation that has the bait descending the water column at the same rate as the chum or chunks. The bait also needs to

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be the same as what's floating away from the boat. If that happens to be chum and if they wish to successfully pull off the scam, then fishermen might have to figure out a way to get those tiny little bits of ground-up bait on a hook!

Sometimes anglers will encounter fish that absolutely will not touch anything that isn't alive. Of course, this can be frustrating to fishermen who are not so equipped, but it also underscores the advantage of carrying live bait along or at least having the ability to catch live bait whenever possible. Keeping Sabiki rigs, tiny hooks, snag hooks and a cast net aboard to "make bait" when opportunities present themselves can pay off big time when anglers are able to turn the tables on fish that refuse to take anything but live offerings. Live baits can come in the form of live bluefish or mackerel from one's own chum line, jacks from beneath an offshore

buoy, menhaden snagged from a school or caught in a net in a back bay canal or croaker, spot and any other small fish taken while bottom fishing.

Sometimes finicky fish can only be caught using some off-the-wall technique that presents a bait or lure in a unique fashion. Kite fishing, for example, allows anglers to present a live or dead bait right on the surface with line and leader above the water and, therefore, out of the line of sight of the fish. This technique will take just about any kind of fish that swims and is one of the best to use on fish that won't be fooled by conventional methods. Deep jigging, trolling with planer boards and using "way-back" baits are examples of how very specialized techniques sometimes prove to be so successful in catching fish that they eventually become a standard practice for many fishermen.

Of course, anglers will

sometimes encounter fish that, for some unknown reason, will simply resist everything and anything they troll, cast, float or jig past their scaly noses. We just have to face the fact that at times some fish are just uncatchable, but fishermen will never know that for sure until they've tried every trick in their tackle box. I was beginning to think that the mackerel in our chum line would never make it to our livewell until I tied a tiny hook directly to the 10-pound line on a spinning rod, baited it with a minute sliver of tuna, floated it back in the chum and started catching fish after fish. Sometimes the simplest methods can be the most effective!

*Capt. Mark Sampson is an outdoor writer and captain of the charter boat, "Fish Finder", docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center. During the winter months, Capt. Mark runs charters in the Lower Keys.*

August 14, 2019 Coastal Fisherman Page 33



Jackson Cogar is spoiled for life after catching a 20-inch flounder on his very first flounder fishing trip. Jackson hooked the 3 lb. 2 oz. flattie on a live bunker at slack low tide by the Rt. 50 Bridge and weighed his catch at AllTackle Ocean City on Rt. 50.



2019 cape horn

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Whoever made the decision not to cut up this 22 lb. dolphin and take it to the scale to be weighed is a brilliant man! The dolphin ended up being the heaviest one caught on the 4th day of the 2019 White Marlin Open and was worth \$16,380 in award money. Angler Mike "Big Dolphin" Peet, was joined on the "No Quarter" by Jeremy Snapp and Jeremy Wright, both pictured, Joe Zimmer, Capt. Kyle Peet and mates Michael Butler and Chase Travers.



Pat Price from Palm City, FL and Bob Davidson from Mary D, PA (yes, that's an actual town) joined Preston Walls of Ocean City, MD for a day of flounder fishing on the "One More Drift" and were rewarded with 4 keepers measuring up to 20-inches. Two were fooled with live spot in the East Channel and two were hooked in the Thorofare.

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1 per person/day or 6 per boat/day



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40" minimum  
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**CROAKER**  
9" minimum  
25 per person/day



**RED DRUM**  
18" - 27"  
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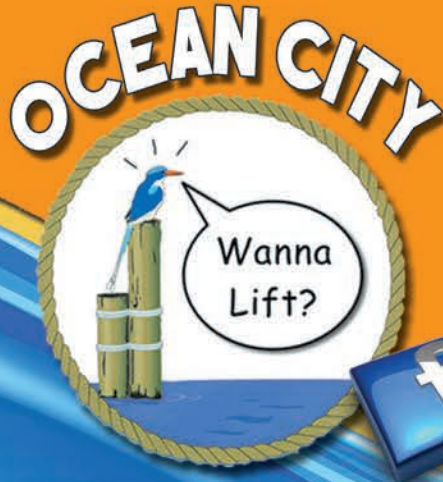




While trolling north of the Poor Man's Canyon, Zach Elliott, Bill Elliott and Mike Ennis captured 4 yellowfin tuna, weighing up to 75 lbs. The guys were fishing on the "Intimidator".



Gary Ebling from Myerstown, PA caught this 27 1/2-inch, flounder while dropping a strip of squid over ocean structure. The fish weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. on the scale at Lewes Harbour Marina.





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



Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
<b>Bluefish</b> 	June 2, 2019 Isabel Blanks Rt. 50 Bridge 14 lbs. 12 oz.	June 13, 2019 Ray Mast Delaware Bay 17 lbs.	<b>Mako Shark</b> 	June 23, 2019 John Dudley Washington Canyon 486 lbs.	June 2, 2019 Mike Baumgartner Poor Man's Canyon 159 lbs.
<b>Black Drum</b> 	No Weights Reported	May 22, 2019 A.J. Marta Delaware Bay 64 lbs.	<b>Thresher Shark</b> 	June 1, 2019 Marc Troch Fingers 553 lbs.	June 15, 2019 Dave Twardowski Old Grounds 528 lbs.
<b>Cobia</b> 	July 21, 2019 Wyatt Melocik Great Gull Shoal 60 lbs.	<b>NEW</b> August 7, 2019 Jack Burbage 48.3 lbs. Bethany Coast	<b>Bigeye Tuna</b> 	June 19, 2019 Bill Pino & Bill Keller Poor Man's Canyon 237 lbs.	<b>NEW</b> August 9, 2019 Ostrowski Family Wilmington Canyon 225 lbs.
<b>Flounder</b> 	July 2, 2019 Steve Ratcliff Blackfish Bank 8 lbs.	July 3, 2019 Sunny Crowell Site 10 10 lbs. 10 oz.	<b>Bluefin Tuna</b> 	May 27, 2019 Steve Brokenshire Poor Man's Canyon 155 lbs.	June 2, 2019 John Klerlien Baltimore Canyon 157.4 lbs.
<b>Sea Bass</b> 	May 15, 2019 Bobby Eberhard Ocean Wreck 5 lbs.	June 6, 2019 Elaine Becker Ocean Wreck 3 lb. 3 oz.	<b>Longfin Tuna</b> 	June 25, 2019 Mike Shekletski Baltimore Canyon 57 lbs.	June 1, 2019 Ed Luhrman Baltimore Canyon 54 lbs.
<b>Sheepshead</b> 	<b>NEW</b> August 6, 2019 Chris Gaba South Jetty 12 lbs. 1 oz.	June 27, 2019 Pete Hesson Indian River Inlet 12 lbs. 10 oz.	<b>Yellowfin Tuna</b> 	<b>NEW</b> August 9, 2019 Andrew Semprevivo Baltimore Canyon 150.5 lbs.	June 19, 2019 Kyle Bartley Baltimore Canyon 79.7 lbs.
<b>Striped Bass</b> 	May 9, 2019 Dan Rivera Ocean City Inlet 37.5 lbs.	May 9, 2019 Bob Holsberger Indian River Surf 15 lbs. 6 oz.	<b>Dolphin</b> 	July 28, 2019 Jeff Wright Poor Man's Canyon 74 lbs.	July 20, 2019 Mary Gessler Baltimore Canyon 29.9 lbs.
<b>Tautog</b> 	May 7, 2019 Eddie Santiago "Fish Bound" 20 lbs.	January 7, 2019 Steve Kiibler Site 11 19 lbs. 13 oz.	<b>Wahoo</b> 	July 12, 2019 Andrew Koontz Poor Man's Canyon 109 lbs.	<b>NEW</b> August 7, 2019 Allan Kazmierski Wilmington Canyon 45 lbs.
<b>Weakfish</b> 	June 6, 2019 Rich Daiker South Jetty 6 lbs. 8 oz.	June 5, 2019 Ryan Lewis Indian River Inlet 5 lbs. 6 oz.	<b>White Marlin</b> 	<b>Most Releases in 1 Day (trolling only)</b>	
				August 1, 2019 "Let It Ride" 13 releases	July 28, 2019 "Seaflame" 9 releases

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





Matt Franz, Chris Daugherty, Matt Ried and Jay Christie were dropping squid in 120 fathoms in the Washington Canyon when they caught some golden tilefish and blackbelly rosefish. Their 2 largest golden tilefish weighed 30 and 46 lbs. on the scale at Sunset Marina.



Sheepshead have been hanging out around the Outer Wall in the Delaware Bay and that is where Chad Kauffman fooled a 5 lb. 2 oz. keeper with a frozen sand flea. Chad and his fishing partner also caught 7 flounder during their trip, including 2 that were caught in the Lewes Canal. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Last weekend, big king mackerel were caught not far off the Ocean City coastline. Daniel Hill and his family were scouting for cobia so they dropped some spoons on planers and a single Stretch 25 and started trolling from Little Gull Shoal out to Great Gull Shoal. They hooked a 28-inch king mackerel in 50-feet of water and continued trolling over Great Gull when the Stretch 25 got slammed. The fish made 3 hard runs, each time almost spooling the reel. After a 20-minute fight, this 52-inch, 32 lb. 4 oz. smoker was on the deck, but only after it had spit the front two hooks of the lure and was only snagged by the second set of hooks in the meat under its gills.



After fishing in every White Marlin Open since 1982, the crew on the "Kingfisher" have decided to hang-up their gaff and head into retirement, but not before weighing a 24 lb. dolphin in this years event. Has Lehnert caught the dolphin on a trolled ballyhoo in the Wilmington Canyon while fishing with Bill Britt, Tommy Jones, George Dobbs, Capt. Ted Deppe and mate Greg Jones. Pictured at Harbour Island.

# DELAWARE REGULATIONS

## ... STATE WATERS ONLY ...



**BLACK SEA BASS**  
12.5" minimum  
15 per person/day  
5/15 - 12/31



**BLUEFISH**  
No minimum size  
10 per person/day



**BLACK DRUM**  
16" minimum  
3 per person/day



**COBIA**  
No limit



**CROAKER**  
8" minimum  
No creel limit



**RED DRUM**  
20" - 27" minimum  
5 per person/day



**SHEEPSHEAD**  
No limit



**SPECKLED TROUT**  
12" minimum  
No creel limit



**STRIPED BASS**  
28" - 37" and 44" and greater  
2 per person/day off the coast  
20"-25" in DE Bay, River and Tributaries  
from 7/1 to 8/31



**SUMMER FLOUNDER**  
16.5" minimum  
4 per person/day



**TAUTOG**  
16" minimum  
4 per person/day  
7/1 - 12/31



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## Baked Bluefish with Tomato and Dill

4 bluefish fillets  
1 1/2 TBSP olive oil  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste  
Juice of one large lemon  
3 tomatoes, chopped  
2 stalks celery, sliced thin  
2 TBSP dill, chopped  
1/4 cup plain dry bread crumbs

Preheat oven to 425-degrees.

Place the fillets on a large baking dish or jelly roll pan.

Brush the fish with olive oil and sprinkle with salt, pepper and lemon juice.

Place the tomatoes and celery on top of the fish.

Sprinkle with dill.

Scatter the bread crumbs evenly over the fish.

Bake for about 16 to 20 minutes or until cooked through.

If the surface needs browning, place the pan under the broiler for a minute or two.

## Lobster Roll Pizza

12 oz. roughly chopped cooked lobster  
1/2 cup loosely packed flat-leaf parsley leaves, coarsely chopped  
2 TBSP fresh tarragon leaves, coarsely chopped  
2 small garlic cloves, grated  
2 tsp. lemon zest  
2 tsp. fresh lemon juice, divided

1 large celery stalk, chopped  
1 TBSP celery leaves, divided  
3/4 tsp. kosher salt, divided  
6 oz. mascarpone cheese  
1/4 cup mayonnaise  
1/2 tsp. black pepper  
1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper  
Coarse cornmeal  
1 pizza dough or Pillsbury pizza crust  
2 TBSP unsalted butter, melted  
4 oz. mozzarella cheese, shredded (about 1 cup)  
2 oz. Havarti cheese, shredded (about 1/2 cup)  
1 TBSP fresh chives, chopped

Place a cast iron pizza pan or a pizza stone in oven and preheat to 500-degrees.

Put parsley and tarragon leaves into a small bowl.

Add garlic, lemon zest, chopped celery stalk and 1/2 tsp. of the salt. Stir to combine

and set aside.

Stir together mascarpone cheese, mayonnaise, black pepper, red pepper, lemon juice and remaining 1/4 tsp. of salt in a medium bowl. Set aside.

Line a rimless baking sheet with parchment paper and sprinkle with cornmeal.

Place pizza dough on parchment paper and stretch into a 14x8-inch oval.

Brush melted butter over the dough.

Spread mascarpone mixture evenly over dough, leaving a 1/2-inch border.

Sprinkle mozzarella and Havarti cheeses evenly over mascarpone mixture.

Top evenly with lobster.

Carefully slide pizza onto preheated pizza pan or stone and bake in until golden brown, about 10 minutes.

Remove from oven and let stand 5 minutes.

Sprinkle evenly with parsley mixture, chives and celery leaves.

Serve in 8 pieces.

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## Grilled Weakfish over Basil

1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil, divided  
2 large weakfish fillets  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
2 big bunches basil, about 1 lb. total  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
2 TBSP white wine vinegar

Heat grill, preferably with hardwood charcoal fuel.

Brush grates with a TBSP of olive oil.

Place fillets on a platter and brush both sides of each with 1 1/2 TBSP olive oil.

Season with salt and pepper. Set aside.

Remove 1/4 cup basil leaves from bunches and chop very fine.

Mix chopped basil and garlic with remaining oil.

Season with salt and pepper. Set aside.

When grill is hot, place grates about 4-inches above

heat.

Pile remaining basil across grates, covering just enough area to hold fish.

Place fillets, skin side up, on bed of basil.

Allow to cook until most of basil is shriveled and burned, about 5 to 7 minutes. Fillets should be cooked at least halfway through at their thickest point.

Use one or two large spatulas to flip fish fillets off basil, onto their skin side and directly on grill.

Scrape most of burned basil out of the way.

Continue grilling until fish is just cooked through and skin is crisp, 8 to 10 minutes longer.

Lift fillets off grill and transfer them, skin side down, to a serving platter.

Remove any burned bits of basil.

Add vinegar to basil and oil mixture and drizzle over fish.

Serve immediately.

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Flounder pounder, Kern Ducote took his nephew, Grahme Akehurst out for a trip to the East Channel and down behind the Ocean City Airport where they caught 7 keeper flounder on Gulp shrimp and live bunker. The fish ranged in size from 16 1/2 to 19-inches.

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Sandy and Josh Buchalter caught some big flounder while drifting around "B" Buoy. Sandy led the way with a 4 lb. 6 oz. flattie and Josh boated a 4 lb. 3 oz. flounder. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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## Pan-Seared Tuna with Wasabi-Butter Sauce

- 6 tuna steaks, 1-inch thick
- 2 TBSP white wine vinegar
- 10 oz. white wine
- 1/4 cup shallots, minced
- 1 TBSP wasabi paste
- 1 TBSP soy sauce
- 1 cup unsalted butter, cubed
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- 1 TBSP olive oil, or as needed
- 1 cup cilantro leaves, chopped

Combine the white wine vinegar, white wine and shallots in a small saucepan over medium heat.

Simmer until the liquid is reduced to about 2 TBSP.

Strain out shallots and discard. Return liquid to the pan.

Stir the wasabi and soy sauce into the reduction in the pan.

Over low heat, gradually

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whisk in butter, one cube at a time, allowing the mixture to emulsify. Be careful not to let the mixture boil.

When all of the butter has been incorporated, stir in cilantro and remove from heat.

Pour into a small bowl and set aside.

Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat.

Brush tuna steaks with olive oil and season with salt and pepper.

Place in the hot skillet and sear for 2 to 3 minutes on each side or to your desired doneness.

Serve with sauce.

## Sea Bass with Honeyed Apples

- 4 sea bass fillets
- 4 apples, peeled, cored and cut into thin wedges
- 1/2 cup margarine, divided
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour

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- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. ground black pepper
- 2 cups dried bread crumbs
- 1 egg, beaten

Melt 1/4 cup of the margarine in a large skillet over medium-high heat.

Fry the apples in the margarine until tender.

Stir in the honey, reduce heat and keep warm.

In a shallow bowl, mix together flour, salt and pepper.

Place bread crumbs in another shallow bowl and egg in a third bowl.

Melt the remaining 1/4 cup of margarine in a large skillet over medium heat.

Dredge the fish in the seasoned flour. Dip in egg and then coat with bread crumbs.

Place the coated fillets in the hot skillet and cook for about 3 to 4 minutes per side. The fillets should be nicely browned and they should flake easily with a fork.

Place fish on a serving dish and spoon the apples with honey over the top of each fillet.

### Grilled Striped Bass with Roasted Salsa

For the rub:

- 2 tsp. pure chile powder
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp. granulated garlic
- 1/2 tsp. dried oregano
- 1/2 tsp. ground cumin
- 1/4 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 2 striped bass steaks, cut 1-inch thick
- Extra virgin olive oil

For the salsa:

- 4 medium plum tomatoes, cored and quartered
- 1/2 cup red onion, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup lightly packed fresh cilantro
- 1 to 2 jalapeños, stemmed, quartered, and seeded
- 3 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 TBSP extra virgin olive oil

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Great Gull Shoal has been a top spot for anglers searching for cobia recently and that is where Chase Saulitis and Mason Castanares teamed up to catch this 42-incher on a Spro bucktail while fishing on the "Bella" with Brad Rice.

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It's been a great season for cobia fishing and Nick Ferrara of Middletown, DE loves to take his jet ski out and look for the "man in the brown suit". On this day, Nick caught a 34.4 pounder while tossing a bucktail off the coast of Fenwick Island. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.

1 TBSP fresh lime juice  
1/2 tsp. pure chile powder  
1/4 tsp. ground cumin  
Kosher salt  
Freshly ground black pepper

Preheat charcoal grill until ashes are grey.

Mix together the rub ingredients in a small bowl.

Lightly coat the fish with oil and season evenly with the rub. Refrigerate until ready to grill.

In a large bowl, mix all of the salsa ingredients.

Pile salsa ingredients on a large sheet of aluminum foil and then fold in the edges to make a sealed packet.

Place the foil packet with the salsa ingredients directly over the coals and grill until the tomatoes are soft, about 10 minutes.

Remove the packet from the grill, open the foil, and allow to cool for 5-10 minutes.

Pour the contents of the packet into a food processor or blender and pulse just enough

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to make a chunky salsa.

Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Clean and oil the cooking grate of the grill.

Place the steaks directly over the coals, cover and let cook for 5 minutes.

Carefully flip the steaks and continue to cook until fish is just opaque in the center, another 2 to 3 minutes.

Remove the fish from the grill and let sit for 5 minutes.

Top steaks with the salsa.

### Pan-Seared Flounder with Fried Rosemary and Garlic

2 flounder fillets

1 TBSP olive oil

4 garlic cloves, thinly sliced

3 rosemary sprigs

Salt and pepper, to taste

Paprika, to taste

Lemon wedges

Heat the olive oil in a saute pan over medium heat.

Add the garlic and

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rosemary.

Cook, stirring, for 3 minutes. The garlic should be browned.

Transfer garlic and rosemary to a bowl using a slotted spoon. Reserve the oil in the pan.

Sprinkle the fish with salt, pepper, and paprika.

Add the fish to the pan and cook for 3 minutes on each side..

Plate fish and top with even amounts of the garlic and rosemary.

Serve with lemon wedges.

Serves 2.

### Grilled Wahoo with Cherry Tomatoes

2 wahoo fillets

1 small red onion,  
chopped

3 garlic cloves, chopped

1 TBSP olive oil

1 pint of cherry tomatoes,  
cut in half

1/2 cup white wine

1 lemon, sliced thinly

Salt & pepper to taste

Fresh parsley, chopped for  
garnish

Heat olive oil in a skillet  
over medium heat.

Add onion and cook until  
softened, about 5 minutes.

Mix in garlic and saute for  
another minute.

Add 2 cups of water,  
tomatoes, wine and lemon  
slices.

Bring mixture to a boil.

Reduce heat to a simmer  
and cook, uncovered, for 10  
minutes.

Add fish to the liquid and  
cover.

Cook for about 15 minutes  
or until fish is cooked  
through.

Remove fish and place in a  
bowl.

Remove tomatoes and  
lemon slices and distribute  
between the bowls.

Cover with foil to keep  
warm.

Increase heat to high and  
reduce the liquid, about 5 to  
10 minutes.

Pour liquid over fish and  
serve with parsley.

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These are 3 happy anglers after spending some time drifting in the Thorofare and the East Channel with Preston Walls aboard the "One More Drift". Vickie Rothschild and Debbie Walls from Ocean City, MD and Lisa Pierce from Bradenton, FL ended their day with 9 keeper flounder in the box (6 pictured) after hooking them on live spot at the top of the incoming tide. Lisa's 20-incher was the largest of the day.

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Nick Watts from Petersburg, WV caught a 53 1/2-inch, 33.5 lb. king mackerel while fishing on "Saltwater Adventures" with Sherry and Keaton Watts, Aeryn Judy and Capt. Tony Battista. The big smoker was hooked on a Rapala X-Rap diving plug in 22-feet of water at Great Gull Shoal. Pictured at Atlantic Tackle.



On a busy opening day of the 2019 White Marlin Open, Rob Howes on the "Game Changer" arrived at the scale with a 35.5 lb. dolphin, the heaviest caught this day and worth \$16,380 in daily added entry money. Rob caught the big dolphin on a trolled ballyhoo outside the Poor Man's Canyon while fishing with John Terry, Mike Moss, Josh Sink, John O'Neill, Carl Parker, Josh Hahn, Capt. Neil Brosnahan and mates Ricky Akins and Matt Husman. Pictured at Harbour Island.

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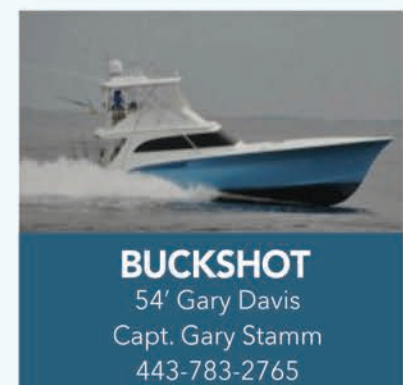
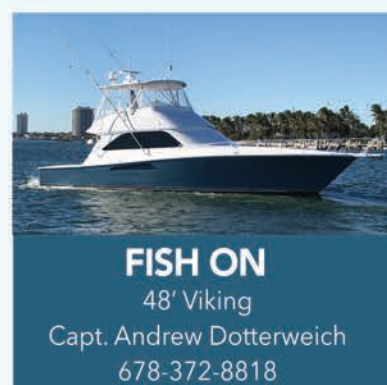
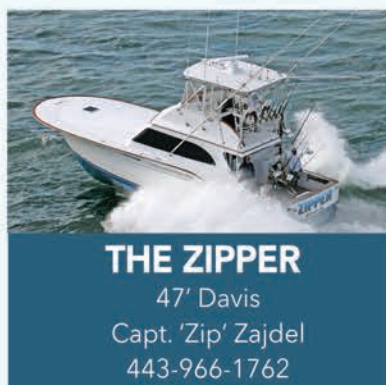


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Brad Barbush and his son, Matthew, both from Drums, PA took a trip on the charter boat, "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford and mate Ethan Nock. They were rewarded with a couple of keeper flounder, measuring up to 19-inches, while drifting Z-Man artificial baits around the Ocean City Inlet.



Brian Haneschlager from Upper Falls, MD caught a couple of dandy black sea bass while fishing with clams over a natural ocean reef with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mates Cody Gallien and Vance Atkins on the headboat, "Morning Star". Brian's heaviest knothead tipped the scale at 3 lbs. 10 oz. The "Morning Star" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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# FISH

## STORIES

by Capt. Franky Pettolina



I woke up to my head feeling hot and damp against the pillow. I had fallen asleep with my hand up against my cheek. Having been out earlier for a night of cocktails at Carlos and Charlies in downtown Cancun, I was not overly surprised by this situation. After I got out of my bunk and went to the head (for you landlubbers, that's what we boating folks call the bathroom) and looked in the mirror I changed my opinion on not being surprised. The side of my head was what pro wrestling announcers refer to as a crimson mask! I was covered in blood!

Rewind the video back to that afternoon and I was in the middle of a hot sailfish bite out in front of Isla Mujeres. We were hooked up to a multiple. I think it was a triple header. As the first wind-on leader was coming to the rod tip I reached out for it and took a couple of wraps and held on tight. The sailfish was not fond of this and went airborne, flipping end over end a couple of times. The leader snapped

close to the hook between the ball bearing swivel and the fish. The 60 lb. monofilament leader had a bit of stretch to it and I was hit by the swivel as it came flying back towards the boat. This is what is referred to as a snap back. The swivel hit my gloved hand and actually pierced the material and nicked and bruised my middle finger on my right hand. A few short moments later my finger was swollen up to twice its normal size. There was no time for licking my wounds as we still had a couple of sails on and there were plenty more out there to catch for the day.

After we got in that night, my Mexican deckhand Carlos cleaned up the boat and I prepped baits for the following day. Once those chores were complete I took a quick shower and set out for a night on the town. Put fifty American boats in a hopping resort destination during the high vacation season and there was always fun to be had! After several cold Dos Equis lagers and a tequila slammer or three, my swollen

finger didn't bother me near as much.

Well not until several hours later that is, when it had swollen enough that the skin split and made the mess I was referring to earlier. I cleaned myself up and put the pillow case and the sheets into the wash. One interesting thing about boats is that the mattresses on the stateroom bunks are usually odd shapes. This is especially true in the custom sport fish world. Odd shaped mattresses call for odd shaped sheets. Bed Bath and Beyond doesn't have a section labeled "boat sized" in between twin and full on the shelves either, so this makes for custom sheets for each stateroom. Even though my blood was well thinned by cervezas and tequila I can tell you, unfortunately, that blood on light colored sheets doesn't wash completely away. I received a stern tongue lashing from my captain on this matter the following day when he performed a stateroom inspection to make sure that I was keeping my quarters ship shape!

Even worse was a few days later when, even with my best efforts at keeping the wound clean, a nasty infection set in. Not

uncommon in our line of work, but still not pleasant, I had a case of fish poisoning. It took a few trips to the local farmacia to finally beat the infection and keep my middle finger from being amputated. Not how I wanted to spend my evenings in Cancun, that is for sure!

I was reminded of this life experience yesterday when I saw a picture of Jake Graves, the mate on the charterboat "Reel Chaos", on social media. He was having a great day catching white marlin during the White Marlin Open when he received a dreaded snap back. His was worse than mine from years ago in that the snap swivel on the leader actually imbedded itself in his finger. The glove had to be cut off of his hand and the swivel carefully removed from his flesh. OUCH!!!

The good news in his story was that he was using proper technique and keeping his hands low to his body. This is something every leader man should know, but I see plenty of instances where mates are holding their hands high while holding the leader. This is a big no no! If the swivel, or worse yet a hook, should come flying back at you, its trajectory will be your

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face. With hands held low the projectile will find its way to your body, or your gloved hand, most of the time. I would rather take a welt or cut to my chest than a swivel in my eye any day of the week. Although there was one time that a hook came out of a mahi's mouth and found its way into my left nostril. Today that would be a fashion statement of some sort I imagine. Back in the 90s my Mom was having none of it and made sure that Dad cut the hook out immediately.

Hope the hand feels better soon Jake! Keep on catching them buddy!

Capt Franky Pettolina is Co-Captain of the charter boat, "Last Call", owner of Pettolina Marine Surveying, Inc. and multi-term President of the Ocean City Marlin Club. If you would like to book a charter on the "Last Call", please call 443-783-3699 or 410-251-0575.



Charles Corrar from Pennsville, NJ caught bluefish and golden tilefish while deep dropping in the Baltimore Canyon. His largest golden tilefish measured 31-inches. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Brandon Landreth of Pittsville, MD caught a pair of big flounder, measuring 21 and 23-inches, while fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with his grandfather, Donald Bounds, Capt. D.J. Churchill and mate Kevin Twilley. Brandon is this weeks "Layton's on 92nd Street" Junior Angler of the Week. See ad on page 44.



Colby Thiel of Ocean Pines, MD caught this 13 lb. mahi while fishing with his dad, Rich Thiel on the "Bull Minnow". Colby hooked the male dolphin on a trolled ballyhoo at the Hambone.

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**2019 TOURNAMENTS**

**26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CAPT. STEVE HARMAN'S  
POOR GIRLS OPEN  
AUGUST 15-17**

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FLOUNDER  
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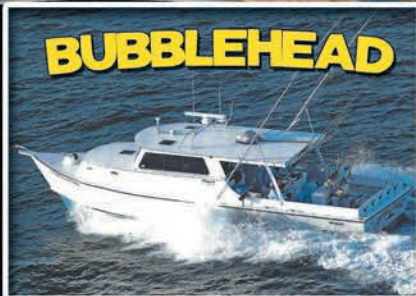
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**BARBED WIRE**

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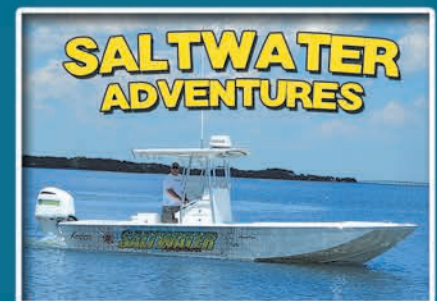
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Junior angler, Chase Freas from West Deptford, NJ couldn't be happier after catching and releasing his very first white marlin while fishing on the charter boat, "Reel Chaos" with his dad, Tim Freas, Mark Humphreys, Capt. Anthony Matarese, Sr. and mates Mike Matarese and Jake Graves. The fish was hooked on a trolled ballyhoo in the Baltimore Canyon. After giving it a quick measurement, the white marlin was successfully released. Congratulations Chase!

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Jeff Dunlap caught his limit of flounder while drifting live mullet in the Thorofare. The largest fish measured 20 1/2-inches and weighed 2 lbs. 5 oz. The other 3 fish measured 17, 19 and 19-inches. Pictured with Jeff is Addie Dunlap.



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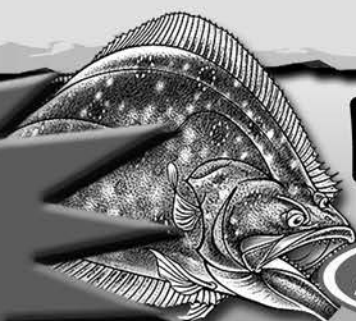


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## Total Prize Money \$6,186,870

### WHITE MARLIN

#### 1ST PLACE

TOMMY HINKLE  
"FISH WHISTLE"  
79.5 LBS.  
\$1,504,719

#### 2ND PLACE

NATHAN WALKER  
"CHASIN TAIL"  
74 LBS.  
\$135,432

#### 3RD PLACE

MICHAEL WAGNER  
"BACKLASH"  
73.5 LBS.  
\$1,502,454

### TUNA

#### 1ST PLACE

RUSSELL GARUFI  
"CRISDEL"  
201 LBS.  
\$935,915

#### 2ND PLACE

ANDREW SEMPREVIVO  
"SEAKEEPER"  
150.5 LBS.  
\$100,050

#### 3RD PLACE

RONNIE FIELDS  
"MJOLNIR"  
145.5 LBS.  
\$128,675

### SHARK

#### 1ST PLACE

GREG ROBINSON  
"POLARIZER"  
277.5 LBS.  
\$231,300

### DOLPHIN

#### 1ST PLACE

JOHN KREINER  
"PLAYMATE"  
41 LBS.  
\$20,380

#### 2ND PLACE

FRANK SINIOT  
"IRENE"  
39 LBS.  
\$3,000

#### 3RD PLACE

RANDY DROZD  
"MISS-TRES"  
38 LBS.  
\$74,900

### WAHOO

#### 1ST PLACE

ANNE ARAMENDIA  
"GIVE IT AWAY"  
91 LBS.  
\$24,475

#### 2ND PLACE

KYLE MCLAUGHLIN  
"THE NATURAL"  
82 LBS.  
\$23,475

#### 3RD PLACE

RICH KOSTZYU  
"HUBRIS"  
76.5 LBS.  
\$2,000

### BLUE MARLIN

#### 1ST PLACE

CRAIG DICKERSON  
"HAULIN' N BALLIN"  
465.5 LBS.  
\$962,165

### TOP ANGLER

#### 1ST PLACE

ED RUSSO  
"BIG DEAL"  
1190 POINTS

#### 2ND PLACE

ROBERT WEDEKING  
"OVERRIDE"  
910 POINTS

#### 3RD PLACE

VICTOR ROOF JR.  
"GAME ON"  
875 POINTS

### SMALL BOAT WHITE MARLIN

#### 1ST PLACE

TOMMY HINKLE  
"FISH WHISTLE"  
79.5 LBS.

Monies incl. in White Marlin Category

### SMALL BOAT TUNA

#### 1ST PLACE

GRAHAM WARD  
"REELDICULOUS"  
121 LBS.  
\$108,000

### SMALL BOAT DOLPHIN

#### 1ST PLACE

RANDY DROZD  
"MISS-TRES"  
38 LBS.  
\$74,900

### BOATS REGISTERED - 404

**White Marlin**  
Boated 30  
Released 1,429  
98%

**Blue Marlin**  
Boated 2  
Released 45  
96%

### SMALL BOAT BIG FISH

#### 1ST PLACE

ANDREW SEMPREVIVO  
"SEAKEEPER"  
150.5 LBS. TUNA  
\$100,050

### TOP BOATS

#### 1ST PLACE

"BIG DEAL" 1,960 PTS.  
\$84,150

#### 2ND PLACE

"UNO MAS" 1,785 PTS.  
\$31,860

#### 3RD PLACE

"TAR HEEL" 1,750 PTS.  
\$28,800

### TOP LADY ANGLER

#### 1ST PLACE

JACKIE TENUTO  
"LIT UP"  
8 WHITE MARLIN RELEASES  
560 PTS.

#### 2ND PLACE

ANNE ARAMENDIA  
"GIVE IT AWAY"  
6 WHITE MARLIN RELEASES  
420 PTS.

#### 3RD PLACE

LAINEY JONES  
"BUILDERS CHOICE"  
6 WHITE MARLIN RELEASES  
420 PTS.

### FISHING DAYS

**MONDAY - 389**

**TUESDAY - 335**

**WEDNESDAY - 120**

**THURSDAY - 103**

**FRIDAY - 265**





It had to be a long week for the crew on the "Haulin' n Ballin'" after catching this 465.5 lb. blue marlin on just the second day of the White Marlin Open. The blue marlin hung on to win 1st place in the Blue Marlin Division, worth \$962,165 in award money. Angler Craig Dickerson of Pasadena, MD muscled in the 117-inch blue marlin after hooking it on a plug in 750 fathoms behind the Baltimore Canyon. Joining Craig on the "Haulin' n Ballin'" were the father and son teams of Aaron and Mike Jezierski and Andrew and Chris Kinsley, Mitch Seitz, Scott Dolmetsch, Capt. Howard Lynch and mates Burro Gonzalez and Jose Luis Sanchez. Pictured at Harbour Island.






Bigeye tuna had been scarce in the weeks leading up to the 2019 White Marlin Open, but the team on the "Crisdel" tracked down a 201 pounder in the Wilmington Canyon where Russ Garufi, owner of Titan Yachts, fought it for 2 hours and 45 minutes after hooking it on a trolled ballyhoo. The bigeye ended the tournament in 1st place in the Tuna Division and earned the "Crisdel" team \$935,915 in award money. Joining Russ were Frank Criscola, Joe Prestifilippo, Mike Kelly, Neil Franzoni, Capt. George Steller, Jr. and mates Matt Wardlaw and Brian Perry. Pictured at Harbour Island.



There was a lot of movement on the leaderboard during the final day of the 2019 White Marlin Open and one of the changes came when Anne Aramendia brought a 91 lb. wahoo to the scale that took over 1st place in the Wahoo Division. Anne's wahoo, the 6th largest in White Marlin Open history, was caught while fishing on the "Give It Away" with John Aramendia, Ryan Bonner, Capt. Brad Durkin and mates Corey Shea and Matt Driscoll. She hooked the speedster at the East Wall of the Wilmington Canyon on a trolled ballyhoo and earned \$24,475 for the catch. Anne also won 2nd place Top Lady Angler for her 6 white marlin releases in the tournament.



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In the 46th Annual White Marlin Open, John Kreiner of Bel Air, MD caught a 41 lb. dolphin on the final day to jump into 1st place in the Dolphin Division. John was fishing on the "Playmate" with Chris Beatty, Jeff Michael, Jay Beynon, Jim Davis, Ben Overholt, Capt. Jeremy Shandrowski and mates Tom Perry and Bobby Fletcher. The winning dolphin was hooked on a Trump plug in 400 fathoms in the Wilmington Canyon and earned the "Playmate" team \$20,380 in award money. Also pictured at the Harbour Island scale are Brad Price, Jack Shandrowski and Glen McFaul.



The team on the "Polarizer" were trolling for marlin in 300 fathoms in the Wilmington Canyon when this 277.5 lb. mako shark decided to eat their ballyhoo. This was a bad thing for the shark, but a good thing for the "Polarizer" crew who took home \$231,300 in award money for their 1st place finish in the Shark Division. Greg Robinson muscled in the 91-inch while fishing with George Robinson, Mike Fitzpatrick, Jace Alzheimer, Matt Schad, Ryan Gallagher, Capt. Bill Davis and mates Erik Mateer and Mike Hudson. Pictured at Harbour Island.



In the 2019 White Marlin Open, Top Lady Angler honors went to Jackie Tenuto on the "Lit Up" with 8 white marlin releases during her 3 days of fishing. Jackie is pictured accepting her award from Tournament Directors Madelyne Rowan and Sasha Motsko.



The very first boat to arrive at the scale of the 46th Annual White Marlin Open last week was the "Chasin' Tail" with a 74 lb. white marlin that held on to win 2nd place in the White Marlin Division. The mate on the "Chasin' Tail", Nate Walker hooked the white marlin on a trolled ballyhoo in 1,000 fathoms in the Norfolk Canyon while fishing with Howard Webb, Cecil Hatfield, Robert Claunch, Nina Davis and Capt. Butch Davis. For their 2nd place finish, the team took home \$135,432 in award money. Pictured at Harbour Island in Ocean City, MD.





On the final day of the 2019 White Marlin Open, Andrew Semprevivo captured a 150.5 lb. yellowfin tuna to jump into 2nd place in the Tuna Division. The big allison was hooked on a Laceration lure in the Baltimore Canyon while fishing on the "Seakeeper" with Will Cimino, Ron Semprevivo, Brook Stevens, Capt. Pete Nolan and mate George Penna. For their 2nd place finish, the "Seakeeper" team earned \$100,050 in award money. Pictured at Harbour Island.



Another boat that caused a leaderboard change on the last day of the 2019 White Marlin Open was the "Irene" with a 39 lb. dolphin caught by Frank Sinito of Cleveland, OH. Frank's dolphin ended up in 2nd place in the Dolphin Division, worth \$3,000 in award money. The fish was hooked on a trolled naked ballyhoo in 700 fathoms, east of the Wilmington Canyon where they also released 4 white marlin during their trip. Joining Frank on the "Irene" were Philip Weikert, Collin Ramani, Casey Rodhan, Capt. James Ewing and mates Nick Cremasco and Jimmy Sullivan. Pictured at Harbour Island in Ocean City, MD.

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On opening day of the 2019 White Marlin Open, the crew on "The Natural" arrived at the scale with an 82 lb. wahoo that ended the event in 2nd place in the Wahoo Division. Kyle McLaughlin caught the speedster on a trolled Nomad plug in 100 fathoms in the Baltimore Canyon while fishing with Joe Crisafulli, Chad Baker, Mark Manders, Jim Street, Tommy Gallagher, Patrick McTavish, Bill Bowen and Capt. Rich Gallagher. The wahoo had intentions to eat a ballyhoo, but it cut the line so they pitched it the Nomad lure and the fight was on. The 2nd place finish earned "The Natural" team 23,475 in award money. Pictured at Harbour Island.



Angler Ronnie Fields picked a good day to catch his personal best yellowfin tuna when he captured this 145.5 pounder on 2nd day of the 46th Annual White Marlin Open. The fish held on to win 3rd place in the Tuna Division, worth \$128,675 in award money. Ronnie was fishing on the "Mjolnir" with Jim Smith, John Godwin, Capt. Dave Harris and Braxton Bigsbee. The big allison was hooked on a naked ballyhoo in the Baltimore Canyon and gave Ronnie a 2 hour fight on 25 lb. test line. Pictured at Harbour Island.



In the 46th Annual White Marlin Open, Mike Wagner on the "Backlash" caught a 73.5 lb. white marlin on the 2nd day of the tournament and ended up winning 3rd place in the White Marlin Division. Mike hooked the 71-inch white marlin on a naked ballyhoo in the Wilmington Canyon where they released 2 others as well. Mike was fishing with Matt Wagner, Rachael Davanzo, Joe Herbert, Steve Johnson, Dana Hubbell, Capt. Steve Richardson and mates Brandon Bartlett and Jake Ketch. The "Backlash" team took home \$1,502,454 in award money which included \$1,413,000 from the \$10,000 Heaviest White Marlin - Winner Take All added entry that neither the first or second place teams had entered.



It was quite a day for the crew fishing on the "Hubris" last Friday in the White Marlin Open when they arrived at the scale with a 76.5 lb. wahoo and a 102.5 lb. yellowfin tuna. Both fish were caught by Rich Kosztyu with the wahoo taking 3rd place honors in the Wahoo Division and the yellowfin winning money for being the heaviest tuna caught on the final day. Both were hooked on trolled ballyhoo in 1,000 fathoms outside the Wilmington Canyon and earned the "Hubris" team \$43,400 in award money. Rich was joined by Zach Paone, Hunter Gutwein, Damien Romeo, Charlie Vanderbeck, Ryan DiBiagio and Hayley Vito.





The 2019 White Marlin Open was exciting right to the end when the last boat to arrive at the scale on the final day was the "Miss-Tres" with Randy Drozd's 38 lb. dolphin that took 3rd place in the Dolphin Division. Randy hooked the bull dolphin on a butterfish in 150 fathoms in the Wilmington Canyon while fishing with Ken Williamson, Vincent Fahrion, Chuck Heil and Capt. Bob Glasson. In addition to their 3rd place finish, the "Mis-Tres" team also won the Small Boat - Dolphin Division to increase their total winnings to \$74,900. Pictured at Harbour Island.



Only 120 boats fished on the 3rd day of the White Marlin Open, but one of those boats was the "Reeldiculous" with anglers Graham Ward and Mike Ward joining Capt. Tim Ward and mate Matthew Fluharty. Graham ended up capturing a 121 lb. bigeye tuna while rolling a ballyhoo in the Poor Man's Canyon. The team finished in 1st place in the Small Boat Tuna Division and took home \$108,000 in award money.

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First place in the Top Boat and Top Release Boat Divisions in the 2019 White Marlin Open went to the "Big Deal" with 28 white marlin releases earning them 1,960 points, breaking a tournament record that had stood for 39 years. Second place was won by the "Una Mas" with releases of 23 white marlin and a blue marlin. The "Tar Heel" won 3rd place with 25 white marlin releases. Fishing on the "Big Deal" were Ed Russo, Billy Pembroke, Todd Harrison, Capt. Brian Rabbitt and mates Ben Zafir and Sergio Lobo Vargas. Ed Russo also won Top Angler honors with 1,190 points. For their 1st place finishes, the team took home \$84,150 in award money.





If Hugh Thomas Cropper of Berlin, MD hadn't caught this 40 lb. bull dolphin a couple of days before the start of the 2019 White Marlin Open, you could make the case that this could have possibly ended up being the 2nd place fish in the Dolphin Division. The dolphin was hooked in 800 fathoms in the Baltimore Canyon on a trolled ballyhoo while fishing on the "Myra HT" with his parents, J.L. and Hugh Cropper. The anglers caught 2 other dolphin during their trip in addition to releasing a pair of white marlin.

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# Tides & Moon Phases

## OCEAN CITY INLET

Wed. August 14	Low 02:00 am Low 01:46 pm	High 07:48 am High 08:36 pm
Thurs. August 15 FULL MOON	Low 02:39 am Low 02:26 pm	High 08:29 am High 09:08 pm
Fri. August 16	Low 03:14 am Low 03:04 pm	High 09:10 am High 09:40 pm
Sat. August 17	Low 03:48 am Low 03:42 pm	High 09:50 am High 10:14 pm
Sun. August 18	Low 04:20 am Low 04:21 pm	High 10:30 am High 10:49 pm
Mon. August 19	Low 04:51 am Low 05:03 pm	High 11:09 am High 11:25 pm
Tues. August 20	Low 05:24 am Low 05:48 pm	High 11:49 am High -----
Wed. August 21	Low 06:01 am Low 06:38 pm	High 12:03 am High 12:30 pm

Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge.  
 Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high tide  
 Delaware Bay Entrance - subtract 1 hour 25 minutes to high tide  
 - subtract 45 minutes to low tide  
 Wachapreague, VA - add 4 minutes for high tide  
 - 21 minutes for low tide  
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