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# COASTAL FISHERMAN

**VOLUME 50 • • • WINTER ISSUE • • JANUARY 1, 2025**



There were so many 70"+ bluefin tuna caught in November and December that it was hard to keep track of who had the Heaviest for the season. The record changed hands often, even in a single day and only by half a pound. After the scales settled, it was this crew on the "Loose Knot" that took the title for 2024 with a 72" and 250 pounder.. Capt. John Weber with anglers Tim Mattingly, John Vallandingham, Alex Quade, and Derek Quade with mate Thomas Raley found the big fish at the African Queen. It is noteworthy that they caught and released a 97" one the week before. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.





It was finally time for a father and son trip for Todor Gogov and Derek Gogov in early December. Derek had spent the summer as a mate out of the Indian River Marina and Todor was busy running his restaurant The Parkway in Bethany Beach. Tom (Pops) Vogel who normally would have gone missed the trip due to his work conflicts! The pair took Derek's 20' 1997 Mako out to the 12 Fathom Lump and hooked this bluefin early. Once on the scales at the marina, the blue weighed 141 lbs.



Bruce Carlton and Jim Osborne were doing what they do best, tog fishing. This trip to Site 8 saw the pair catch 30 blackfish with 3 keepers. Jim remarked the water had cooled a bit to 57° on the mid November trip.

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Capt. Chris Mizurak on the headboat "Angler" had to deal with some windy days in late November. That did not prevent him from getting his customers on some big fish when the weather allowed. This trip saw a mix of sea bass, bluefish, porgies and a big flounder caught by Jimmy Elidas at 4.5 lbs.




Earl Starner of Salisbury, MD caught this 55" and 168 lb. bluefin tuna in late October just south of the African Queen. He was fishing on the "Drop Money" with Martin Koerner of Marion Station, MD and Capt. Dave Dalfonso. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center tournament scale.

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# 2024 DELMARVA Year in Review

by Capt. BJ Pietryak, Capt. Matt Abell & Larry Budd

2024 is officially in the books, and for many fishermen that is a good thing! While every year has its ups and downs, 2024 will most likely be remembered (or hopefully forgotten) for all the windy days and for one of the worst years for yellowfin tuna in recent memory!

Despite the challenges there were a lot of great fish and fish stories last year. Some new state records were set, our local tournaments saw big money payouts and some amazing fish, and our inshore and nearshore fisheries were as active as ever.

The end of 2024 is also bittersweet as it sees the departure of our long-time graphic artist Tom Jock. Tom joined the Coastal Fisherman in 2014 to work with his brother & long time Coastal Fisherman publisher Larry Jock. Tom has been instrumental in the development and operation of the paper and was a critical element to my success after taking over

after Larry's untimely passing. It is bittersweet as I wish him well in his retirement, but I for one will miss him in the office!



Larry & Tom Jock at the Coastal Fisherman offices in West OC.

So now, let's spend a little time down Memory Lane revisiting the highs and lows of 2024 in a week by week review. The following summarizes our Offshore, Maryland, Delaware and Virginia reports week by week. Each issue date is highlighted in bold.

## May 1, 2024

Our season opener issue featured

a lot of the bluefish blitz off the beach that hit during the last week of April. Most of the spring had seen blustery weather so it was good to see some fishable days with a decent bite. By this week we were getting reports of keeper flounder in the Ocean City Bays, including the seasons first. Paul Musser earned that title on April 7th with a 17.5" flounder he caught in the Thorofare at a depth of 17' with water temps in the low 50's. Most of our reports for this week in OC were in the Thorofare. The first flounder for Delaware was also reported by Curt Reurter. He was fishing for stripers in the Lewes Canal when he reeled in his keeper.

Out on the sands up and down the coast, the news was dominated by a big bluefish run with some of the largest fish we have seen in years. They were even in the lower Ocean City Bay. Ivanna Harshman graced our cover with a 30.5" gator bluefish she caught at Stinky Beach just south on the west side of the Rt. 50 Bridge.

The annual migration of black drum up the coast to the Delaware Bay was underway. Anglers not targeting bluefish in the surf were reeling in smaller drum in the 10 to 50 pound range. These arrived earlier than the larger true breeders. The first black drum of the season is usually caught before we publish in early May, and 2024 was no exception. Chris Taylor reported the first of the season on March 31st, caught off of Assateague Island.

The suds were also yielding over slot stripers with many over 40".

The canyons were still cold, unseasonably actually. A few intrepid captains known for

their early season tuna catches made some runs out with no joy reported. The inshore wrecks however were giving anglers a consistent if not a little slow tog bite.

For larger flounder, the coastal bays and creeks of the Eastern Shore of Virginia was the place to be. The bigger fish were being caught on the falling tides in relatively shallow water of less than 15'.

This was also a big week for Duffie Boatworks as the new Hull #3, the 79' "Reel Joy" rolled out of the factory for the final time.

## May 8, 2024

Tog catching machine Anthony Emerick from Hackettstown, NJ was on the cover of this edition with a 14 lb. blackfish he caught while aboard the charter boat "Fish Bound" in April. Anthony also holds the title for First Tautog caught in our area for a blackfish he caught on January 8th, also aboard the "Fish Bound"! His was not the only double digit fish for the week.

The big blues were still running hard in the bays and the surf with many limit catches reported including some drum and stripers in the mix.

Those walking the sands of Assateague Island found a rare site, the 6' skeleton of an atlantic sturgeon. Many consider this fish to be a living fossil as they can be traced back 85 million years. It is unusual to see them as they spend their lives in deeper water. Warmer weather was welcomed by most, even though it did arrive with a lot of rain. At least it warmed the back bays and helped anglers find more keeper sized flounder. We also had the report of the first weakie of the season. Jim Hitchens caught a 4.6 lb. weakfish in the Delaware Bay on May 2nd starting what has been one of the best weakfish years in a long time.



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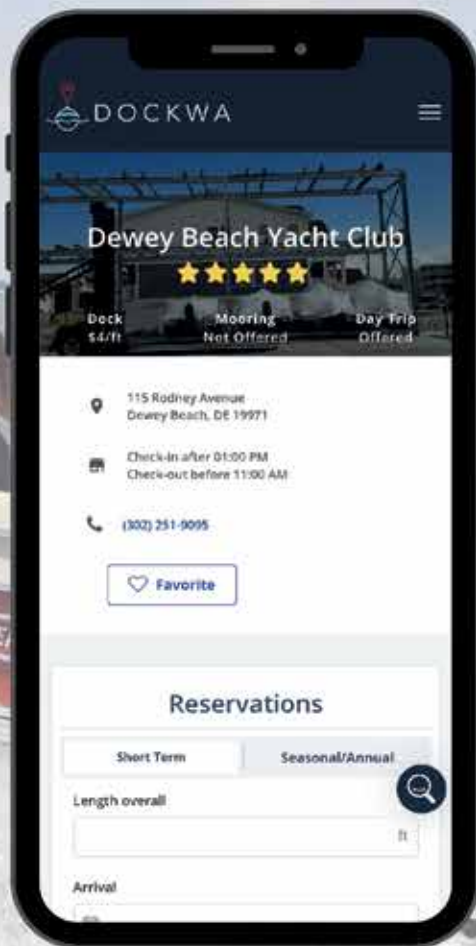
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Offshore waters remained unseasonably cool for our canyons. That combined with a wet and windy spring saw many boats behind on their winter & spring maintenance. Many boats were still on the hard with several projects yet to be completed. A couple with their boats in the water, like the "Full Service", contemplated running north to the waters off New Jersey as they were experiencing a major trophy bluefin run. This week saw so many giants (>73") caught there that it filled the Trophy Sub Quota and closed it as of May 2nd!

### May 15, 2024

The temperatures this week were on a roller coaster ride rising up to the mid 80's and then slamming down to the mid 50's! That was probably more of an issue for the anglers than the fish. This week was all about action off the beaches. Big bluefish were entertaining anglers up and down the coast. In a testament to the action, the Old Inlet Bait & Tackle Surf Fishing Tournament saw 61 blues weighed in as contenders. Black drum were there too. Not as large as prior weeks but that was a benefit, as the smaller drum in the mid 20" range are better for eating than the jumbos. The big drums had migrated to the breeding grounds of the Delaware Bay to the delight of many anglers targeting these giants. On the Virginia sands, red drum were abundant as well. We saw a strong finish to the winter/spring tog season with some double digit blackfish hitting the scales before the season closed on the 15th. A couple other species however were moving in to pick up the action. We had a report of the first sheepshead catch of the season. Joe McNeal was fishing on the "Chasin' Tides" when he hooked an 11 pound convict at an ocean structure. A few more were reported before the week's end.

Anyone looking for a nice bluefish or juvenile striper could work our two main inlets and find the fish were more than happy to cooperate. The Oceanic Fishing Pier at the Ocean City Inlet reported a lot of action and keepers from their docks. The deeper channels in the Indian River Bay and behind the airport in Ocean City were also hot spots for keeper flounder.

Some of our regular flounder killers like Danny Cox of West

OC put their talents to the test and fished the Capt. Zed's Annual Flounder Fishing Tournament in Wachapreague, VA. Danny caught his limit of four with the heaviest at just over 6 lbs. That one held on to take 3rd Place overall for the event.

The wild wind that was driving the wild weather kept the canyons too rough and too cool for most of the week. That gave captains time to prep for the opening of sea bass season on the day of this publication.

### May 22, 2024

Weather continued to be our adversary as we hit mid May and made a mess of sea bass opening day. Our first catch reports from opening day were in this issue and it definitely lacked the energy, and big activity of prior years as the howling winds, high seas and pummeling rain kept most boats at the docks. The weekend provided a bit of a respite with sloppy but fishable weather. The "Judith M" confronted the rough seas and found the bass to be picky. Their anglers were able to get a few keepers for the dinner plate, but not the limit catches we are sure they were looking for. The official First Knothead of the year was reeled in aboard the "Angler". Appropriately or coincidentally it was 'Sea Bass' Bob Houser that put the first keeper of the season that he caught on a jig over the rail.

With the rough seas and wind many anglers opted to stay in the back bays and target flounder, blues and rockfish. Most keeper flounder were from the bay behind Assateague Island, the Thorofare, the Indian River Inlet or the Lewes Canal. The Canal was a bit of a hot spot as the Lewes Harbor Marina held their Canal Flounder Tournament over the weekend. Despite the gray skies, the turnout was the biggest ever. Lots of flatfish hit the scales, but it was Freddy Wilkerson that dominated the leader board with his 5.69 lb. fish from the Canal earning the top payout of \$9,000.

The run of specks continued with big ones in the Tangier Sound and good sized keepers from the Lewes Canal and DE Bay. The surf was the place for large stripers. Smaller blues were in the suds as well with larger ones being caught off the Cape Henlopen Pier.

The weather and cold water reports kept most out of the canyons. One boat known for

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early season trips though saw a small eddy of warmer water and suited up for a run. The "Full Service" is no stranger to First Fish accolades. In 2023 they caught the first bigeye of the season. For 2024 it would be the First Yellowfin! After a 65 mile run east of the Washington Canyon in mostly 40° water, they found a temperature break with clear water and temps up to 68.5°. Shortly after lines in, they got a double hookup getting one in the boat. While an early bite is promising, it was their only one for the day.

#### May 29, 2024

Sea bass, flounder and bluefish dominated the news as we closed out May. The weather this week was milder allowing more anglers to get out and target sea bass. We finally started to see the big knotheads and some limit catches, so we put Tom Lane on our cover with a 27.5" sea bass he had caught on the headboat "Morning Star".

A full moon was also helping the striper bite at the inlets in the evening hours and big flounder were just about everywhere. Doug Brissey set a new Heaviest Flounder of the season to date with a 7.1 lb. flatfish caught at an ocean structure.

Anglers on the sands continued to land big bluefish. The Kinneys of South Bethany pulled a couple of big blues from the surf behind their house. Scott landed a gator at 33" and Sue pinned a 21" chopper. They were kind enough to donate the big one to Chef Christine to make her Bluefish with a Tomato Cream Sauce recipe that was in the issue!

The action in the canyons was mainly golden and blueline tilefish. A few tuna were found east of the southern canyons, but not many made the long run to deep water for limited catches.

Several white marlin sightings were reported coming up in tuna spreads. None got hooked, but it certainly put some excitement in the air for who would land the first of the season!

#### June 5, 2024

After a wet and windy May, the first week of June was a ray of sunshine offering nicer days and calms seas. Likewise, the fishing also turned a corner, especially in the canyons.

After weeks of relatively little to share in the Offshore Report, this week saw the reports of 4 pelagic

First Fish including the iconic first white marlin. That honor and \$5,000 prize from the Town of Ocean City went to Jake Emche. He was aboard the "Fish On" trolling for tuna about 20 miles east of the Baltimore Canyon. About mid-day on Saturday, the crew heard the pin pop on the long rigger and they knew there was a white in the spread. Jake grabbed a ballyhoo with a circle hook and maneuvered it into the spread and they did indeed have 'fish on'!

The tuna pattern continued from the week before with mostly limited catches. Most who caught fish were finding 1 or 2 mostly smaller yellowfins. There were however some really notable and First Fish catches. On Friday we heard from the "MARLI" that they had a bluefin in the box (got to love Starlink). They were in the Poor Mans Canyon working a patch of warmer water when Andrew Link hooked the 60" tuna marking the First Bluefin Tuna of the year. They also caught several yellowfins. Anglers on the "Canyon Crew" were there too and they landed a 143 lb. bigeye tuna, the First Bigeye of the season.

While yellowfin remained elusive, a couple nice hauls were found. The "Boss Hogg" brought 10 back from south of the Poor Mans to their slip at Sunset Marina. Capt. Brian Porter acknowledged a little luck was involved as they ran across a school and hooked up 5 at one time.

The first offshore tournament of 2024 was held, the 2nd Annual Battle for the Buckle sponsored by Pure Lure. This unique event is associated with the PBR bull riding event held that week and offered cash prizes and custom belt buckle trophies! 20 boats entered the event creating a \$75,000 purse. Given the limited tuna action to date, the crew of the "Relentless" decided to focus on swordfish to win the Heaviest Fish Calcutta. It was the right strategy as the 125 lb. took the top spot in that calcutta and the tournament's top prize of \$31K. The Heaviest Stringer buckle went to the crew on the charter boat "Talkin' Trash".

Lots of keeper flounder were being caught at B Buoy, Site 11 and the Old Grounds. The sea bass however remained spotty as they had been so far in the season. Big stripers and bluefish were being caught at the Inlets and in

the Ocean City Bays. Big Bird Cropper boated a personal best 55" rock at the Ocean City Inlet.

Up north in the Delaware Bay, big black drum over 50" were common. We also saw a number of reports of weakfish from the bay including a 29" and 7.26 lb. one Jim Hitchens caught.

Action in the surf was strong up and down the coast with big stripers and black drum. The southern stretches of Assateague had reds.

#### June 12, 2024

We had an uncommon catch on the cover this week, a thresher shark. It had been a while for us at the Coastal Fisherman since we had seen one, and several years for Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina where it was weighed. While quite common several years ago we suspect several things may be contributing factors. First off, you can't keep most sharks these days as the prohibited list continues to grow. The mako was banned last year and the oceanic whitetip has been added. The creel limit is one per trip and there seems to be a public perception that all shark fishing is bad despite a healthy fishery for some species. That last one probably causes anglers not to submit photos. Either way, the thresher caught by Paul Plummer aboard the "Salty Hooker" at B Buoy was a beauty. It measured 80" and pulled the scale down to 250.6 lbs.

Despite the nice thresher catch, it was hard to believe we were in week 7 of our 2024 season with poor offshore action. We heard that less than a dozen tuna were caught all week. Best we got was from the "Bill Slayer" who managed 3 bigeyes from outside the Baltimore Canyon. The tilefish bite remained steady with numerous limit catches of blueline and goldens. 100 fathoms seemed to be the best depth.

The nearshore bite remained slow at the wrecks and reefs. Deep water at the Jack Spot and DelJersey offered a little more action. Fishing off the beach was transitioning to a summer mode with less drum and stripers and more kingfish, skates and sharks. Notable from the sands was the report of the first keeper cobia for Maryland. Chuck Guerra landed the keeper using bunker off the beach in Ocean City.

Inshore the news was better. Both inlets were alive with baitfish attracting stripers and bluefish.

The bay was still offering more keeper flounder as it continued to warm.

Bahia Marina held its Blues for DU Bluefish Tournament that replaced Mako Mania after the ban. The scales were active with lots of snappers. Not surprisingly, Big Bird Cropper took the top spot with a 12 lb. blue from the Rt. 50 Bridge.

#### June 19, 2024

All in all it was a great week for fishing. Keeper flounder were abundant in the bays and nearshore reefs & wrecks. Smaller bluefish were in the Inlets and Delaware Bay, and the surf was a great place to get some panfish and the occasional cobia. The primary inshore catch this week was flounder. With the warming air temperatures in the 85° - 90° range warming the waters, the flatfish were getting more active. The Thorofare in Ocean City was the hot spot as was the Lewes Canal in Delaware. However, keepers were being found across the bays. Nearshore was hopping as well. Anglers were finding their limit of catches with many reports coming from A & B Buoy, the Great Eastern and Jack Spot.

The sea bass bite remained slow, but those willing to put in the work did find some keepers in the mix. Smaller bluefish and stripers kept crews busy at both Atlantic Inlets as well as the Rt. 50 Bridge and in the DE Bay.

Our waters on the southern parts of Assateague Island saw lots of kingfish and big red drum action. David Moore was there with Keith Stanley. The pair landed 8 reds including a 50 incher for David. They also shared there was nonstop kingfish action.

There were reports from the lower shores of Virginia of tarpon. Capt. David Burt of Easy Wind Kayak Fishing shared a great picture of a tarpon he caught from his kayak.

The canyons were busy too. Despite the poor tuna bite, 64 boats and 300 anglers signed up for the 4th Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament, a record turnout. Lots of tuna were hung on the scales at the Ocean City Fishing Center with the majority being big bluefins and bigeyes. The first bluefin tuna in the Tournaments history came in on Day 1. The "Restless Lady" was fishing inshore and snagged a 141 lb. blue. That one took 1st Place in the Single Tuna Split calcutta. The "Loaded Up" also





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Fenwick Island resident Josh Mercer spent the day before Thanksgiving fishing with his buddies Colby Hook, Craig Lambertson, Willem Lambertson and Mitch McGee (aka 'Balboni'). The crew trolled inshore of the Jack Spot and harvested a 65" over bluefin and a 45" under as well as releasing another over.

brought in a bluefin tuna that day. They were in 700 fathoms east of the Poor Mans Canyon. The 65" tuna weighed 160.5 lbs. securing the top spot for Single Tuna WTA, Small Boat WTA and the Rt. 113 Boat Sales Outboard Jackpot.

While fewer boats fished the 2nd day of the event, they did mess up the leaderboard. Most notable was the catch from the new for 2024 "Primary Search". The crew of mostly first-time offshore fisherwomen got covered up by 5 bigeyes right after putting lines in! Amazingly they got all of them in the boat. A great feat, especially for new anglers. The 5 eyeballs weighed 508.5 lb. taking 1st Place in the Stringer WTA, and their heaviest at 113.5 lbs. held onto 2nd Place in the Single Tuna Split.

Anglers outside of the tournament were finding some tuna to get on ice, but most were reported as part of a lone multiple hook up for the day. It was frustrating, as many captains shared they were seeing tuna busting the surface but just not biting in volume. Bigeyes and bluefins were common with

a few yellow birds as well. Deep water east of the canyons were again the place to be.

The billfish action was decent with a couple of firsts being set. The "Talkin' Trash" caught the first white marlin of the season by a member of the OC Marlin Club. In addition to bragging rights, that fish earned the crew \$5,000. We also saw the first blue marlin of the season from the "Elizabeth Ann". Owner Tom Healy took the title for the blue marlin he caught and released in the NE corner of the Poor Mans Canyon. That one hit on a pink Joe Shute lure and took 45 minutes to leader.

#### June 26, 2024

This was our Fourth of July issue, sporting the red, white and blue Coastal Fisherman logo on the cover! It also felt like summer had arrived in full force with stifling heat and a persistent south wind. Not the best weather for the canyons, but that did not keep the boats at the dock. For tuna, the Washington Canyon was the hot spot. The "Bad Habit" was there and caught their 4-person

limit of 12 yellowfin tuna, a rare catch for 2024. They reported great success with their purple 353 Custom Tackle Spreader Bar. The "Full Service" was on the cover with 4 big yellows they found in 1000 fathoms in the Baltimore Canyon. The largest was an allison weighing 161 lbs., the heaviest of the season so far and setting a pretty high bar.

Several large bigeyes were also landed. The "Magic Moment" took her first trip of the season and trolled in 300 fathoms between the Poor Mans Canyon and the Rockpile. They were just about to call it a day when they hooked up a double at 4:30PM. The scales were closed at Sunset Marina by the time they returned, but the larger of the two was estimated at over 200 lbs. Tony Nicholas on the "Rumor Has It" also caught a big eyeball in the Washington Canyon on a Joe Shute. That one was weighed, and at 229 lbs., it was the heaviest of the season at the time.

This week also saw our first reports of longfin tuna. Mark Steiner on the "Don't Ask" rolled

up to Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina with a 38 pounder from the Baltimore. The "Reel Naughty" and the "Gret's Three J's" also let us know they had boated longfins as well.

Billfish reports remained thin as they had been so far for the year. A couple notable catches however were reported. Young 10 year old Mary Gessler won the top spot for Billfish in the Indian River Kid's Catch All after releasing a white marlin outside of the Baltimore Canyon. The "Boss Hogg" caught the first blue marlin of the season by an Ocean City Marlin Club member earning that title and \$2,500. The "Reel Fast" reported a swordfish from the Washington.

The hot weather was also warming the inshore waters and back bays, improving both the number of keeper flounder and sea bass catches. Those fishing the inshore wrecks and reefs did have to contend with ribbonfish. There were also reports of windowpane flounder being caught. A unique fish for our area but becoming a bit more common.

Big bluefish and smaller stripers were ample around the Rt. 50 Bridge. Anglers working the surf continued to land black drum and bluefish. Kingfish and spot were plentiful with Assateague anglers also finding red drum.

Cobia were dominating the southern waters of Virginia. Delaware anglers were also finding the man in the brown suit in the surf.

#### July 3rd, 2024

The wind was front and center again for the week before the 4th of July. There were still a couple days that were manageable in the canyons, with this week being one of the better ones for yellowfin. There were numerous yellow birds hitting the dock including a monster 150 pounder from the "Ro Sham Bo". Deep water up to 1000 fathoms was a constant theme with waters in the mid 70's. Bigger fish were coming from the Wilmington and Baltimore Canyons, however, boats in the Poor Mans and Washington Canyons were catching larger numbers of fish. The "Pumpin' Hard" braved the sportier weekend weather making 2 trips, and were rewarded with catches of 5 and then 7 yellowfins. Those were in shallower water of 80 fathoms in the Poor Mans.

Closer to shore saw some





Capt. Matt Abell of "Sea Hawk Sport Fishing" reported a slow start to November in the waters of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Stripers were the targets in the shallows of the Tangier and Pocomoke Sounds with ample keepers. The good news is the bite picked up later in the month with lots of panfish to play with and redfish.

*Capt. Matt Abell & Capt. Alan Ring*

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interesting catches. Jack Legates found a thresher shark tangled in one of his gill nets deep in the west Rehoboth Bay! It was a big one, with a tail almost 9 feet tall. Greg Miller was shark fishing from the sands on Assateague Island near the trail head for the Life of the Dunes trail parking lot. He put some tuna belly out about 200 yards and hooked a tiger shark estimated at 150 lbs.

Water temps inshore and the bays were steadily rising as the heat of summer started to build. That slowed the sea bass bite a bit, but also ushered in the arrival of ribbonfish along with redfish and triggerfish.

The nearshore wrecks and reefs were the best place for quality fish despite the cross winds and currents. Flounder were being caught on everything from bucktails to basic flounder rigs with deeper water providing the best action. Even deeper sites were the place to be to target sea bass. While slow, some nice knotheads were hitting the coolers.

The bays and inlets were alive with all sorts of activity. Larger flounder, sea trout and sheepshead were in the inlets as well as the main backwater canals. Stripers were active at the inlets with several slot keepers.

Down south the Chesapeake Bay was the savior of the Eastern Shore fisherman. Redfish and puppy drum were the main actors in the hot summer saga. The lower bay was a hot spot for cobia. Sight casting in 12-15 feet of water from the CBBT to Tangier were most productive.

### July 10, 2024

An early and poor forecast for the weekend put many plans on hold, including the Ocean City Marlin Club's annual Canyon Kick Off. Fortunately, or unfortunately the weather was better than expected. Additionally, and eddy had moved in from the Gulf Stream bringing bait rich warmer water to offshore of the Baltimore Canyon to the northern part of the Poor Mans. Billfish, yellowfins and some bigeye were being caught. The hot bite however was white marlin. It started the Wednesday before the weekend with a report from the private boat "Sea Hag" reporting 8 releases. The weekend was the "Fish On" release of 9 whites over 2 days. The "Christine Marie" spent Saturday in the Baltimore Canyon and went 8 for 13. As

Sunday arrived however, the rich water had dissipated as did the bite.

The bigeye bite picked up as well and was a good omen for the upcoming Ocean City Tuna Tournament. The Baltimore Canyon was also the hot spot that week with both yellowfin and bigeye tuna getting put on ice. Smaller mahi were in the mix.

Weather again cooled the inshore reefs & wrecks putting a chill on the bite. The wind and storms had also made the water very dirty to the point where one angler called it chocolate in color.

The bays and inlets were once again the savior for the inshore action this week. The Thorofare in Ocean City was the place to be for keeper flounder, and the Rt. 50 Bridge continued to be the place for big blues and weakfish.

Anglers at the Outer Wall in Lewes were finding sheepshead, triggerfish and tog. The lower Chesapeake was still warm with spec and redfish offering some summertime sport.

### July 17, 2024

Summer was in full swing with hot and sticky days during the day, stormy evenings and cooler overnight temps leading to dense fog in the mornings. A stormy weekend forecast had also put pressure on participation in the 37th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament. As the first big money tournament of the season, the OCTT is considered a bell weather for the upcoming season. Despite the forecast 51 boats registered with half the fleet fishing both Friday and Saturday and the bulk on the last day, Sunday, due to the improved forecast.

Day 1 saw a number of big bluefin tuna hit the scales at the Ocean City Fishing Center. The charter boat "Shorebilly" kicked things off waiting at the scales when they opened. They put a 168 lb. bluefin on the dock and held the title for Single Largest Tuna through day 2, but slipped to 2nd Place on the last day when the charter boat "Wrecker" brought in a bigeye. That eyeball came from the Washington Canyon and was their only bigeye for the day. It weighed 191.5 lbs. and easily took the top spot for the event. It also earned the tourney's top prize payout of just over \$198K.

The Heaviest Stringer Division got off to a slow start with mainly medium sized yellowfins being





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caught. The crew of the "Shotski" saw the opportunity on day 3 and focused their efforts on bigeye tuna. The strategy paid off. They were fishing in the corner of the Wilmington Canyon when they ran across a school of bigeyes and got 4 on at once. They managed to get 3 in the box and only losing the 4th right by the boat. That trio weighed 412.5 lbs. securing 1st Place in the division and the second largest payout of just under \$172K.

The "Reel Naughty" also stuck to the golden rule to always weigh your fish. They had caught a mahi northeast of the Hot Dog that they thought would meet the tournament minimum of 20 lbs. At 28 lbs. it did qualify and was the only one during the event that did! That fish earned a cool 20 grand!

A new Heaviest Bigeye of the season for Delaware was set by the "Rusty Reel" with a 212 lb. eyeball from the Baltimore. Capt. Dale Lisi of the charter boat "Foolish Pleasures" caught a personal best yellowfin for his long career. His anglers landed a 57" and 107 lb. yellowfin tuna at The Wrench near the Hambone. The billfish bite had cooled since

the big 4th of July weekend run and had settled back into the pattern of single or low single digit catches. One of the more notable catches came from the "Sea Hag". They were fishing the Baltimore Canyon when they got an unusual triple hookup, 2 bigeye tuna and a white marlin. They got all three to the boat and managed another white as well as a blue marlin for the day.

The first wahoo of the season was reported as well, filling out our First Fish chart for 2024. Greg Stansky was in the Poor Mans on the 17th and landed a 37.9 lb. speedster to lock the title. "Team Harvey" also made the wahoo news with a 67 pounder they caught while practicing marlin fishing for the upcoming JJ Quest for the Ring Tournament. That one was hooked in the corner of the mouth on a marlin rig.

The nearshore lumps and humps were still making anglers work for their keepers. The "Judith M" took an 8 hour sea bass trip to get to deeper water and were rewarded with some decent sized keeper knotheads. Closer in, the keeper flounder catch had improved, but were mixed in with many shorts.

Sheepshead were showing up at the Inlets and the Delaware Icebreakers, and speckled trout were a treat for anglers in the bays. The surf was active with the usual kingfish and spot that time of year as well as big redfish adding to the excitement.

### July 24, 2024

The seemingly ever present south and west winds last year prevailed this week keeping the nearshore waters very cold, some 20° degrees below normal. The wind pushes water to the right as opposed to in the same direction, so a south wind pushes water east. The water around the Marine Electric seemed to hold the warmest water and was producing the best albeit few catches. John Bruning bucked the trend while fishing at an ocean structure with "Bad Wind" charters. He landed a personal best 28 1/4" flounder that weighed 8.84 lbs.

Fortunately, the back bays were teaming with keeper sized flounder and weakfish. In Ocean City, the Inlet and the Thorofare were the place to be for keepers. The Indian River Inlet was also a good spot as were some of the deeper spots inside the bay in ~20

feet of water.

Big bluefish and stripers were still biting at the Rt. 50 Bridge and Indian River Inlet.

Two tournaments were also in the news. The Ocean City Marlin Club held their 20th Annual Kid's Classic. Always a favorite in Ocean City, these young anglers covered the bays and inshore sites to catch fish in 15 different divisions. These included offshore species, however, the weather did seem to limit the number of boats heading to the canyons. Some notable winners were the "Partnership" with their 1.5 lb. stringer of spot, the "Hix Hooker" with an impressive 18.5 lb. mackerel, the "Don't Tell Carrie" with a 9.3 lb. bonita and the "Reel Chaos" releasing 5 white marlin.

The other tourney was the 4th Annual Jimmy Johnson's Quest for the Ring based in Atlantic City. For 2024 the event added Sunset Marina as a weigh station expanding their reach to include more boats. The Ring of Honor champion was the "Krazy Salts" who released 14 white marlin and one blue over the 5 day event. "Team Harvey", who marked Fisherman's Marina as their



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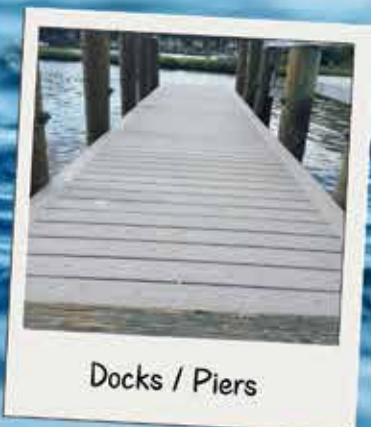
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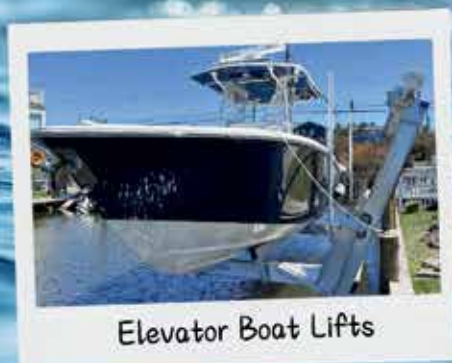
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seasonal home port took the top spot for blue marlin with a 649 pounder they caught in the Toms Canyon. That one earned the second largest payout of just over \$173K.

Closer to home, tuna was still the primary catch, especially bigeye. The record for Heaviest Bigeye of the season changed hands several times this week, even changing on the same day. Lots of over 200 lb. eyeballs hit the docks. The "Reel Chaos" landed two in the Wilmington with the largest at 233 lbs. That held the lead for a couple hours. The "Primary Search" took the title for a couple of hours with a 238 pounder from the Poor Mans before surrendering the title to the "Full Service" for their 272 lb. bigeye from the Washington Canyon. Yellowfins also gave a rare 2024 showing with several boats working the northern canyons, putting 5 to 10 on ice.

### July 31, 2024

As July faded into our rear view mirror, anticipation was growing for the billfish tournament season. We reported on the first of these tourneys in this issue, the HUK Big Fish Classic. This one is a favorite of local captains

and the big boats arriving for the White Marlin Open and the Mid-Atlantic. With its unique 32 hour 'fishing window', format anglers have a big chunk of time to find the big fish and have the benefit of being able to fish twilight hours as well as overnight hours. After all, the goal is to catch the biggest fish!

The tournament did not disappoint with some amazing catches and a near record purse of over \$1.2 Million. The format allows for two fishing windows, and last year saw the weather for Friday to Saturday looking a little sketchy, so most of the 88 boats entered chose the Saturday to Sunday window. That always makes for a crazy Sunday afternoon at the Talbot Street Pier scales!

The Big Fish this year came from the mighty charter boat "Ro Sham Bo". Capt. Willie Zimmerman covered a lot of ground in their 32 hours. He started in the Washington Canyon but then headed north to the Baltimore Canyon where they had no luck. As Sunday morning dawned the crew saw some action on the teaser and a short time later had a hook up on the short rigger.

Once to Talbot Street the big blue measured 117.5" and weighed 535 lbs. earning the crew the largest combined payout of the event at \$320K. The top white marlin came from the "Under Taker" who caught the only qualifying white of the event. They had run north to the Spencer Canyon and were trolling in only 500' of water along the 100 fathom line. Michael Barry was on the rod and boated the 71" and 68 lb. white in only 10 minutes. That one had a prize payout of over \$160K.

While the yellowfin bite continued to struggle, there were a lot of bigeye tuna weighed over the weekend. The largest came from the crew of the latest "Primary Search" who landed a tournament record 305 lb. eyeball in deep water outside of the Baltimore Canyon. It not only took the top tuna spot, it was also the 2nd Heaviest Big Fish for a combined prize of over \$151K. It also set the record for the Heaviest Bigeye of the season.

In a good sign for the upcoming White Marlin Open, the top boat for Billfish Release was the "Kilo Charlie". They too were north and were offshore of the Spencer Canyon where they released an

amazing 22 white marlin and a blue marlin.

The heat of summer was in full display releasing strong evening storms. Not sure if these contributed to the cooler than normal waters at the inshore wrecks and reefs. That water did however improve the sea bass bite in both quantity and size of the fish given how late we were in the season.

The back bays were holding tons of small fluke, sea bass and croaker to the delight of many novice anglers. Despite the storms, some patches of clear water were found yielding some decent keeper flounder.

While kingfish and spot continued to be found off the beach, we saw more sharks and rays being released in the suds.













### August 7, 2024

Tournament season was in full swing this week as the 51st White Marlin Open started on the 4th. A little disturbance in the Caribbean named Debbie however was angling to throw a wrench in the action. This lead the White Marlin Open organizers to take the extra ordinary step to add Saturday to the event making it a fish 3 of 6

2025

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 <p><b>CROAKER</b> 9" minimum 25 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>RED DRUM</b> 18-27" minimum 1 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>SHEEPSHEAD</b> 4 per person/day 12" minimum</p>	 <p><b>SPECKLED TROUT</b> 14" minimum 4 per person/day</p>
 <p><b>STRIPED BASS</b> 28-31" Less than 3 miles from shore 1 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>SUMMER FLOUNDER</b> 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"</p>	 <p><b>TAUTOG</b> 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><b>WEAKFISH</b> 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

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days versus 5 days! I think that was only the 2nd time in recent memory where the tournament was extended or adjusted. That effort and an improving forecast helped registration, with 318 boats eventually entering the fray creating an over \$8 million dollar purse.

Action in the canyons was subdued leading up to this week as most boats were prepping for the tournament. Even if they did go out, very few were sharing details ;-). There were 2 tournaments the weekend before the WMO. The Ocean City Marlin Club's annual Franky Pettolina Heels & Reels Ladies Tournament and the 2nd annual Marlins for Masons charity event to benefit the Dravet Syndrome Foundation. Weather and the bite did not cooperate for these events unfortunately. Still some whites were caught in deep water, primarily offshore of the Baltimore and Poor Mans Canyons. The "Reel Chaos" took top honors in the Marlins for Mason with 300 release points. The "Reel One" released 2 whites early in their day during the Heels & Reels to take 1st Place for that division.

Of course billfish were the primary targets for offshore anglers with daily releases mostly in the low single digits. The "Boss Hogg" was doing prep work for the Open and managed a Grand Slam, releasing a white marlin, sailfish and blue marlin on a single trip. They also boxed a lot of mahi. The "Sea Hag" had the top release of the week going 7 of 11 on whites.

The "Restless Lady II" bucked the slow yellowfin bite this season, returning to the Talbot Street Pier from a 12 hour overnight trip with 18 yellows in the box. Capt. Chris Huk reported this was one of the most intense yellowfin bites he had experienced with the crew, getting covered up several times. This was by far one of the largest single trip hauls all summer.

Jack Barker was fishing the canyons east of Chincoteague and landed a 64.5 lb. bull dolphin. They sighted that one and hooked it on a pitch bait ballyhoo! Very unusual catch for that week.

Closer to home the Worcester County Chamber of Commerce held its 17th annual Flounder Tournament.

Participation was strong with some of the best flounder fishermen on the

Eastern Shore. John Biesecker took the top spot with a 22" and 4.23 lb. flatfish he caught in the morning in the East Channel on a bucktail with Gulp. There was a lot of flounder action in the back bays with fish up to the low 20" range. Stripers and bluefish were being caught at the inlets in the evening. Those working the surf were being rewarded with redfish and kingish.

The nearshore bite for sea bass and flounder slowed as a south wind blew and colder water moved in.

The lower parts of the Chesapeake Bay provided a respite from the heat and some decent fishing. Spanish and spotails with slot sized redfish could be found in the shallows of the southern and central Bay.

#### August 14, 2024

The White Marlin Open wrapped up it's 51st tournament this week, including the extra 6th day added this year given the threat of Hurricane Debby. Despite the weather and a challenging billfish bite, the WMO did not fail to put on a show. 318 boats entered the fray this year with the majority fishing the earlier

days in the week to avoid the storm. The top prize and payout went to the crew of the "Waste Knot". Ven Poole caught a 77.5 lb. white marlin on Day 2, outside of the Poor Man's Canyon in 1000 fathoms. The crew had to sweat out four more days of the extended tournament, however only 1 challenger arrived but did not better their catch, earning the crew almost \$3.7 million dollars. The "Billfisher" took 2nd Place with a 76 lb. white Noah McVicker caught in 70 fathoms in the Poor Mans Canyon. That one took home just under \$1.8 million dollars. Rob Jones on the "Blue Runner" rounded out the 7 figure payouts with a million-dollar prize for the 220.5 lb. bigeye tuna he caught in the Wilmington Canyon on the second day of the event. The largest blue marlin of the tournament and of the season was caught by Lance Blakemore on the "Stone Cutter". The 897.5 lb. and 129" blue hit on a plug in the Poor Mans Canyon and took 2.5 hours to get to the boat.

While bigeye tuna took the spotlight, a monster yellowfin was landed in the tournament. Angler Austin Craig was on the "Whiskey Kilo" trolling east of

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This picture may not look like the end of an era, but it is. Stephen Schwing from Catonsville, MD caught and released the last white marlin on the lauded boat the "Fish Whistle" at the end of September. Capt. Charlie Horning has run the boat for 24 years catching hundreds of marlin and winning numerous tournaments including two White Marlin Opens. This fall he made the decision to sell the boat and does not plan to replace it. Stephen was with Capt. Charlie that day and mate Walter Shade along with fellow angler Greg Hutton. They were fishing in the Washington Canyon.

the Washington Canyon when he hooked onto a 185.5 lb. yellowfin. That was not only the Heaviest Yellowfin for 2024, it was the biggest in over a decade. The fact it was caught on a dink rod only enhances the catch. You can see these catches in our Big Money Tournament review section.

The traffic from the WMO kept most from the main thoroughfares and channels of the Ocean City bays. The Indian River Inlet (especially by the Coast Guard Station), Massey's Ditch and the Lewes Canal however were not impacted, and produced some big keepers and a record fish! Angler Michael Harden brought his catch to Hook'em & Cook'em. That flounder measured 32" and tipped the scale at an amazing 13.2 lbs. A flatfish that heavy is unprecedented in our northern waters. Not only did that set the record for Heaviest Flounder of the season at the time, it finished the year as the Heaviest for Delaware.

The threat of weather also was a factor limiting inshore fishing up and down our coast. For those that did venture out, they found warmer water pushed in by the

approaching tempest finding good sized flounder and sea bass on the reefs, wrecks and coral beds.

Surf fishing slowed with croaker, spot and kingfish making up the average catch. The shallows of the Chesapeake Bay were a shining star for Virginia anglers with lots of puppy drum. Larger redfish were being found in the deeper channels.

#### August 21, 2024

We were still in the middle of the prime August Tournament season. This week's issue highlighted the results of the 30th Annual Steve Harman's Poor Girl's Open. This year's event was as strong as ever with impressive billfish releases reported and an amazing \$135,000 donated to the American Cancer Society from the tournament and the Harman family. Even the weather made a donation, bringing 3 days of very fishable weather. The billfish however were a bit more stingy in their contributions. While many anglers reveled in their marlin releases, many came up empty handed. Tuna should be noted for their complete lack of support for the event. Over 3 days and 1,400 hours of fishing, only 5

made it to the scales. Most of our billfish reports came from the Wilmington Canyon that week, both in the 100 fathoms shallows to 10X that outside the canyon.

Team "Pure Lure" took the top spot for Billfish Releases after going 8 for 13 on white marlin. Capt. Anthony Pino had a hunch the marlin were in the flats of the Wilmington Canyon and he was right, finding their winning catches in 60 fathoms.

The "Sushi" took 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place for tuna. As mentioned, the tuna this week were very few and far between. Capt. Charley Pereira ran 90 miles north to the Spencer Canyon. They got one set of bites when they were covered up, landing 3 yellowfins in the mid to high 40 pound range. Enough to secure all three tuna calcuttas.

The Heaviest Mahi of 2024 was also caught during the tournament. On day 2, team Absolut-ly Naught on the "Sea Hag" brought in the winning mahi and what would end up being the Heaviest Mahi of 2024. They were trolling between the Baltimore and Poor Mans Canyon in 600 fathoms when angler Sherri Saunders got on the rod. It took her 28 minutes to land the 53.3 lb. winning and record setting dolphin.

Outside of the tournament, the billfish bite remained solid. The "Boss Hogg" reported one of the few tunas caught that week. They put three 50 lb. class yellowfins in the box from deep water behind the Baltimore Canyon.

Mahi were still inshore with several headboats running special mahi trips including the "Judith M", "Angler" and "Morning Star". All saw good results. Pete Mielnik weighed a 34 lb. bull dolphin at Bahia Marina after a trip on the "Foolish Pleasures" to the 000's. Several other 20 lb.+ fish were reported. Triggerfish were also in the catches at the pots.

Flounder remained the primary nearshore and inshore catch. The cooling temperatures slowed the bite which was slower than the year before, but lots of keepers were still hitting the coolers. Lots of shorts to deal with to get to the keepers, but that made for great action. Headboats like the "Angler" were finding tog and some keeper sea bass along with the flounder on their trips.

Those on the sands were finding kingfish and spot during the day with sharks and rays dominating

the night action.

#### August 28, 2024

This was our Labor Day Issue and while some consider that holiday the unofficial end of summer, we knew some of the best times on the shore were just ahead of us. This was especially true for fishing. The action was non stop from the finale of the 33rd MidAtlantic Tournament to an outrageous weekend of billfishing. There were reports of over 100 white marlin releases on Sunday that week from only 10 boats, with 40 coming from one! Overall there was probably 1.5 times that amount. We had not seen single day release numbers like that in years. Most we heard were from deep water outside the Baltimore Canyon, but there were plenty from the Wilmington Canyon to the 461 Lump. We received reports from the "Billfisher", who released 40 whites from outside the Baltimore in 800 fathoms. The "Kilo Charlie" was there too going 19 for 28. Even some of the top tuna boats like the "MARLI" and "Talkin' Trash" got in on the action releasing double digits.

While tuna were mostly on vacation, the mahi bite heated up with some good sized fish. This was probably influenced by the number of boats marlin fishing who were catching the dolphin as a bycatch. Others looking for meat fish targeted tilefish. This week did see the catch of a new Maryland State Record blueline tilefish. Angler London Anthony was on the afore mentioned "Talkin' Trash" when he caught a big blueline tilefish. It weighed 20.5 lbs. at the Ocean City Fishing Center, however, we told him to get that one weighed on a certified scale as it could be a state record. It was weighed at Crabs to Go and registered 20.6 lbs., well above the previous record of 20 lbs. set in 2012.

The MidAtlantic marks the end of the big tournament season in our area, and it finished with a bang. The action started hot in and heavy in Ocean City on day 1 with a 74 lb. white marlin from the "Leslie Ann" and a 180 lb. bigeye from the "Reel Tight". That one survived challenges from over 500 boats fishing the remain days of the event to take 1st Place.

Weather put most of the remaining action on the last two days, Thursday and Friday. The top white marlin came from the "Lights Out". Angler Dan Caliendo hooked the 81 lb.



winner offshore of the Poor Mans Canyon earning the top payout of the tournament. Local boat "Par 5" secured 3rd Place with a 75 lb. white caught by CP Townsend, landed at the 461 Lump.

Only 3 qualifying blue marlin were weighed for the week. The "Gret's Three J's" put the first one on the scales setting the bar at 638 lbs. Two more were weighed Friday that moved that one to 3rd Place. The new Duffie Boatworks "Dem Boys" slid onto the scales at Sunset Marina with a 125" blue marlin caught by boat owner Tommy Hancock offshore of the Poor Mans Canyon. At 760 lbs. and late on the last day, it looked like a lock for the top spot, however a larger one was weighed in Cape May moving "Dem Boys" to 2nd Place overall. The nearshore bite offered anglers options for flounder and sea bass, although they had to work through a lot of shorts. The Fenwick Shoals was a hot spot for spanish mackerel and smaller mahi were found around the bass pots at the Great Eastern and Jack Spot. Some decent trigger fish were also found.

The heat of late summer helped the back bays and inlets with more keeper flounder being reported. Like the nearshore bite, there were many under sized fish caught to find a keeper. Both Atlantic inlets offered tog tight to the rocks, and stripers and bluefish in the evening hours.

#### September 4, 2024

While there was great action in the canyons this week, it was overshadowed as the Ocean City fishing community lost another icon. Capt. Frank Pettolina passed away. He was a long-time fixture in the community and the owner and senior captain of the legendary "Last Call". We think he would have appreciated that the fish came in to remember him.

While not as strong as the fishing on the 25th of October, the billfish bite was solid with boats continuing to post release numbers we had not seen in years. The Baltimore Canyon was the hot spot, but marlin were being caught across the canyons. The "Boy's Toy" out of the Indian River Marina returned from the Wilmington with 19 white marlin release flags flapping in the wind. The "Sea Hag" went 10 for 13 in the Baltimore and the "Reel Chaos" put 11 flags on the riggers. Sydney Messick from

Sunset Marina not only caught her first white marlin, but a total of 3 on her trip to the Poor Mans Canyon on the charter boat "Primary Search". The marlins being caught were big too. The "Pier Pressure" boated one white that was 75 lbs.

The tuna were truly missing this week with captains reporting that they were not even marking them. There were basically four fish that dominated the week.

First would be cobia. The Man in the Brown Suit were being caught in the nearshore shallows and off the beach. This week's cover had one of the big cobia caught by the crew of the "Hot Lick". They headed to the Winter Quarter Shoals and hooked an impressive 53 cobia for the day! They were fickle however. One day they would hit almost anything and the next, not bite at all.

Mahi were next and still plentiful at the pots. About 30 miles out was the sweet spot for larger quantity and quality.

The wahoo bite continued with speedsters being caught in good numbers. There was not a specific hot spot. They were in the shallows of the canyons.

Lastly were tilefish. Lots of anglers were deep dropping given the poor tuna reports and reeling in big golden, blueline tiles and some rosies. Many limit catches were had. That's decent work given these are deep water fish.

Sea Bass keepers could be found which was great this late in the season, however you had to work through many shorts to find them. Most targeted flounder instead as the action was good on the nearshore lumps and wrecks like the DelJersey. Nice sized bluefish were on the lumps as well.

Sheepshead and triggers were at the Wall in the Delaware Bay, and there was a run of sea trout in the bay behind Assateague and in the Delaware Bay.

#### September 11, 2024

It seemed like the winds had been blowing since Labor Day, especially on the weekends! While this week was windy as well, more hearty anglers braved the waves, and Saturday provided a respite, allowing some to get out on the rip and for many to work the inlets and back bays.

Bahia Marina held their 18th Annual Flounder Tournament. This one has an interesting

shotgun start at the marina and is restricted to fishing the bay. 121 anglers entered despite the wind and dirty water. Surprisingly a lot of fish hit the scales, however it was the "Miller Time" that took the top prize with a 25¾" flounder weighing 7 lbs. 5 ozs. Outside the tournament the bays were very active, with most having to weed through many juvenile flounder to find the keepers. While slow, stripers and blues were in the inlets, and Delaware anglers were getting sheepshead, tog and black drum from sheltered spots in the bay.

Nearshore the sea bass and flounder bite was tough as the wind made for fast drifts. The mahi bite made up for it with big hauls of peanuts from the bass pots and reefs. Several headboats like the "Judith M" and "Angler" were having great luck getting these tasty fish over the rails. Lots of cobia were being caught at the shoals, especially Fenwick. In the canyons, the tuna bite had been non existent for a month, so it was great to see a couple of nice catches. The "Primary Search" came back to Sunset Marina with a box full of tilefish and mahi, and a fat yellowfin. The "Restless Lady II" called us from the Talbot Street Marina to report their 12 yellowfin catch, numbers we had not seen in a while. No location was shared for that one!

The Baltimore Canyon was the place to be for marlin. The "Real One" had luck in 50 fathoms releasing 4 whites. The "MARLI" went 5 for 5 on white marlin and the only blue marlin release we got was from the "Reel Chaos" who also released a white and filled the box with mahi.

#### September 18, 2024

Our last issue of the season was a tribute to the summer that was capturing some of the best catches of 2024. While the pace had slowed from the summer months, anglers were still enjoying the strong September marlin bite. A great time given the slower season. The "Billfisher" slipped into the cut in Ocean City with 13 white marlin release flags flying from one trip that week. They also released a blue. The "Boss Hogg" and the "Undertaker" spent some time in the Poor Mans Canyon going 9 for 15 and 10 for 14 respectively on white marlins. They also shared that they were mostly alone out there.

The Ocean City Marlin Club participated in the Charles Kratz

and Scott Smith Challenge Cup Tournament with rival club, the Cape May Marlin and Tuna Club. After two days of tight competition the Ocean City Marlin Club pulled ahead winning the coveted Challenge Cup with a score of 750 points to 687.5. Two boats from the local "Duffie Boatworks" took the daily prizes for Ocean City, the "Billfisher" and the "Reel Joy". The overall winner was the "Billfisher". Billfish were not the only hot bite this week.

The yellowfin tuna decided to show up in numbers we had not seen all season. They were close too, with most being caught at the Hot Dog, the 30 Fathom Lump or nearby. The "Restless Lady" had one of the biggest hauls catching 18 yellow birds at the 30 Fathom Lump during an overnight trip. They were trolling and chunking.

We also recorded a new Heaviest of the Season for wahoo that held for the year. Randy Buttion stopped by our office to share the speedster he caught at the 30 Fathom lump as well. They hooked the 92 lb. wahoo in the corner of the mouth as they were tuna fishing, a lucky catch.

Wind again plagued the weekend and the colder than normal inshore water slowed the bite. While some keeper flounder and knotheads were being found at the wrecks and reefs, anglers closer to home were having better luck. In Ocean City, the bay behind Assateague was hot for keeper flounder as well as just north of the Rt. 50 Bridge. Brian Reynolds was out and caught 9 different species on a single trip including a personal best 24" weakfish.

Further north, Delaware anglers were finding flounder success at Massey's Ditch and the Roosevelt Inlet in Lewes.

Both Atlantic Inlets were yielding sheepshead and bluefish in the evening hours. The Outer Wall in the Delaware Bay was a good spot for sheepshead.

So that is a wrap for our 2024 season and for this Year in Review. The fall proved to be a hot one for bluefin tuna with catches through the end of December, many of them in this issue!

Remember to share what you are catching this winter and spring to CoastalFisherman@comcast.net, including that 1st Tautog of the season! A few years ago that one was set on January 1st.

See you all in May! §



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A buddy system proved to be a good think for these anglers. Two boats headed out in late November to get in on the bluefin tuna run. Joe Jenkins and Jeff Ward (1st and 2nd mates on the "Morning Star") headed out with Sean Russell. Capt. Bill Oass with Tony Nicholas and Capt. Casey left on another boat to the 3rd Lump. Joe hooked up first and after fighting the fish for 2 hours they notice the bilge pump was not running and there was too much water in the boat! He jumped on the other boat with the rod still in hand and fought for another 3 hours to get the 72.75" and 247 lb. bluefin in the boat! The first boat made it back safely and all had quite the story to tell.



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Julie Stevenson shared her catch of this 18" tog with Rick's Bait & Tackle using the sand fleas she bought there! She was fishing at the Indian River Inlet just outside of the bridge.



Several days in early November felt like Indian Summer allowing anglers looking for dinner fare to get on the water. Pete Hoffman ran out to the inshore reefs on the "Gertie" and caught these two flounder. Both were over 7" and qualified for a Delaware Citation. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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## The Ladies In Our Lives

There's a reason boats are so often named after women. We love their beautiful lines, enjoy the places they take us and things they show us, we're proud to show them off to our friends, we cherish the memories we glean from time spent with them, they teach us so much, and they enrich our lives in so many ways. Oh yeah - they can also require a lot of attention, get us in trouble, influence where we live and what we do with our free time, and can be very costly to maintain! They say "the happiest two days in a boat owners life is the day he buys his boat and the day he sells his boat" also that the definition of a boat is "a hole in the water in which you pour money". And even though I'm really tired of hearing those overworked decrepit old sayings,

I just had to relay them again for the benefit of making my point about how important boats can be in some of our lives. We may love-em, but darn if keeping one isn't one huge responsibility and sometimes a downright pain in the butt!

Over the past few decades I've penned more than just a few articles about owning and operating boats, the usual focus being topics about safety, maintenance, equipment, navigation and such. The inspiration for those stories usually came from personal observations of some really bonehead things I've done and seen others do with their boats, and "yikes" there has never been any shortage of that kind of fodder for a story! So, for this column I thought I'd pull some highlights from a few vintage

stories I did about boats but also throw in the back-story that inspired me to write the original piece.

## Name That Boat

I have a friend who named his boat after his wife. He didn't really want to, but as she wasn't real keen on him spending so much money on a passion that would keep him and his attention diverted from home, family, and her, he figured that splashing his bride's name across the transom would somehow foster acceptance of the new fiberglass lady in his life. It didn't - within a couple years the divorce was final, she got the house, he got the boat. They say it's bad luck to change the name of a boat, he did it before and then again after the divorce. A year later the boat sank in its slip. I don't believe in superstitions, but darn!!!

## Boat = Work

A few years ago a fellow I know bought a modest size boat that cost him as much as much as one might pay for a small house in a decent neighborhood. He was quite proud of his vessel and would spend as much time cleaning it at the end of each voyage as he did using it. That level of maintenance lasted about one year, with each successive season the time spent cleaning the boat at the end of the day reduced proportionately. Now the five year old boat is lucky to get a freshwater rinse at the end of the day and I've noticed that on occasion even that doesn't happen until the morning after a fishing trip. I guess the honeymoon is over!

A brand new boat is all shiny and fun, but over time when their parts and systems begin to get old and begin to falter, the amount of effort and dollars it takes to keep the boat looking good and running reliable increase substantially. The bigger the boat the bigger the work load is some simple math I quickly learned

www.coastalfisherman.net when I made the quantum leap from owning a 19-foot private boat to a 40-foot charter boat and discovered that for every hour I fished each season I would need to spend at least "two" hours doing some kind of maintenance back at the dock or in the boatyard. Boat work can be expensive, dirty, and sometimes back-breaking, but there's no getting around it, if you want to protect your investment and have a vessel that will get you out and back safely and without constantly being plagued by malfunctions or breakdowns, you've got to do whatever it takes to keep everything in top form. Yeah, boats are a lot fun - but a lot of work.

## Too Much Stuff

Boaters need a lot of equipment, tools, and tackle and to catch fish and maintain their vessels. And over time we often end up accumulating a lot more stuff than we really need. A lot of us also have a habit of using our boats as floating storage sheds for all that extra stuff we never use but just don't want to get rid of. A friend bought a small boat to which he kept adding more and more equipment and accessories. Eventually he had it loaded with so much weight it would no longer get up on plane. At first he thought that the motor was malfunctioning but when he realized he just had too much stuff aboard. He loved his "stuff" so much that his remedy was to get a bigger motor!

Whether it's from a hot bite or a mechanical malfunction, when things get hectic on the water the last thing anyone needs is to waste time searching for critical tackle or tools hidden among a bunch of junk that hasn't been used for years. Boaters would do well to periodically scrutinize everything they have aboard and decide what's really necessary to have aboard and what's just taking up space, because a clutter-free boat will always prove to be the safest and most efficient fishing machine.

## The Buck Stops Here

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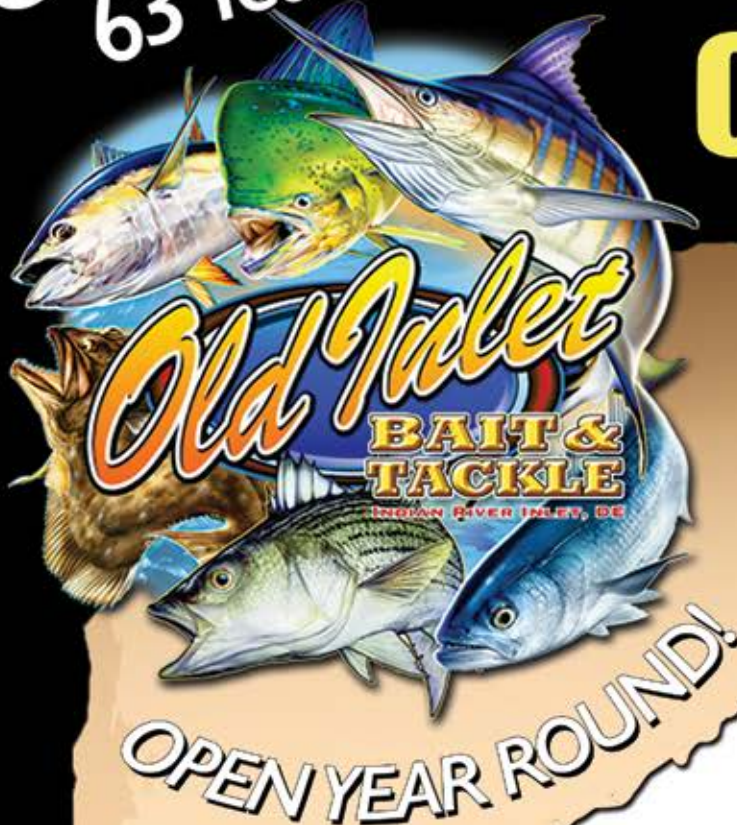
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because of bad weather, but that's exactly what I had to do that morning and my charter clients were not happy about it. The wind wasn't forecast to blow 15-20 out of the northeast, but that's what it was doing at 6am and also why I had had to explain to the six fellows who had just finished an early morning 3-hour drive in from Baltimore and were now standing on the dock behind my boat, "I'm sorry but we won't be able to get on the ocean today". They were obviously disappointed but didn't argue with me as they begrudgingly picked up their coolers and ambled back to their vehicles for what I thought was going to be a morning drive home for them.

I learned differently that afternoon when I was visited by a mate from one of our local headboats. He couldn't wait to tell me about the six guys who bought tickets to go out with them that day. "They were pissed-off and calling you every name in the book because you wouldn't take them out this morning. I told them that it was going to be rough and the only reason we were still going was because we have a much bigger boat and aren't going out very far. But we were barely outside of the inlet when they all started having an attitude adjustment as one by one they headed to the rail to barf up their breakfast! It was so rough we had to come back early and by the time we got back to the dock they had nothing but praise for you for not taking them out."

Whether it's a private boat, charter boat, headboat, or an ocean liner, every vessel has some kind of "skipper" in charge. This person might be the owner of the boat, a Coast Guard licensed captain, or just the one who rented the boat for the day and who has a little more experience than their fellow crew members. It doesn't matter if he goes by "captain, admiral, master, dad" or "Uncle Joe," neither does it matter if it's a month-long cruise to Bermuda or a half-hour trip across the bay - whoever accepts the role of being in charge must also accept the fact that the burden of

keeping their crew and vessel out of harm's way rests squarely and solely on their own shoulders, the "buck" always stops with the skipper. And sometimes the most important decision he'll make is whether or not to leave the dock.

### Pleasure Boating

I had a client that used to book my boat 5-6 times a season. He had a condo in Ocean City and if he wasn't on my boat he'd have a trip or two with someone else. He just loved to fish! Eventually he retired, moved here year-round, and figured that since he'd now be able to fish a whole lot more, he could save a lot of money on charter fees if he owned his own boat. I'll spare you all the details but suffice to say after one season his relatively new 28-footer was up for sale. It seems that by the time he got done paying for a slip at a local marina, insurance, maintenance, tackle, equipment and everything else needed to get and keep his rig fishing, he already spent almost twice what he normally did on charter fees. And that didn't include payments on the boat itself!

Anyone contemplating buying a boat needs to first take a hard and realistic look at their own situation and decide if they have the time and skills to maintain their own vessel or a lot of money to pay someone else to do it for them. Folks also have to consider how often they'll really be using their boat. Probably 50% of the boats that fill our local marinas stay tied up 95% of the time because, even though they might start each new season with hopes and dreams of fishing every weekend, when the summer finally comes to an end most boaters will discover that due to bad weather and other unforeseen circumstances they seldom got to fish or go out on the water as much as they had hoped. So unless they get out a lot, most folks would be way ahead financially if they didn't own a boat of their own but just went ahead and chartered one whenever they wanted to go fishing or cruising. Those who go out on charter boats don't have to worry about fishing licenses, ice, bait, tackle or where to go, if

there's a malfunction it's not their responsibility to get it fixed, and at the end of the day there's no fuel bill to pay or boat to clean, and charter boat clients never have to worry about monthly boat payments, slip fees or insurance premiums - now that's what I call "pleasure boating!"

### Drop Anchor - Quick!

While returning home from a fishing trip we had a fuel problem that shut us down just outside of the inlet. With the current rushing in, the last thing I wanted to do was drift into the inlet and anywhere near one of the stone jetties. So despite all the Saturday afternoon boat traffic I made a quick decision to drop anchor so we wouldn't get into any more trouble than we already were. As you can imagine, a 40-foot boat anchored in the mouth of the inlet on a busy afternoon in August is going to draw more than just a little criticism from every boater that passes by. And believe me we got our share of it before finally getting our fuel issue straightened out and back underway, but the anchor is what

really saved our butts that day.

With a pulpit up on the bow holding an anchor that's always rigged and ready for quick deployment, for us the process of getting us hooked into the bottom and the boat safely stopped took less than a minute. Knowing that our predicament could have been a lot worse if we had to fumble around with our anchor before sending it to the seafloor I was surprised a few days later when I was aboard a friend's boat whose grounding tackle (anchor, chain, line) was in a compartment below the deck beneath lifejackets, fenders, and a water hose. "All we do is fish offshore, and I never anchor my boat," was the excuse he gave me when I questioned his storage decision.

Every boat should have an anchor rigged and ready to deploy at a moment's notice, because boaters will never know when a drop of the "hook" could save that important "lady" in their life from wandering off to a place they don't want her to go! \$

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Dave Popovich fished with Capt. Carey Evans on the charter boat "Grizzly" in mid December and caught a good sized tog. The blackfish was 27¼" and 11½ lbs. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Frankford, DE anglers Greg and Heath Lohrman spent a day in late October in the Baltimore Canyon with Capt. Chris Ragni on the charter boat "Bill Slayer". They got a nice mix of blueline and golden tilefish along with some sea trout and sea bass. Pictured at the Indian River Marina charter fleet dock.

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Doug Price and Capt. Todd Hudson had an epic evening fishing on the “Reelax II” right at sunset near Hollands Island in the Chesapeake Bay. They caught 7 reds live lining with spot. 5 bull reds, one in the slot 24” keeper and one just an eight of an inch too short!

2025 MARYLAND • DELAWARE • VIRGINIA CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES									
	MD	DE **	VA		MD	DE **	VA		
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	22" or 8 lbs.	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"	35 lbs.		
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	80 lbs. or 46"	Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"	30"		
Black Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	5 lbs.	White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size		
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"	16 lbs. or 36"	SHARK:					
Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size	Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"		
Cobia	44"	45 lbs. or 48"	55 lbs. or 50"	Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"		
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	3 lbs. or 20"	Thresher*	54"	100 lbs. or 66"	72"		
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	25 lbs.	Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"		
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	6 lbs. or 26"	Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size	100 lbs.		
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	30 lbs.	TUNA:					
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	1.5 lb. or 16"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"	40 lbs.		
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	20 lbs.	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"	32"		
Red Drum*	36"	45"	46"	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.		
Sailfish*	Any Size	-	Any Size	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"	100 lbs. or 60"		
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	10 lbs. or 24"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.		
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	4 lbs. or 26"	* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program					
Speckled Trout	24"	-	5 lbs. or 24"	** DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release					
Striped Bass	40"	44"	44"	*** Use curved-fork-length measurements					
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	9 lbs. or 23"						



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# THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine

## Seared Tuna with Chimichurri Sauce & Greens

### Ingredients:

1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
 1/2 cup chopped parsley  
 1/2 small red onion, minced  
 3 tablespoons red wine vinegar  
 2 tablespoons chopped basil  
 2 tablespoons chopped cilantro  
 2 garlic cloves, minced  
 1 teaspoon crushed red pepper  
 1 1/2 teaspoons chopped thyme  
 Salt and freshly ground pepper  
 Four 6-ounce tuna steaks  
 8 packed cups mesclun (5 ounces)

### Directions:

In a small bowl, combine 1/2 cup of the olive oil with the parsley, red onion, vinegar, basil, cilantro, garlic, crushed red pepper and 1/2 teaspoon of the thyme. Season

this chimichurri sauce with salt and pepper.

Season the tuna steaks with salt, pepper and the remaining 1 teaspoon of thyme. Heat 2 large



skillets. Add 1 tablespoon of the remaining olive oil to each skillet; when it shimmers, add 2 tuna steaks to each pan. Cook over high heat until browned but rare in the center, 1 to 2 minutes per side.

In a large bowl, toss the mesclun with half of the chimichurri sauce and mound it on plates. Thinly slice the tuna steaks and set on the plates. Pass the remaining chimichurri sauce at the table to dress the tuna.

## Easy Shrimp Gumbo

### Ingredients:

1 cup basmati rice  
 5 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided  
 1 (12.8-ounce) package smoked andouille sausage, thinly sliced  
 1/4 cup unsalted butter  
 1/2 cup all-purpose flour  
 1 onion, diced  
 1 green bell pepper, diced  
 3 ribs celery, diced  
 3 cloves garlic, minced  
 8 cups chicken stock  
 1 (14.5-ounce) can petite diced tomatoes  
 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce  
 3 sprigs fresh thyme  
 2 bay leaves  
 2 1/2 cups frozen sliced okra

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1 1/2 pounds medium shrimp, peeled and deveined

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley leaves

1 tablespoon hot sauce

### Directions:

In a large saucepan of 2 cups water, cook rice according to package instructions; set aside.

Heat 1 tablespoon vegetable oil in a large stockpot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Working in batches, add sausage, and cook, stirring frequently, until sausage is lightly browned, about 3-4 minutes; set aside.

Reduce heat to low; add butter and remaining 4 tablespoons vegetable oil to the Dutch oven, stirring until butter has melted, about 1-2 minutes.

Whisk in flour until dark brown, about 20-25 minutes.

Increase heat to medium; add onion, bell pepper, celery and garlic. Cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, about 6-8 minutes.

Stir in chicken stock, scraping any browned bits from the bottom of



the Dutch oven. Stir in sausage, tomatoes, Worcestershire, thyme and bay leaves.

Bring to a boil; cover, reduce heat and simmer until reduced and flavors have blended, about 2 hours.

Stir in okra until heated through, about 5 minutes.

Stir in shrimp; season with salt and pepper, to taste. Cook, stirring occasionally, until pink and cooked through, about 3-5 minutes.

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Remove from heat; discard bay leaves and stir in parsley.

Serve immediately with rice and hot sauce, if desired.

## Blackened Tautog

### Ingredients:

- 1 tautog fillet (8 oz)
- 2 tablespoons butter
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- Pinch of cumin
- 1 teaspoon thyme or oregano
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 lemon

### Directions:

Rinse blackfish fillet in cold water and pat dry with paper towels.

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

Heat butter on the skillet (it has to be very hot) and place fish in it. Cook for 4 minutes on one side and then for another 3 minutes on another side.

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



### Notes:

- Do not move fish during cooking otherwise it may stick to the skillet.
- You can check the internal temperature by sticking meat thermometer into the thickest part of the fish. It should read 145 degrees Fahrenheit when fully cooked.
- Top fish with chopped green onions, lemon slices, chopped cilantro or parsley.
- If you want to slice the fish, move it to the cutting board and slice

into equal pieces using a sharp knife.

## Swordfish Spiedini

### Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 teaspoons herbes de Provence
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2 pounds swordfish steaks (at least 1-inch thick), trimmed
- 12 short, thick wooden skewers, soaked in water for at least 30 minutes

12 thin slices pancetta (about 3 ounces), unrolled so that you have a strip

6 lemon wedges

### Directions:

Whisk the oil, Herbes de Provence, salt, and pepper in a large bowl to blend. Cut the swordfish steaks into 36 (1-inch) cubes and toss in the oil mixture to coat. Thread the swordfish cubes onto wooden skewers, 3 per skewer. Wrap a slice of pancetta around and between the swordfish cubes on each skewer. Arrange the swordfish skewers on a small baking sheet and brush with the remaining oil



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mixture. Cover and refrigerate at least 1 hour and up to 1 day, turning occasionally in the oil mixture.

Prepare the barbecue for medium-high heat or preheat a grill pan over medium-high heat. Grill the swordfish skewers until the swordfish is just opaque in the center and the pancetta is crisp, turning often, about 10 minutes.

Transfer the skewers to plates and serve with lemon wedges.

## Easy Baked Oysters

### Ingredients:

24 shucked oysters

Creole seasoning

1/2 cup finely shredded parmesan cheese

1/2 cup finely shredded sharp cheddar cheese

2 tablespoons freshly chopped parsley

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.

On a large rimmed baking sheet, place a large crinkled up piece of foil. It should fill the whole pan and will hold the oysters in place.

Place the shucked oysters in the



prepared baking sheet.

Sprinkle each oyster with a pinch of creole seasoning and 1 teaspoon of each of the cheeses.

Bake the oysters for about 15 minutes. The cheese should be melted and golden brown.

Remove the oysters from the oven and sprinkle with the fresh parsley.

## Venison Bourguignon

### Ingredients:

3 tablespoons olive oil divided

8 ounces chopped bacon

3 pounds deer roast meat chopped into large 2-inch chunks

2 pounds carrots chopped into large chunks

2 onions roughly chopped

6 cloves garlic smashed

1 pound crimini mushrooms halved

1/2 cup brandy

750 ml dry red wine

2 cups venison stock or beef stock

2 tablespoons tomato paste

1 bouquet garni (a small fresh herb bouquet with thyme, rosemary

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pepper to taste. Brown the deer meat on all sides. Then remove with a slotted spoon.

Add the onions, garlic, and carrots to the pot. Cook and stir for several minutes until the onions have softened, then add the mushrooms and cook another 5-10 minutes.

Add all meat back to the pot, followed by: brandy, wine, stock, and tomato paste. Add 1 teaspoon salt and 1 teaspoon pepper and stir well. Then add the bouquet garni and cover.

Bring to a boil, then lower the heat and simmer for approximately 3 hours until the venison is very tender.



and a bay leaf – tied together)

4 tablespoons butter softened

1/4 cup flour

Salt and pepper

3 pounds baby golden potatoes

### Directions:

Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large sauce pot. Add the bacon and cook over medium heat until brown and crisp. Remove with a slotted spoon and set aside.

Next pat the venison chunks dry with a paper towel and salt and

In the last hour of simmering, preheat the oven to 450 degrees F.

Place the mini potatoes on a rimmed baking sheet and toss with 2 tablespoons oil, salt and pepper.

Roast for 35-45 minutes until tender, tossing once in the middle.

Once the venison is tender, mix half a stick of softened butter with 1/4 cup of flour. Use a fork to press into a paste.

Slowly stir the butter mixture into the stew until the desired

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thickness in reached. Salt and pepper to taste if needed.

## Crispy Pan Fried Rockfish

### Ingredients:

1¼ cups panko breadcrumbs  
3/4 cups grated Parmesan cheese  
3 tablespoons parsley  
1 egg  
3 tablespoons mayonnaise  
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard  
1 teaspoon garlic powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon pepper  
1½ pounds fresh or frozen rockfish fillets

Vegetable oil for frying

### Directions:

Combine the panko, parmesan and parsley in a wide bowl or a pie dish.

In a separate bowl, combine the egg, mayonnaise, Dijon, garlic, salt and pepper.

Pat the fillets dry with a paper towel.

Optional Step: Cut the fillets into smaller sections about 3 inches long.

Add the fillets to the egg mixture and gently stir to coat the fish.

Pick up the fillet pieces one at a time and place in the breadcrumb mixture. Coat both sides of the fish with the breadcrumbs and gently press down on the fillets to get the breadcrumbs to adhere. Repeat with all the fish fillets.

Add enough oil to a 12-inch skillet to get it about 1/4 inch deep. Heat the oil over medium-high heat.

When the oil is hot use tongs to gently add the fish fillets to the pan and cook for 90 seconds to



2 minutes until golden brown. Carefully flip the fish fillets over and cook the other side for another 90 seconds to 2 minutes.

When the rockfish fillets are golden brown, lay them on a cooling rack or some paper towels while you finish frying the rest of the fish.

Serve with tartar sauce or garlic lemon butter sauce.

## Best Ever Baked Salmon

### Ingredients:

4 salmon fillets, 6 ounces each, skin on

1 ½ tablespoons low sodium soy sauce

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 tablespoon honey

1 ½ teaspoons Dijon mustard

2 cloves garlic, minced

### Directions:

Remove the salmon from the refrigerator and let it come to room temperature while you prepare the other ingredients.

Preheat oven to 400° F. Line a 9×13-inch baking dish with a sheet of parchment paper (or foil) for easy clean up.



In a small bowl, whisk together soy sauce, olive oil, honey, Dijon mustard and minced garlic.

Place salmon, skin side down, in the prepared baking dish. Reserve ½ of the sauce in a clean dish and brush/spoon the remaining ½ of the sauce over the salmon.

Bake for 12 minutes and then brush on the remaining sauce. Bake 2-8 more minutes, or until the salmon is cooked to your liking. When it's done, the salmon should flake easily with a fork. Thicker salmon fillets will take longer to cook through than thinner salmon fillets. §

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Usually by the time we stop publishing for the year, the Heaviest of the Year fish are pretty secure. Apparently George Guthridge did not get the message! He was fishing with Capt. Monty Hawkins on the head boat “Morning Star” in mid November and hooked this doormat flounder. It measured 30 inches and weighed a whopping 13.5 lbs. not only making it the Heaviest of the Season at the time, but securing the title for 2024!

November saw an impressive run of large bluefin tuna with many over 200 lbs. One of the first was this 235.5 lb. blue caught by Darren Bell and Ayman aboard the “Lt. Dan” on 11/7 with Capt. Ralph Acquaviva. The fish hit on a blue & white 8 oz. Joe Shute with a Select Ballyhoo a little east of the African Queen. It only took 30 minutes to land with a Reel Easy Tackle Bluefin rod with a Penn 130. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

# KITCHEN CONVERSION COACH

### Measurement

CUP	ONCES	MILLILITERS	TABLESPOONS
8 cup	64 oz	1895 ml	128
6 cup	48 oz	1420 ml	96
5 cup	40 oz	1180 ml	80
4 cup	32 oz	960 ml	64
2 cup	16 oz	480 ml	32
1 cup	8 oz	240 ml	16
3/4 cup	6 oz	177 ml	12
2/3 cup	5 oz	158 ml	11
1/2 cup	4 oz	118 ml	8
3/8 cup	3 oz	90 ml	6
1/3 cup	2.5 oz	79 ml	5.5
1/4 cup	2 oz	59 ml	4
1/8 cup	1 oz	30 ml	3
1/16 cup	1/2 oz	15 ml	1

### Temperature

FAHRENHEIT	CELSIUS
100 °F	37 °C
150 °F	65 °C
200 °F	93 °C
250 °F	121 °C
300 °F	150 °C
325 °F	160 °C
350 °F	180 °C
375 °F	190 °C
400 °F	200 °C
425 °F	220 °C
450 °F	230 °C
500 °F	260 °C
525 °F	274 °C
550 °F	288 °C

### Weight

IMPERIAL	METRIC
1/2 oz	15 g
1 oz	29 g
2 oz	57 g
3 oz	85 g
4 oz	113 g
5 oz	141 g
6 oz	170 g
8 oz	227 g
10 oz	283 g
12 oz	340 g
13 oz	369 g
14 oz	397 g
15 oz	425 g
1 lb	453 g



## LIQUID MEASUREMENTS

8 ounces = 1 cup	2 pints = 1 quart	4 tbsp = 1/4 cup
2 cups = 1 pint	4 quarts = 1 gallon	8 tbsp = 1/2 cup
16 ounces = 1 pint	3 tsp = 1 tbsp	1 pinch = 1/8 tsp or less
4 cups = 1 quart	2 tbsp = 1/8 cup	



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Capt. Jeff Warford ( "Wolfpack") Capt. Sean Welsh & Capt. Chris Huk ( "Restless Lady 1 & 2") Capt. Austin Ensor ( "Primary Search")  
Capt. Mark DeCabia ( "Rebel") Capts. Gene Quigley, Jerry Malanga & Jim Freda ( "Shore Catch Fleet") Capt. Darren Dorris ( "Good Chemistry")  
Capt. Freda Gamboa ( "Andrea's Toy") Capt. Tim Pickett ( "LP Reels") & All the Canyon Runner Captains!!!

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3. Advanced Bigeye Tactics - Specialized Techniques
4. Offshore Trolling & Chunking from a Center Console
5. Offshore Game Plan - Trolling, Chunking
6. Mid-Shore Game Plan - Trolling, Chunking & Jigging
7. Inshore Tuna - When, Where, Why & How
8. Water Temp Analysis - Core Class for First Time Attendees
9. How to Have a Successful Canyon Trip without Targeting Bigeyes (Focus on Yellowfins, Longfins, Mahi & Swords)
10. Advanced Water Temp Analysis - Debrief of the Year
11. Using Your Electronics to Find Fish
12. Why 10% of Fisherman catch 90% of the Fish - Top 10 Reasons why the Same Crews Regularly Outfish the Fleet
13. Rigging Baits for Chunking Tuna - Hands On Training
14. Hi-Tech Rigging Baits for Big Fish - Hands On Training
15. Tuna Trolling 101 - What You Must Know to Excel
16. Southern Techniques for Tuna
17. Advanced Live Baits Tactics
18. Day-Time Swordfishing the Canyons
19. Night-Time Swordfishing the Canyons
20. NMFS - Ask Any Questions You May Have - Learn the Rules and What They Are
21. Chunking 101 - Rig Up like a Professional Crew
22. Tuna Jigging 101 - Learn from the Best at this Art
23. Winning Marlin Tactics
24. Small Boat Dredge Fishing on the Mid-Shore Grounds
25. Engine Preventative Maintenance & Repairs at Sea
26. Tilefishing the Canyons
27. Learn How to Service & Maintain Your Reels
28. Rod Building - Repair & Maintenance
29. Learn How to Truly Run the Pit like a Professional Mate
30. Latest Tracking Northeast Yellowfin & Bigeye Tuna
31. Gulf Stream Marlin & Yellowfin Trolling
32. Mahi & Wahoo Fishing

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- *Passing Montauk. Thanks again! Great trip. Could have stayed there catching more but we were stocked with all we needed. Great trip. Thanks again for the numbers!!! - G.T.*
- *Don't understand how this Canyon Runner Team is available 24/7 to respond to calls, emails, text to answer any question I have! - E.K.*
- *Fished all day without a bite until I reached out to CR and they put me on the meat within the hour and saved the trip - not once or twice, but no less than three separate times last year! - T.P.*

*"Honored to be working with "Restless Lady", "Marli" and now for 2025 "Primary Search" as our Pro-Staff in OCMD and our Southern Region!!!"*

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The bluefin tuna run of 2024 will be remembered by many, especially for first timer Josh Cole. He was fishing with Mike Ahlfeldt and Jeff Phipps at the Fenwick Shoals in late November when he caught his first, a 67.5" and 180 lb. tuna on a blue & white skirted ballyhoo.



Big Bird Cropper made an unusual short trip in mid November spending only three hours on the "Lost Time" in the Ocean City Bay. It was productive though as he caught an in the slot striper and a nice red drum.

The logo is circular with a blue background. It features a fishing rod and reel at the top. The text "MARYLAND • DELAWARE • VIRGINIA" is at the top. Below that, "COASTAL FISHERMAN" is written in large, bold, yellow letters. Underneath, "50 YEARS 1975 - 2025" is written in white. A red banner at the bottom says "ANNIVERSARY".

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We got this catch report from Capt. Jon Fazekas of "Bottom Line Sportfishing" just after our last seasonal issue in September. He and mate Michael Greene were fishing at The Cigar east of the Delaware Bay where they snagged this 54 lb. wahoo on a Nomad DTX purple and black Deep Diver. Pictured at the Lewes Harbour Marina.







Dan Criger of Dundalk, MD with Neill Tipton and Tommy Zapf cleaned up on this mid October trip to the 30 Fathoms Lump. They were fishing on the “Dirty Girl” with Capt. Logan Pees and used planer boards with DTX Lures & Ballyhoo and spreader bars to land this collection of 5 yellowfin tuna and 4 wahoo with the largest over 70 lbs.















Cooler November weather did not seem to impact Brian Fisher and his son Roy from Carlisle, PA on their mid month trips aboard the headboat “Ocean Princess” with Capt. Victor Bunting Jr. Here is Brian with a 22” sea bass from one of their back to back trips. They found their limit on the 1st day and did very well the next as well.

2025

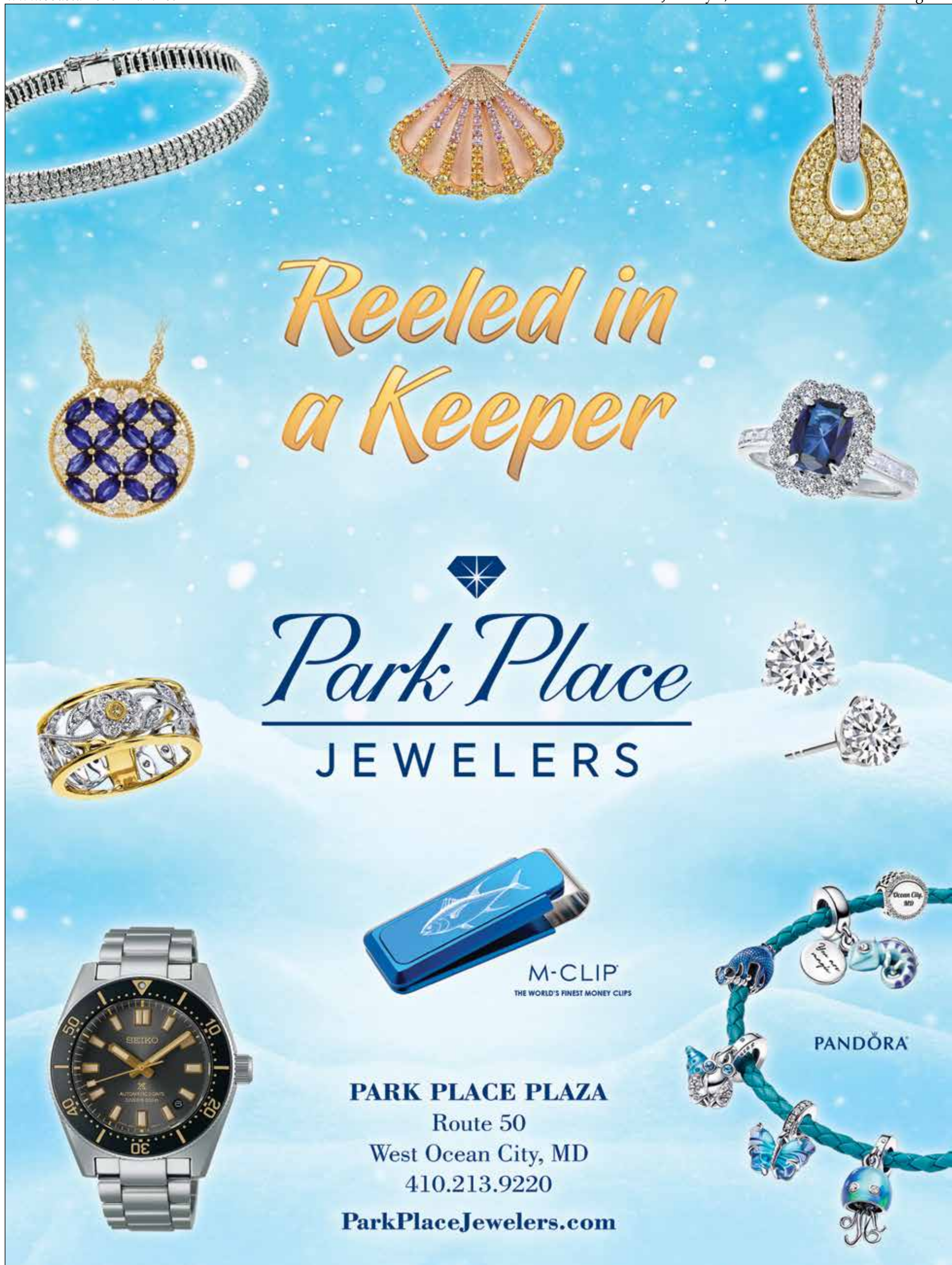
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 <p><b>BLACK SEA BASS</b> 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - September 30 October 10 - December 31</p>	 <p><b>BLUEFISH</b> No minimum size 3 per day / 5 per day Charter</p>	 <p><b>BLACK DRUM</b> 16" minimum 3 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>COBIA</b> 37" Minimum • 1 per person or vessel</p>
 <p><b>CROAKER</b> 8" Minimum • No Limit</p>	 <p><b>RED DRUM</b> 20-27" minimum 5 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>SHEEPSHEAD</b> No limit</p>	 <p><b>SPECKLED TROUT</b> 12" minimum No creel limit</p>
 <p><b>STRIPED BASS</b> 28-31" except 20-25" only from 7/1 - 8/31 in DE Bay 1 per person/day Catch &amp; Release only from 4/1 - 5/31 on Spawning Grounds</p>	 <p><b>SUMMER FLOUNDER</b> 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"</p>	 <p><b>TAUTOG</b> 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31</p>	 <p><b>WEAKFISH</b> 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

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Angler Mark Droney is in the 200 Club after boating this 70" and 211 lb. bluefin at the end of November. He was fishing at the 12 Fathom Lump on the "Stress Reel-Lef" with Capt. Fred Winward and mates Byron Flick & Heath Berger. The big tuna hit on a blue & white Joe Shute with a horse ballyhoo. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em.



Chris Collins from Westover, MD hooked into a big blueline tilefish on his trip to the Poor Mans Canyon this Fall on the "SeaFlight". He hand cranked the 37½" and 19.8 lb. fish deep dropping using squid.

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## Best in Award-Winning 2024 Marine Electronics

Each autumn, the National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) hosts its annual conference and trade show, an industry-only event that showcases the latest marine electronics products. The week-long conference also features a robust schedule of educational and technical training sessions, designed to educate both new and experienced marine technicians.

The highlight of the week is the annual Product of Excellence Awards ceremony, which has recognized outstanding products since 1971. Manufacturers enter their products to be considered for the ballot, which is then voted on by over 1,000 NMEA members, including dealers, installers, and industry professionals. This is much more than a popularity contest - NMEA members cast their votes based on firsthand experience selling, installing, and receiving customer feedback on the nominated products. The award categories evolve over time, and there are currently 19 categories eligible for recognition.

The NMEA Technology Award and Best New Product

Award are presented to winners selected by a panel of independent judges. The judges evaluate products based on criteria such as innovation, benefit to boaters, practicality,

and value. To be considered for the Best New Product Award, a product must have been introduced to the market at the NMEA Conference & Expo. As a boat owner, captain, or

crew member, industry awards can hold significant meaning. Purchasing or operating an award-winning product can reinforce your belief that it is an excellent choice for your needs. These acclaimed products are often well-known to marine electronics technicians, which can simplify installation, training, and service. Manufacturers are typically proud of their award-winning products and tend to be well-versed in their sales and support, ensuring a positive customer experience. Additionally, the use of the same award-winning products across the sportfish boat community can facilitate the sharing of operational knowledge, tricks, and tips among captains. This year the following products won awards at the September 2024 NEMA Conference & Expo in Providence, RI.

## Product of Excellence Awards

Marine VHF  
Icom M510 EVO

Satellite TV Antenna  
KVH TracVision UHD7

Radar  
Furuno DRS4DNXT

Marine Monitor  
Seatronx VSRT-17

Fishfinder  
Furuno DFF3D Multi-Beam Sonar




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**Congratulations to All the 2024 NMEA Award Winners!**


**BRNKL** **NM EA** 2024 Best New Product  
**Maretron** **NM EA** 2024 Technology Award

**NM EA** 2024 Manufacturer of the Year  
**GARMIN** **Actisense** **SITEX** **CWR** WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTION

**NM EA** 2024 Product Award Winner  
**WAVE** **GOST** **ICOM** **SEATRONX**  
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**TIMEZERO** **ACR** **KVH**  
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Garmin GPSMAP 9227AIS  
Garmin Vesper Cortex M1Autopilot  
Garmin Reactor 40 with SmartPumpNMEA 2000 Sensor  
Furuno SCX20 Satellite CompassRemote Monitoring  
GOST GNT-Evolution-IDPMarine App  
Garmin Active CaptainMarine PC Software  
Nobeltec TimeZero ProfessionalMarine Safety Device  
ACR ResQLink PLB-450Wi-Fi/Cellular Device  
Wave WiFi Tidal WaveMultimedia Entertainment  
Fusion Apollo MS-RA770Commercial Product  
Furuno FAR2228BB IMO RadarMarine Specialty  
Furuno CSH8LMK2 Omni Sonar

NMEA Technology Award judged best among 13 submitted products was the Maretron MConnect® Web Server WSV100. The product is a display interface product that allows users to display and control NMEA 2000 data on custom user-built graphic pages hosted to web browsers and MFD displays. Users can build controls, indicators, gauges, and other components using their own graphics. Best New Product Award Winning the award in a field of 10 submissions was Barnacle Systems' BRNKL Blue-Fish On! Edition. The product is an innovative vessel monitoring system that seamlessly combines comprehensive monitoring, remote control, security, and video recording

into one subscription-free system. This allows users to monitor critical vessel systems, receive real-time alerts, and trigger video recordings with a single touch.

The Manufacturer of the Year Award recognizes companies for their support provided to dealers and installers. Garmin won in the large-company category, Actisense among medium-sized companies, and SI-TEX for smaller manufacturers.

While seasoned sportfish captains may already be familiar with many of the award-winning products on display, there are also some lesser-known products that are worth considering.

ICOM M510 EVO, while many are familiar with ICOM VHF radios, this newest version has taken the best of the previous models with the addition of built-in NMEA 2000™ connectivity, and a two-way hailer/PA function built into a sleek and compact footprint. Features include Class-D DSC, WLAN smart device control, integrated AIS-receive (AIS version only), and a display with a wide-viewing angle and night mode. Command and control from anywhere on-board with a smart device (smartphone) and the ICOM app, connected to the M510EVO built-in wireless network.

The Furuno dome radar DRS4DNXT, is a 24" Solid-State Doppler Radar with Target Analyzer and Fast Target Tracking. This would be a great small radar to complement a large open array radar. Having a second radar as a backup is a great idea and this doppler style dome is great at close range situational awareness, whereas a large open array is best for long range. The target analyzer helps the operator to determine if other vessels are moving toward your boat, moving away or stationary.

Seatronx VSRT-17, this 17" marine display is an evolution of previous Seatronx monitors. Seatronx is an ISO Certified U.S. manufacturer and distributor of rugged electronics catering specifically to the Military, Maritime and Industrial

markets. The V-Series offers an amazing 9 inputs that eliminate the need for additional expensive switching systems. Now you can view cameras, vessel monitoring, navigation, communication computers and the newest black box systems from Garmin and Furuno, from each touch screen display.

Furuno's unrivaled DFF3D Multibeam Sonar continues its reign in the Fish Finder category, securing its seventh consecutive Product of Excellence award. The DFF3D delivers unparalleled fish-finding capabilities, offering a 3D, 120-degree view of fish and underwater structures from port to starboard. With its PBG (Personal Bathymetric Generator), users can create detailed bathymetric charts on the go. Features like Follow-it, which allows anglers to generate constant-depth routes along the ridges mapped by the DFF3D and send them to the Autopilot, are continuously integrated into NavNet TZtouch3 and TZtouchXL software, enabling anglers to elevate their fishing techniques

in ways unmatched by other fish finders.

The Furuno SCX20 Satellite Compass has won awards since its introduction a few years ago. This is a fantastic NMEA200 sensor that is compatible with most any sportfish equipment. The SCX20 provides very precise heading information from a small form factor not affected by magnetic fields on the vessel, great for autopilots. While satellite compasses are not new, the SCX20 is one of the most affordable and compact offerings, with the best accuracy. The SCX20 also provides position, pitch, roll, and heave information to devices on the NMEA2000 network. Many newer sounders can interpret heave information and compensate for the bottom readings.

The GOST® GNT-Evolution IDP may sound familiar to readers, especially if you have a Viking sportfish, as GOST® is usually factory installed. Marine Insurance companies require some form of vessel tracking and many crew are interested in remote

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monitoring. While GOST® has many products, they now offer a GNT-Evolution IDP Hardwired Security Package which is the newest version of GOST's award-winning, globally capable wireless security, monitoring and satellite tracking system designed with new hardwired inputs to simplify installation where direct wire runs are preferred. The security system provides boaters with a rugged, marine-grade satellite relay unit with real-time global tracking and security alerts at an affordable and accessible price point.

The Wave WiFi Tidal Wave is a Wi-Fi/Cellular device specifically designed for maritime use. It has numerous capabilities for providing internet data onboard a boat. The Tidal Wave device can connect to the cellular data network, Wi-Fi and now Starlink, to provide Wi-Fi data on-board the vessel. It allows the administrative user to connect to the Tidal Wave device and select the source of internet connectivity, based on performance or cost. The Tidal

Wave includes 5 antennas, two indoor, two outdoor and one cellular data antenna.

Nobeltec TimeZero Professional is a product intended for knowledgeable users who may prefer to keep their expertise private. TZ Professional software has been designed to meet the navigation needs and requirements of all professional seafarers. With features that are truly innovative, TIMEZERO software has two main objectives: Supreme control and performance. Primarily designed for Commercial Fishing, workboats, racing and sportfishing, TimeZero Professional software is a Microsoft® Windows® based product that connects to shipboard data to provide navigation and fishing software for professional navigation. There are numerous TIMEZERO Modules that can be added to compliment the basic system such as Targets (AIS/ARPA), Routing, Radar, Sounder, PBG, WASSP, DFF3D, Trawl Positioning, Bottom Hardnes, S57 / S63, VDR. Time Zero history goes back

35 years, to the founding of MaxSea and adding Nobeltec and MapMedia along the way. These TimeZero charts are now standard on the newest TZT Furuno chartplotters.

When captains talk about radar, it is no surprise that Furuno is a popular choice and here winning an award for the commercial product in the form of the FAR2228BB IMO Radar. This is a 25kW, X-Band, 96 NM standalone commercial radar. This series is characterized by its state-of-the-art antenna design and innovative signal processing techniques. The latest and finest technologies and intuitive design will increase situational awareness and enable safer than ever navigation. The operator can quickly adjust the radar image with a single button press. When the ACE function is activated, the system automatically adjusts clutter reduction filters and gain control according to the sea and weather conditions. With Fast Target Tracking™, the FAR2228BB provides accurate tracking information;

speed and course vectors are displayed in mere seconds allowing operators to act and avoid incidents at an early stage. When it comes to sportfishing, Furuno commercial radars are a popular choice for larger sportfish boats that often travel to distant locations.

The Maretron MConnect® Web Server WSV100 is a unique product, many may be familiar with the Maretron NMEA2000 product offerings and this new hardware and software helps bring it all together. Designed for vessels of all sizes, the new MConnect® Web Server provides real time data on web pages that can be displayed on multiple phones, tablets, PCs or MACs—simultaneously. Following the design paradigm of Maretron's award-winning N2KView® Vessel Monitoring and Control Software, MConnect's engaging and informative graphic controls make it easy to display a large amount of critical data. MConnect® can also be displayed on marine Multifunction Displays



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(MFDs) that support remote HTML servers such as Garmin OneHelm™ and Raymarine LightHouse 3 as well as full integration with digital switching systems such as Octoplex® and MPower®.

The best new product in 2024 is from a Canadian company, Barnacle Systems' BRNKL Blue-Fish On! Edition. BRNKL Blue enables boaters to seamlessly monitor vessel systems, trigger automated video recording, and share those moments on social media. With the Fish On! feature you can capture every catch on video, mark the GPS position when you hook the fish and track the entire fight. Replay the entire fight using the BRNKL Blue's replay engine. There are many remote vessel monitoring systems to choose from, though when it comes to sportfishing, Barnacle Systems have crafted a package of interest for sportfishing boats along with traditional vessel monitoring.

While the Furuno CSH8LMK2 Omni sonar won an award in the marine specialty category,

there are many other omni style sonars, such as the Simrad by Kongsberg SY50 Omni sonar, the MAQ omni sonar, Koden Searchlight Sonars and even the smallest searchlight sonar by Hondex. MAQ has recently introduced a small, less expensive Omni sonar, designed to fit into a 6" sonar tube, called the MiniMAQ 90KHz. This is a great upgrade from an existing 6" searchlight and perfect for a smaller boat with limited space for a larger omni sonar.

A month after the NMEA awards at the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show, Furuno introduced a new Omni sonar, The CSH10 Omni Sonar. For over a year, boat owners and crew had heard rumors about the development of a new omni sonar. Those rumors proved well-founded, as the highly anticipated, improved omni sonar, CSH10 has been released.

The new CSH10 is a commercial-duty product, designed to meet the demanding needs of

tournament sportfishing boats. The form factor of the CSH10 is comparable to the existing CSH8LMK2, which remains a current Furuno product for now.

The latest sonar model features enhanced sensitivity, an extended effective range, 3-axis stabilization, and comprehensive electronic upgrades. The main control (keypad) is slightly smaller and more water resistant. The CSH10 has a handheld optional wireless remote.

In collaboration with the new CSH10, Furuno is soon releasing software for its newest TZtouchXL chartplotter/multifunction display series. The software will enable touch screen control of the CSH10 sonar and integrate it with the chartplotter system, allowing overlays, event marking, autopilot control, and more. This feature will be especially useful for captains who need to control the Omni sonar from the tower, eliminating the need for an additional control unit, switch box, and wiring.

The transceiver circuitry remains housed in a large enclosure, unlike some other sonar systems that integrate it directly into the transducer. However, the transducer itself has been updated - it is now more sensitive and encased in an oil bath, with a new protective outer "shield" covering the urethane face.

The new CSH10 has smaller dimensions than the CSH8LMK2, which allows it to be installed in boats with limited vertical clearance in mechanical spaces. This will help those trying to squeeze an omni into a center console boat and the new 24 V DC power makes wiring even easier. If you have an existing 8-inch sonar, the new CSH10 will fit right in. Deliveries of this new system have begun in limited numbers just in time for the winter tournaments.

Consider incorporating these award-winning products into your current boat or adding them to the list of options for your next project. §



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The crew of the “Reel Crazy” had a crazy morning in early November. Anglers Nathan Seeley, Andrew White, Brian Marks, Branden Snyder, Duncan Wiley and Daxton Wiley headed to the Jack Spot with Capt. Devin Wiley and mate Dylan Wiley. They had their ‘under’ limit by 10AM and then started working inside into deeper water where they caught a 70” and 206 lb. ‘over’ that hit on a blue magic tail lure. Pictured at the Indian River Marina.

2025

VIRGINIA REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p><b>BLACK SEA BASS</b> 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - July 15 August 4 - December 31</p>	 <p><b>BLUEFISH</b> No minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day headboat All Year</p>	 <p><b>BLACK DRUM</b> 16" minimum 1 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p><b>COBIA</b> 40" minimum / Only 1&gt;50" 1 per person/day • 2 per boat/day 6/15 - 9/15</p>
 <p><b>CROAKER</b> No minimum 50 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p><b>RED DRUM</b> 18-26" minimum 3 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p><b>SHEEPSHEAD</b> No minimum 4 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p><b>SPECKLED TROUT</b> 14" minimum 5 per person/day All Year Only 1&gt;24"</p>
 <p><b>STRIPED BASS</b> 28-31" 1 per person/day 1/1-3/31 &amp; 5/16-12/31</p>	 <p><b>FLOUNDER</b> 4 per person/day All Year 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"</p>	 <p><b>TAUTOG</b> 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1-5/15 &amp; 7/1-12/31</p>	 <p><b>WEAKFISH</b> 12" minimum 1 per person/day All Year</p>

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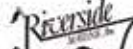
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Kayak angler Korey Glover was very happy with this sheephead he caught after a short paddle over to Assateague Island. Pictured at the West Ocean City boat ramp.



Crab Claw Adventures owner Capt. Natalie O'Neill of Lincoln, DE has a big smile on her face after catching this 25" and 6.6 lb. red drum using sand fleas and shiners at Site 10. She was fishing with her dad Bob and Capt. Steve Pinkstone on the "Vagrant Viking"

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

























































































































— Fuel Dock Open! Call 410.213.1121 for Winter Availability —

































































































































# 2025 Tide Table

These are Ocean City, MD tides at the Ocean City Inlet. Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge. First time listed each day is a.m. high or a.m. low tide. Indian River Inlet, DE add 25 min. for high. Wachapreague Inlet, VA add 5 min. for high, 20 min. for low. Quinby Inlet, VA subtract 5 min for high.

April	High Tide		Low Tide		Sun		Moon	May	High Tide		Low Tide		Sun		Moon	June	High Tide		Low Tide		Sun		Moon	July	High Tide		Low Tide		Sun		Moon
	AM	PM	AM	PM	Rise	Set			AM	PM	AM	PM	Rise	Set			AM	PM	AM	PM	Rise	Set			AM	PM	Rise	Set	AM	PM	
1	10:51	11:26	4:47	4:41	6:43	7:25		1	11:27		5:34	5:15	6:01	7:53		1	12:53	1:08	7:12	7:02	5:36	8:19		1	12:59	1:30	7:23	7:34	5:39	8:29	
2	11:41		5:46	5:34	6:41	7:25		2	12:14	12:24	6:35	6:16	6:00	7:54		2	1:49	2:12	8:05	8:05	5:36	8:20		2	1:42	2:26	8:06	8:33	5:39	8:29	
3	12:25	12:37	6:49	6:33	6:40	7:26		3	1:19	1:29	7:38	7:22	5:59	7:55		3	2:44	3:18	8:55	9:08	5:36	8:21		3	2:27	3:23	8:47	9:32	5:40	8:29	
4	1:35	1:42	0:33	7:38	6:38	7:27		4	2:33	2:44	0:36	8:30	5:58	7:56		4	3:36	4:16	0.4	10:09	5:35	8:21		4	3:16	4:18	0.39	10:31	5:40	8:29	
5	3:02	3:03	9:03	8:48	6:37	7:28		5	3:43	3:58	9:35	9:37	5:56	7:57		5	4:21	5:06	10:25	11:07	5:35	8:22		5	4:05	5:08	10:10	11:28	5:41	8:28	
6	4:22	4:23	10:07	9:58	6:35	7:29		6	4:41	4:58	10:28	10:41	5:55	7:58		6	5:02	5:49	11:07		5:35	8:22		6	4:54	5:56	10:55		5:41	8:28	
7	5:24	5:26	11:06	11:05	6:34	7:30		7	5:27	5:46	11:16	11:39	5:54	7:58		7	5:42	6:30	12:02	11:47	5:35	8:23		7	5:43	6:42	12:21	11:41	5:42	8:28	
8	6:14	6:17	11:57		6:32	7:31		8	6:04	6:27	11:58		5:53	7:59		8	6:22	7:11	12:50	12:25	5:35	8:24		8	6:30	7:28	1:07	12:26	5:43	8:27	
9	6:54	6:59	12:03	12:41	6:31	7:32		9	6:36	7:05	12:30	12:35	5:52	8:00		9	7:05	7:52	1:34	1:02	5:34	8:24		9	7:18	8:12	1:49	1:09	5:43	8:27	
10	7:27	7:37	12:53	1:18	6:29	7:33		10	7:08	7:41	1:16	1:09	5:51	8:01		10	7:48	8:34	2:13	1:38	5:34	8:25		10	8:06	8:55	2:27	1:52	5:44	8:27	
11	7:55	8:11	1:37	1:51	6:28	7:34		11	7:43	8:17	1:57	1:40	5:50	8:02		11	8:33	9:16	2:51	2:15	5:34	8:25		11	8:53	9:36	3:03	2:35	5:45	8:26	
12	8:23	0:36	2:17	2:20	6:26	7:35		12	8:21	0:37	2:35	2:11	5:49	8:03		12	9:17	0:41	3:28	2:54	5:34	8:26		12	9:40	0:43	3:39	3:19	5:45	8:26	
13	8:55	9:19	2:55	2:48	6:25	7:36		13	9:00	9:33	3:12	2:43	5:48	8:04		13	10:01	10:37	4:06	3:35	5:34	8:26		13	10:25	10:55	4:18	4:07	5:46	8:25	
14	9:29	9:54	3:31	3:16	6:23	7:37		14	9:40	10:12	3:49	3:17	5:48	8:05		14	10:44	11:17	4:46	4:21	5:34	8:26		14	11:11	11:35	4:58	4:58	5:47	8:25	
15	10:05	10:30	4:08	3:47	6:22	7:38		15	10:20	10:52	4:27	3:55	5:47	8:06		15	11:29	11:58	5:29	5:11	5:34	8:27		15	11:58		5:41	5:54	5:47	8:24	
16	10:42	11:08	4:47	4:21	6:20	7:39		16	11:01	11:33	5:09	4:38	5:46	8:07		16		12:17	6:13	6:07	5:34	8:27		16	12:17	12:50	6:27	6:54	5:48	8:24	
17	11:20	11:50	5:29	5:01	6:19	7:40		17	11:44		5:54	5:27	5:45	8:08		17	12:42	1:09	6:59	7:07	5:34	8:27		17	1:04	1:47	7:15	7:57	5:49	8:23	
18		12:01	0:26	5:48	6:18	7:41		18	12:18	12:32	0:28	6:22	5:44	8:08		18	1:30	2:08	0:32	8:10	5:35	8:28		18	1:56	2:51	0:34	9:03	5:50	8:23	
19	12:37	12:48	7:07	6:41	6:16	7:41		19	1:07	1:27	7:30	7:22	5:44	8:09		19	2:24	3:11	8:35	9:16	5:35	8:28		19	2:56	4:00	9:00	10:11	5:50	8:22	
20	1:33	1:46	8:01	7:41	6:15	7:42		20	2:01	2:31	8:20	8:26	5:43	8:10		20	3:22	4:14	9:27	10:23	5:35	8:28		20	3:59	5:07	9:58	11:18	5:51	8:21	
21	2:38	2:54	8:56	8:45	6:14	7:43		21	2:59	3:35	9:10	9:32	5:42	8:11		21	4:21	5:14	10:22	11:30	5:35	8:28		21	5:02	6:12	10:59		5:52	8:21	
22	3:42	4:01	9:50	9:53	6:12	7:44		22	3:57	4:35	10:01	10:40	5:41	8:12		22	5:19	6:13	11:18		5:35	8:29		22	6:03	7:13	12:22	12:01	5:53	8:20	
23	4:39	5:00	10:43	11:00	6:11	7:45		23	4:52	5:31	10:54	11:45	5:41	8:13		23	6:16	7:13	12:32	12:15	5:36	8:29		23	7:03	8:10	1:19	12:59	5:54	8:19	
24	5:31	5:55	11:33		6:10	7:46		24	5:46	6:26	11:47		5:40	8:13		24	7:14	8:12	1:30	1:10	5:36	8:29		24	8:01	9:01	2:10	1:52	5:54	8:18	
25	6:21	6:47	12:03	12:22	6:08	7:47		25	6:39	7:21	12:45	12:38	5:40	8:14		25	8:12	9:09	2:23	2:03	5:36	8:29		25	8:56	9:46	2:58	2:43	5:55	8:18	
26	0.3	7:39	1:01	1:08	6:07	7:48		26	0.32	8:18	1:42	1:29	5:39	8:15		26	0.38	10:02	3:15	2:55	5:37	8:29		26	0.41	10:25	3:43	3:32	5:56	8:17	
27	8:00	8:32	1:55	1:54	6:06	7:49		27	8:29	9:15	2:35	2:19	5:38	8:16		27	10:04	10:50	4:06	3:47	5:37	8:29		27	10:32	11:01	4:27	4:21	5:57	8:16	
28	8:51	9:25	2:47	2:41	6:05	7:50		28	9:24	10:11	3:28	3:10	5:38	8:16		28	10:56	11:35	4:57	4:41	5:37	8:29		28	11:16	11:36	5:09	5:12	5:58	8:15	
29	9:42	10:19	3:40	3:29	6:03	7:51		29	10:19	11:05	4:22	4:02	5:38	8:17		29	11:46		5:47	5:37	5:38	8:29		29		12:00	5:51	6:05	5:59	8:14	
30	10:34	11:15	4:35	4:20	6:02	7:52		30	11:13	11:59	5:18	4:58	5:37	8:18		30	12:17	12:37	6:36	6:35	5:38	8:29		30	12:12	12:45	6:31	7:00	5:59	8:13	
								31		12:09	6:16	5:58	5:37	8:19			12:09	5:58	8:19					31	12:51	1:33	7:10	7:55	6:00	8:12	

Aug.	High Tide		Low Tide		Sun		Moon	Sept.	High Tide		Low Tide		Sun		Moon	Oct.	High Tide		Low Tide		Sun		Moon	Nov.	High Tide		Low Tide		Sun		Moon
	AM	PM	AM	PM	Rise	Set			AM	PM	AM	PM	Rise	Set			AM	PM	AM	PM	Rise	Set			AM	PM	AM	PM	Rise	Set	
1	1:34	2:28	7:50	8:52	6:01	8:11		1	2:39	3:47	8:31	10:10	6:29	7:31		1	3:08	4:07	8:52	10:18	6:55	6:44		1	4:37	5:04	10:33	11:05	7:25	6:02	
2	2:24	3:28	8:31	9:51	6:02	8:10		2	3:40	4:48	9:26	11:06	6:29	7:29		2	4:10	4:59	9:55	11:07	6:56	6:42		2	4:30	4:52	10:35	10:53	6:26	5:01	
3	3:19	4:28	9:16	10:50	6:03	8:09		3	4:39	5:40	10:26	11:55	6:30	7:28		3	5:06	5:46	10:58	11:51	6:57	6:41		3	5:20	5:40	11:33	11:39	6:27	4:59	
4	4:15	5:23	10:07	11:46	6:04	8:08		4	5:32	6:26	11:25		6:31	7:26		4	5:56	6:30	11:57		6:58	6:39		4	6:11	6:28		12:28	6:28	4:58	
5	5:08	6:13	11:01		6:05	8:07		5	6:23	7:09	12:37	12:20	6:32	7:25		5	6:45	7:14	12:33	12:52	6:58	6:38		5	7:02	7:18	12:26	1:20	6:30	4:57	
6	6:00	7:00	12:35	11:54	6:06	8:06		6	7:12	7:51	1:15	1:11	6:33	7:23		6	7:34	7:59	1:15	1:43	6:59	6:36		6	7:56	8:10	1:13	2:12	6:31	4:56	
7	6:50	7:44	1:17	12:44	6:06	8:05		7	8:00	8:34	1:53	2:00	6:34	7:22		7	8:23	8:46	1:56	2:34	7:00	6:35		7	8:51	9:03	2:01	3:06	6:32	4:55	
8	7:39	8:27	1:54	1:31	6:07	8:04		8	8:49	9:16	2:31	2:49	6:35	7:20		8	9:14	9:33	2:39	3:25	7:01	6:33		8	9:47	9:57	2:51	4:03	6:33	4:54	
9	8:28	9:08	2:30	2:17	6:08	8:02		9	9:37	10:00	3:10	3:39	6:35	7:19		9	10:05	10:22	3:24	4:18	7:02	6:32		9	10:46	10:55	3:46	5:04	6:34	4:54	
10	9:15	9:48	3:06	3:04	6:09	8:01		10	10:26	10:45	3:52	4:32	6:36	7:17		10	10:59	11:13	4:12	5:16	7:03	6:30		10	11:49	11:59	4:46	6:07	6:35	4:53	
11	10:02	10:28	3:44	3:53	6:10	8:00		11	11:16	11:32	4:38	5:29	6:37	7:15		11	11:58		5:05	6:19	7:04	6:29		11		1:00	5:52	7:09	6:36	4:52	
12	10:49	11:10	4:25	4:45	6:11	7:59		12		12:11	5:28	6:31	6:38	7:14		12	12:09	1:04	6:03	7:25	7:05	6:27		12	1:12	2:11	7:01	8:07	6:37	4:51	
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14		12:29	5:56	6:43	6:13	7:56		14	1:23	2:33	7:23	8:44	6:40	7:11		14	2:27	3:44	8:17	9:35	7:07	6:25		14	3:36	4:05	9:15	9:51	6:39	4:49	
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19	4:58	6:15	10:49		6:17	7:50		19	6:52	7:37	12:43	12:42	6:44	7:03		19	7:18	7:34	12:54	1:17	7:12	6:18		19	7:05	7:03	12:27	1:22	6:45	4:46	
20	6:01	7:10	12:11	11:53	6:18	7:48		20	7:38	8:12	1:26	1:31	6:45	7:01		20	7:54	8:03	1:29	2:00	7:13	6:16		20	7:42	7:41	12:59	1:59	6:46	4:45	
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22	7:52	8:42	1:51	1:42	6:20	7:46		22	8:56	9:12	2:38	2:58	6:47	6:58		22	9:04	9:10	2:32	3:18	7:15	6:14		22	8:58	9:02	2:04	3:14	6:48	4:44	
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24	9:23	9:51	3:13	3:15	6:22	7:43		24	10:08	10:18	3:41	4:19	6:49	6:55		24	10:17	10:25	3:33	4:36	7:17	6:11		24	10:18	10:25	3:20	4:37	6:50	4:43	
25	10:03	10:23	3:50	4:00	6:22	7:41		25	10:45	10:55	4:12	5:03	6:49	6:53		25	10:57	11:06	4:07	5:20	7:18	6:10		25	11:00	11:11	4:06	5:22	6:51	4:43	
26	10:42	10:55	4:25	4:45	6:23	7:40		26	11:25	11:34	4:45	5:49	6:50	6:52		26	11:40	11:48	4:46	6:07	7:19	6:09		26	11:46		4:58	6:08	6:52	4:43	
27	11:21	11:30	5:00	5:33	6:24	7:38		27		12:08	5:23	6:40	6:51	6:50		27		12:27	5:31	6:58	7:20	6:07		27	12:03	12:36	5:56	6:55	6:53	4:42	
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31	1:41	2:41	7:40	9:11	6:28	7:32		31	2:41	9:11	7:32					31	3:40	4:14	9:27	10:17	7:24	6:03		31	4:14	10:17	6:03				






Wayne McPartland from Fenwick Island, DE decided to leave the boat in the slip and fish the southern Ocean City Inlet in late September. Thanks to his spiked jetty shoes he was able to land 2 big keeper flounder, both over 26" and the largest at 8 lbs.




Former Lewes Harbour Marina owner Amanda Morris with Julie Ellis-Hall, Holly Ann Firuta and Bill Wissinger took advantage of a beautiful November day for a trip with Capt. Carey Evans on the charter boat "Grizzly". They filled the cleaning table at LHM with big tog and a mess of sea bass.

**OCEAN CITY  
INLET**




**FENWICK  
ISLAND**




# Tide Charts

**JUST SCAN the QR CODE!**

**INDIAN  
RIVER**



**LEWES  
DE**



## SOUTH JERSEY TOURNAMENTS 2025 EVENT CALENDAR

**SCHOOL'S OUT  
TUNA TOURNAMENT  
JUNE 18-22**

**SOUTH JERSEY YACHT SALES  
OFFSHORE SHOWDOWN  
JULY 9-12**

**CAPE MAY  
MARLIN TOURNAMENT  
JULY 24-27**

**THE  
MIDATLANTIC TOURNAMENT  
AUGUST 17-22**

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**42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Seaside**

ocboatshow.com

# Boat Show

**Presented by  
Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club**

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City, Maryland

**February 14-16, 2025**

Friday 10am-6pm | Saturday 10am-6pm | Sunday 10am-4pm

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**ADMISSION**

Adults \$10 | Children \$1 (*under 14*)

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**BOAT SHOW GIVEAWAY**

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**North Bay Marina**

---



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Angler Thomas Healey of Bethany Beach, DE kicked off November in style! He took his boat the "Elizabeth Ann" out to around the DelJersey site and hooked a 64 lb. bluefin tuna. He is shown here with Capt. Jim Bunting, Dylan Wiley, Capt. Mathew Mudry and crew at the Indian River Marina.

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It was a difficult summer for sea bass and November provided more of the same. The good news were some keeper were being found and the flounder bite was great. This trip on the head boat "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak early in the month saw lots of keepers a few limits and fish up to 6 lbs.



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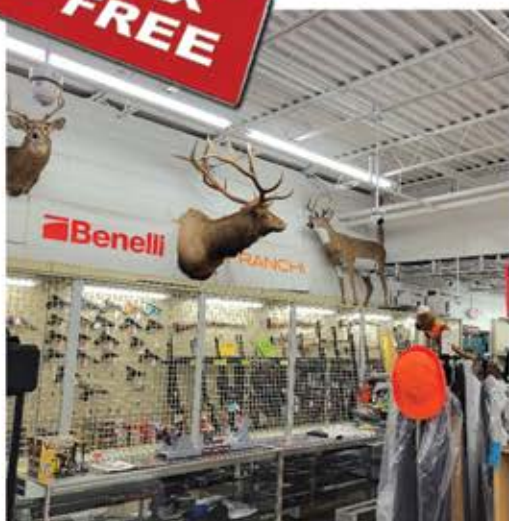
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Late October brought some beautiful weather and some great fishing days. Mate Wyatt Bostic on the charter boat "Lucky Break" shows off a beautiful sheepshead caught off the southern jetty using crabs at the Ocean City Inlet.

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Looks like the private boat "Hammy V" out of Fenwick Island, DE will need a good cleaning after the crew of John Stanch, Kenny Hamilton, Richie Katz and Kenneth Stade caught this 70" bluefin at the Jack Spot mid November. It hit on a 6oz. Magic Tail Hoo Magic with a ballyhoo. They also caught a 38" under.



Crab's to Go owner John Whittmyer spent the day before the elections fishing with Big Bird Cropper on the "Lost Time". They were dredging by the Rt. 50 Bridge when John caught this rockfish. One side of the tail was just over the slot limit of 31" and the other just under, so back in the bay it went!



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Pennsylvania anglers John Hartman, Randy Miller, Tim Frey and Andrew Kuntz with local Alex Wiggs had a day of non stop action in early October. They were deep dropping in the Washington Canyon with Capt. Adam Thompson on the charter boat “Oppor-tuna-ty”.

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Contact: Dave Stith 410.979.0715 email: islander655@atlanticbb.net  
Tracy DePasquale 410.643.7625 email: depas9@verizon.net





The fall is usually a great time to target swordfish. That is exactly what Capt. Stephen Smith and anglers Mac Spagnola, Jeff Toot and Corey Closer did in late November. They took an overnight trip to the Washington Canyon on the "Instigator" and returned to Sunset Marina with their limit of swordfish and mahi as well as some tilefish.



Angler Shaun Flaherty gets close to full Santa Claus mode this time of year with his beard growth! He took a mid November trip to Assateague Island and hooked a beautiful red drum.

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Brian Reynolds kicked off November with a trip to the Ocean City Inlet jetties. He caught this 26.5 red drum using a 4" swim bait.



Now this is how three teenagers should spend the day! Derek Gogov, Parker Moore and Carson Porter headed out on Derek's 1997 Mako 205 to a lump east of the Delaware Lightship and landed this big bluefin. Impressive for their age and for a 20 foot boat that is 27 years old!

Capt. Craig Mercier and mate Robbie Cary with over 30+ years of Offshore Experience

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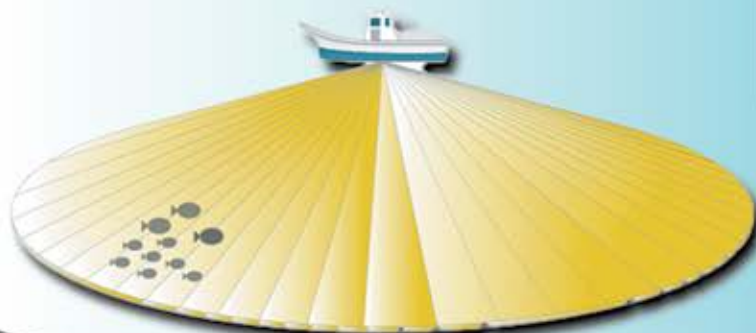
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- Jon Duffie, President and Owner of Duffie Boatworks





You can see from this late November picture of Billy Mister that we had some warm & calm days! This trip in the Delaware Bay yielded 3 keeper tog with the largest at 18" and 20 lbs. They were fishing in 20 feet of water by the Wall.



The Brown boys from Ocean View, DE finished the slow 2024 tuna season with a bang. Rick and Richard headed out in early December with Walt Gazdzik aboard the "Miss Darlene" and hooked this 65" and 170 lb. bluefin tuna. This one hit on a ballyhoo near the Massey's Canyon.



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# OCEAN CITY MARLIN CLUB

## 2025 TOURNAMENT SERIES

### 46th ANNUAL SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT

Chairmen: Boz Jefferson, Bill Regan & Tom Ottenwaelder

Registration: June 20 6:30-8:00pm

Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 21 & 22

Weigh Ins: June 21 & 22, 3:00-6:30 pm @ Fisherman's Marina

Fish In-shore or Off-shore Divisions or Both

Awards: June 22 @ OCMC Clubhouse

### 43rd ANNUAL CANYON KICK OFF

Chairmen: Bob Althausen & Sue Seifert

In-Person Registration: July 3 6:30-8:00pm

FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS

Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 4, 5 & 6

Weigh Ins: July 4, 5 & 6, 5:00-7:30 pm @ Fisherman's Marina

Awards: July 6 @ OCMC Clubhouse



### 21st ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC

*To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation*

OCMC Chairmen: Dale Withers, Brendan Hanley WAF Chairmen: Pam & Mark Hess, Ryan Freese

Registration: July 18 6:00-8:00 pm

Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 19 & 20

Weigh Ins: July 19 3:00-6:30 p.m., July 20

3:00-6:00 pm @ Sunset Marina

Awarded/Carnival Sponsored & Presented by Fantasy World Entertainment: July 20 @ OCMC Clubhouse

### 17th ANNUAL FRANKY PETTOLINA OCMC LADIES' TOURNAMENT "HEELS & REELS"

*To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of  
OC Scholarship Fund*

Chairmen: Ryan Freese & Kayvon Bahrami

Registration: July 31 6:00-8:00 pm

Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 1 & 2

Weigh-Ins: August 1 & 2, 5:30-7:30 pm @ Fisherman's Marina

Awards: August 2 @ OCMC Clubhouse

### 10th ANNUAL OCMC vs OCLTC SHOOT-OUT

Chairmen: Pat Svehla & Frank Goodhart III

Tournament Date: TBD

Angler Meeting & Location: TBD / No weigh-ins

### 67th ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT

Chairmen: Jeremy Blunt

Registration: Invitation Only

Fishing Days: (1 of 3) August 29, 30 or 31

NO WEIGH-INS: This is strictly a release tournament. Release Reports will be turned in to the Marlin Club Office nightly on August 29, 30 & 31 6:00 - 8:00pm

Awards Date: TBD

### 45th ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP

Chairmen: Andy Helms & Bob Althausen

Registration: September 10, 6:00-8:00 pm

Fishing Days: (2 of 3) Sept. 11, 12 & 13

NO WEIGH-INS: This is strictly a release tournament. Release Reports will be turned in to the Marlin Club Office nightly on Sept. 11, 12 & 13 6:00-8:00pm

# THANK YOU

## to all our Sponsors!

## 2025 TOURNAMENT DATES:

- Seasonal Awards start January 1, 2025 and end on October 5, 2025 at 5:00pm
- All catch reports must be filed no later than 4:00pm on October 6, 2025
- Questions, please email: [info@ocmarlinclub.com](mailto:info@ocmarlinclub.com) or call 410-213-1613



**OCMarlinClub.com 410.213.1613 [info@ocmarlinclub.com](mailto:info@ocmarlinclub.com)**



# Congratulates all 2024 OC Marlin Club

## AWARD WINNERS!

**COASTAL  
FISHERMAN**

**Top Junior Angler**  
Colt Duffie - 36

**Top Lady Angler**  
Judith Duffie - 21

**Top Gentleman Angler**  
Ed Dunn - 62

**Top Recreational Angler Award**  
Chris Kinsley - 13

**Heaviest Tuna**  
"Primary Search" 305 lbs.

**Heaviest Dolphin**  
"Talkin' Trash" 43 lbs.

**Heaviest Wahoo**  
"Eastbound" 63 lbs.

**1st White Marlin of the Season**  
"Talkin' Trash"

**Last White Marlin of the Season**  
"Roncito"

**Most First Billfish - Charter Boat**  
"Talkin Trash" - 11

**Most First Billfish - Private Boat**  
"Kilo Charlie" - 36

**1st Blue Marlin of the Season**  
"Boss Hogg"

**Most Blue Marlin Caught - Private Boat**  
"Billfisher" - 12

**Most Blue Marlin Caught - Charter Boat**  
"Boss Hogg" - 8

**Most Billfish Caught - Any Boat**  
"Billfisher" - 223

**Most Billfish Caught - Charter Boat**  
"Tighten Up" - 131

**Most Billfish Caught - Private Boat**  
"Billfisher" - 223

**Most Billfish Caught - 39'-48' Boat**  
"Fish On" - 86

**Most Billfish Caught - 29'-38' Boat**  
"Bet Sea" - 21

**Most Billfish Caught - 28' and Under Boat**  
"Stella Mae" - 6

**Most Tuna Caught in 2024 - Charter Boat**  
"Talkin' Trash" - 108  
"Boss Hogg" - 82  
"Marli" - 67

**Most Tuna Caught in 2024 - Private Boat**  
"Absolut Pleasure" - 31  
"Loose Knot" - 27  
"Elizabeth Ann & Eastbound" - 22 each

**Most Tuna Caught - 39' - 48' Boat**  
"Spring Mix" - 47

**Most Tuna Caught - 29' - 38' Boat**  
"Covered Up & Loose Knot" - 27 each

**Most Tuna Caught - 28' & Under Boat**  
"LT Dan" - 10

**Most First Marlin - Private Boat**  
"Kilo Charlie" - 23

**Most First Marlin - Charter Boat**  
"Fish On" - 50

**Top Mate Billfish - Private Boat**  
"Billfisher"

**Top Mate Billfish - Charter Boat**  
"Tighten Up"

**Top Mate Tuna - Private Boat**  
"Absolut Pleasure"

**Top Mate Tuna - Charter Boat**  
"Talkin' Trash"

**2024 Edna Hodges  
Award for Outstanding  
Service to the OCMC**

Tami Radcliffe



**Billfish  
Release  
Club**

**200 Club** Billfisher

**50 Club** Fish On

**100 Club**

Billfisher Reel Chaos Tighten Up  
D.A. Sea Kilo Charlie

**25 Club** Partnership





Despite a modest billfish season in 2024, the private boat “Billfisher” put up some impressive numbers and awards at the Ocean City Marlin Club’s Seasonal Awards in October. Pictured are Jonathan Duffie, Judith Duffie, Colt Duffie, Capt. Jon Duffie, Kourtney Duffie, Capt. Noah McVicker and Jeremy Duffie with their seasonal awards including Most Billfish Caught on a Private boat (223), Most Billfish Caught by Any Boat, Most Blue Marlin on a Private Boat (12), 1st Place Lady Angler (Judith), 3rd Place Gentleman Angler (Jonathan), Top Junior Angler (Colt) and Top Mate on a Private Boat (Billfish) for Noah! They were also recognized as the only member of the 200 Club this year.



It was a busy night for the charter boat “Talkin’ Trash” during the Ocean City Marlin Club’s Season Awards Banquet. Capt. Chris Little with mate Jacob kicked off the season landing the First White Marlin of the season by a club member and securing the \$5,000 prize that goes with it! They also took 1st Place Tuna Caught by a Charter Boat with 108 boated over the tough 2024 season. Jacob also was recognized as the Top Mate on a Tuna Boat and the crew also went home with the trophy for Heaviest Dolphin of the season for a 43 lb. mahi. Pictured at the Marlin Club in West Ocean City.





There were a lot of large bigeye tuna landed this year, but no other Ocean City Marlin Club member could beat the 305 lb. eyeball caught by the crew of the "Primary Search" during last year's Big Fish Classic. It earned the \$151 K from the Tournament and the Club's Heaviest Tuna of the Season Award. Accepting the Marlin Club award during the Seasonal Awards Banquet were Capt. Austin Ensor, Faith Engh, Mark Ensor and Steve Strawbridge.



The charter boat "Spring Mix II" made the best of a tough tuna season and put 47 in the box over these season. That effort earned the crew the Most Tuna Caught by a 39' - 48' boat award from the Ocean City Marlin Club. Pictured are boat owner Paul Lebling, OCMC President Ryan Freese and Capt. Chris Watkowski accepting the Award at the Club's Seasonal Awards Banquet.



It was nice to see an uptick in the marlin fishing this year over 2023. The Ocean City Marlin Club recognizes member boats that catch 25, 50, 100 and over 200 marlin over the summer during their Seasonal Awards. Last year saw only one boat over 100. This year 4 boats made the cut. Accepting their awards are Capt. Howard Lynch on the "Kilo Charlie" (106), Capt. Jason Genthner of the "Tighten Up" (131), Capt. Anthony Pino from the "Sea Hag" (101) and Capt. Anthony Matarese of the "Reel Chaos". Not pictured are 'club' members "D.A. Sea" (113). The "Billfisher" was the solo member of the 200 Club with 223.





It was a busy summer for the charter boat "Tighten Up". They worked through a tough summer of marlin fishing to finish in 1st Place for Most Billfish Caught by a Charter Boat at the Ocean City Marlin Club's Seasonal Awards Banquet for the seasonal record of 131. Pictured are Capt. Jason Genthner, Jay Keller and young Gray Crocker with mates Clay Crocker & James Doerzbach accepting their award.



The first marlins caught each season by an Ocean City Marlin Club Member is a highly sought after award and recognition. For 2024 it was the charter boat "Boss Hogg" that earned the title and \$2,500 with a blue marlin caught mid June. Pictured are Capt. Brian Porter, boat owner Howard Berger and Capt. Alex Beane accepting the check at the Seasonal Awards Banquet. They also earned 2nd Place Most Tuna Caught by a Charter Boat (82) as well as Most Blue Marlin Caught by a Charter Boat (8).



*We are very excited for the 2025 season, and look forward to having you aboard!*

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Kim Moulras squeezed in a sweet limit catch of 15 sea bass on September 29th, just before the 10 day October fishery closure! She fooled the 15 knotheads using a mix of mahi and squid while fishing on the headboat "Angler" out of the Talbot Street Pier.



Jason, Kaden and Knox Stokes of Ocean City made a family fishing trip at the end of September. They caught 2 keeper flounder including a fat one as well as 1 mahi and 6 sea bass.

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The "FISHIZZLE" had an epic early October run to the Hot Dog. The crew of Capt. Chris Miller, Paul & Chuck Levee and Chip Raynor put 14 yellowfin tuna in the box with the heaviest at 76 lbs. Pictured at Fisherman's Marina.



Paul Bernsten from Mount Airy, MD caught a monster striper off the beach in Fenwick Island. The estimated 48" and over 50 lb. rock hit on salted sea clams.

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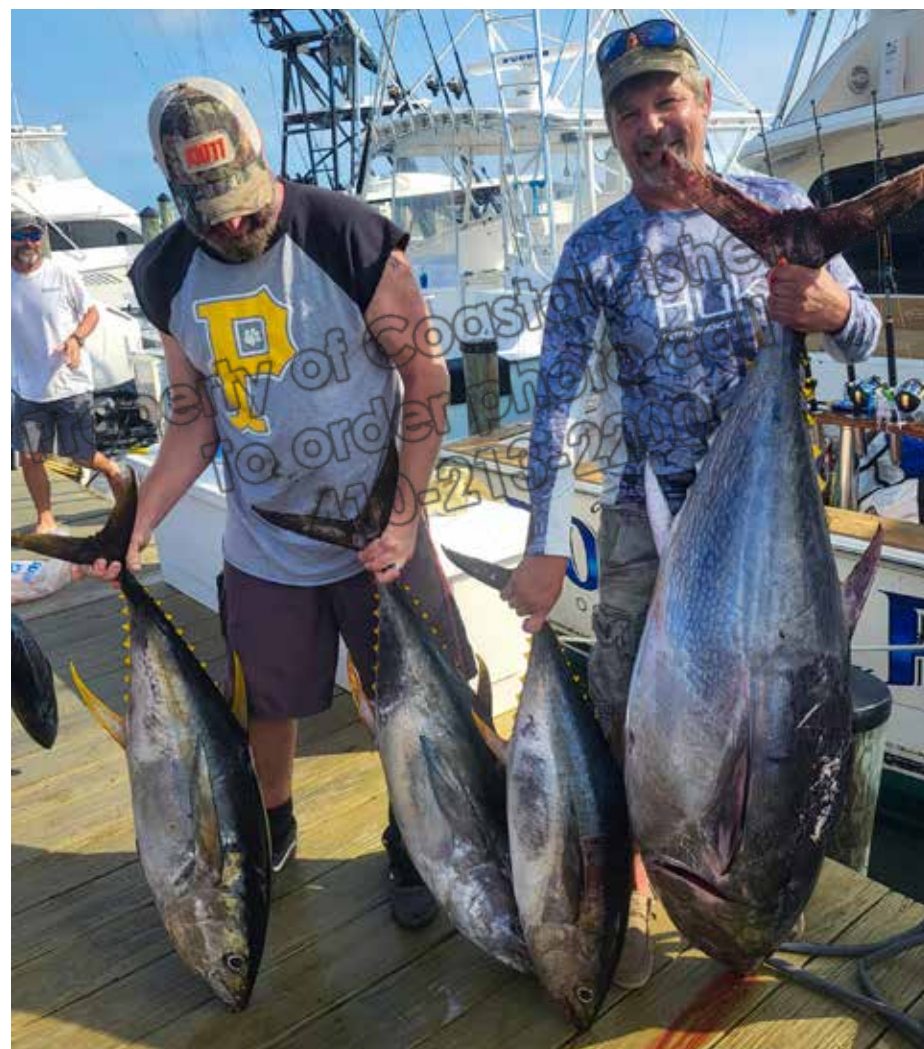
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The weather was tough in September, however the "Judith M" based at the Bahia Marina did finish with a decent trip with the crew from First Residential before sea bass season closed for the first 10 days of October. There was good weather and decent action with most getting a few in the cooler for dinner.



It was a big day in mid September for Capt. Steve Gladwin with mates Michael Hawkins & Ethan Gladwin and angler Bill Mangle. They took the charter boat "30 Deep" out to a nearshore lump, trolling in 28 fathoms. They returned to the Ocean City Fishing Center with a 62½" bluefin tuna Bill Caught and 3 yellowfins.

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# DELAWARE STATE RECORDS

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>ANGLER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
BLUEFISH	24.8 LBS.	LUIS MISPIRETA	11/16/2015	DEL-JERSEY-LAND REEF
COBIA	89.2 LBS.	SCOTT BROOKS	7/15/2022	FENWICK SHOAL
CROAKER	5 LB. 3.5 OZ.	CATHERINE SIMPSON	9/12/1980	INDIAN RIVER
DOLPHIN	56 LB. 9 OZ.	BUTCH EMMERTT	7/6/2014	BALTIMORE CANYON
DRUM, BLACK	115 LBS.	KENNETH SMITH	5/20/1978	DELAWARE BAY
DRUM, RED	75 LBS.	JAMES VANDETTI	6/15/1976	UNKNOWN
FLOUNDER, SUMMER	17 LB. 15 OZ.	WILLIAM KENDALL	10/07/1974	INDIAN RIVER INLET
KINGFISH, ROUNDHEAD	4 LBS.	BILLY HASTINGS	10/13/1973	BETHANY BEACH
MACKEREL, KING	52 LB. 11.2 OZ.	JEFF MCCOY	6/20/2023	FENWICK SHOALS
MACKEREL, SPANISH	6 LB. 4 OZ.	ERIC LUDWIG	8/06/2000	LIGHT SHIP
MARLIN, BLUE	820.0 LBS.	BRUCE KING	7/8/1986	POORMAN'S CANYON
MARLIN, WHITE	120.0 LBS.	WILLIAM GARNER JR.	9/25/1972	BALTIMORE CANYON
PORGY	5 LB. 5 OZ.	HERMAN SCHMIDT	5/31/1979	NOT RECORDED
SEABASS	7 LB. 6 OZ.	STEVE SAMLUK	9/09/1988	FENWICK SHOAL
SHEEPSHEAD	17 LB. 1 OZ.	DAVE WALKER	9/30/2014	DELAWARE BAY REEFSITE
STRIPED BASS	52 LBS.	BEN SMITH	12/08/2012	SURF AT 3R'S ROAD
SWORDFISH	358 LBS.	KURT LORENZ	1978	POORMAN'S CANYON
TAUTOG	22 LBS. 14.4 OZ.	JAMES MILANO	5/6/2023	OCEAN STRUCTURE
TILEFISH, BLUELINE	25.5 LBS.	DAINE HURSH	8/27/2022	ATLANTIC OCEAN
TILEFISH, GOLDEN	52.0 LB. 12.8 OZ.	DYLAN BAKER	8/25/2017	BALTIMORE CANYON
TRIGGERFISH, GRAY	6.34 LBS.	BUDDY MASTEN	9/30/2012	ICE BREAKERS
TROUT, GRAY (WEAKFISH)	19 LB. 2 OZ.	WILLIAM E. THOMAS	5/20/1989	DELAWARE BAY
TUNA, BLUEFIN	873 LBS.	DAN DILLON	2005	ATLANTIC OCEAN
TUNA, FALSE ALBACORE	26 LB. 7 OZ.	MIKE SPAYOD	2022	ATLANTIC OCEAN
TUNA, LONGFIN	80 LBS.	DAVID FRANCELLA	9/15/1987	ATLANTIC OCEAN
WAHOO	106 LBS.	WILL STAHLGREN	9/22/2007	ATLANTIC OCEAN
<b><u>SHARKS</u></b>				
MAKO	975 LBS.	THOMAS BARNES	7/22/2000	POORMAN'S CANYON
SHARK (EXCL. MAKO)	825 LBS.	BRENT THOMAS	7/11/1981	ATLANTIC OCEAN

Note: All Atlantic Coast records recognized as of December 18, 2024

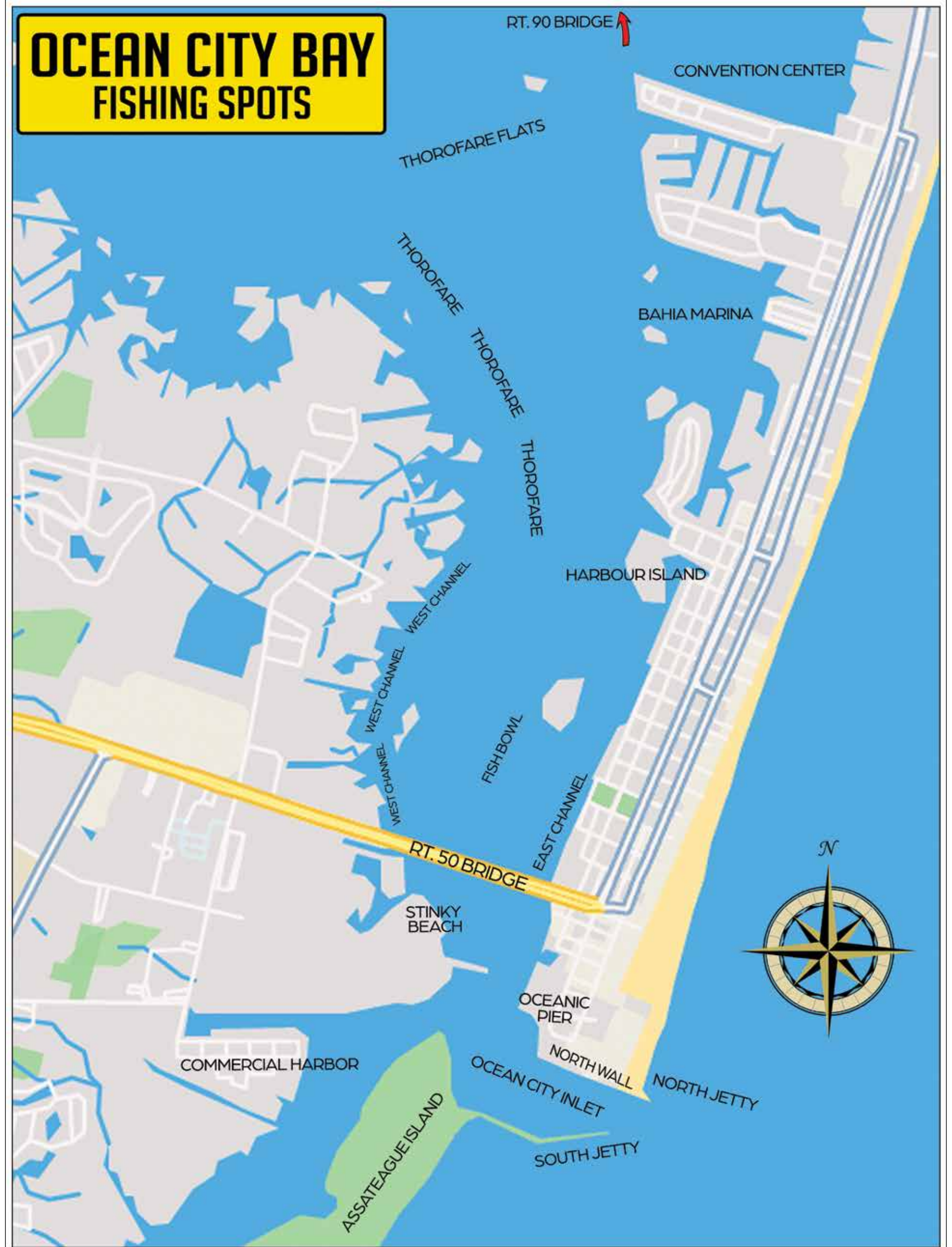


# MARYLAND STATE RECORDS

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>ANGLER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
ATLANTIC COD	24.0 LBS.	FRED BRUNGART	5/31/2013	38 MI. S.E. OCEAN CITY INLET
ATLANTIC SPADEFISH	11.4 LBS.	NOEL LOHR	9/2/2004	TRIPLE WRECKS
ATLANTIC TRIPLETAIL	11.0 LBS.	DON WHITTINGTON	10/19/2019	BALTIMORE CANYON
BARRACUDA, GREAT	13 LBS.	STEPHEN HUMPHREY	10/06/2023	WASHINGTON CANYON
BIG-SCALE POMFRET	22.1 LBS.	JEFF ROSENKILDE	12/28/2019	NORFOLK CANYON
BLACK SEABASS	8.0 LBS.	HAYWARD MADISON	6/1/1978	JACKSPOT
BLUEFISH	23.5 LBS.	LILLIAN MORRIS	10/30/1974	ASSATEAGUE ISLAND
COBIA	94.6 LBS.	EMMA ZAJDEL	6/30/2016	LITTLE GULL SHOAL
DOLPHIN	74.5 LBS.	KRISTY FRASHURE	8/16/2019	POORMANS CANYON
DRUM, BLACK	79.0 LBS.	STANLEY ILYES	9/7/1985	BASS GROUNDS
DRUM, RED	70.0 LBS.	ROBERT LIGHT	9/24/1977	ASSATEAGUE ISLAND
FALSE ALBACORE	22.5 LBS.	KEVIN SHECKELLS	6/25/1995	THIRD LUMP
FLOUNDER, SUMMER	17.0 LBS.	ANTHONY VACARI	10/3/1974	ASSATEAGUE ISLAND
FLOUNDER, WINTER	5.1 LBS.	KEVIN TWILLEY	6/23/2015	26 MI. EAST OF OCEAN CITY
GRAY TRIGGERFISH	6.0 LBS.	LOGAN LIDDICK	9/25/2020	OCEAN CITY
KING MACKEREL	47.0 LBS.	GERALD KAUFFMAN	10/18/1985	GREAT GULL SHOALS
KINGFISH	2.5 LBS.	GRACE WALKER	10/1/1975	ASSATEAGUE ISLAND
MARLIN, BLUE	1,135 LBS.	BILLY GERLACH	8/20/2021	WASHINGTON CANYON
POMPANO, DOLPHINFISH	2 LBS.	CHRIS STAFFORD	9/20/2023	POORMANS CANYON
PORGY	6.2 LBS.	PEARL HOPPLE	7/4/1966	FENWICK SHOAL
SHEEPSHEAD	18.0 LBS.	ROBERT MARTIN	9/22/2017	OCEAN CITY INLET
SNOWY GROUPE	66.0 LBS.	GREGORY BENN	7/30/2012	NORFOLK CANYON
STRIPED BASS	57.2 LBS.	GARY SMITH	5/6/2006	ASSATEAGUE ISLAND
SWORDFISH	393.0 LBS.	JEFF JACOBS	9/23/2022	WASHINGTON CANYON
TAUTOG	28.8 LBS.	KENNETH WESTERFELD	1/2/2015	OCEAN CITY
TILEFISH, BLUELINE	20.6 LBS.	LONDON ANTHONY	8/24/2024	POORMANS CANYON
TILEFISH, GOLDEN	62.0 LBS.	STEVE DOCTOR	10/22/2009	BALTIMORE CANYON
TUNA, BIGEYE	375.5 LBS.	CECIL BROWNE	8/26/1977	OCEAN CITY
TUNA, BLACKFIN	32.0 LBS.	BOB ZANG	9/20/1998	30 FATHOM LINE
TUNA, BLUEFIN	625.0 LBS.	JAMES DANIELS, IV	8/3/1975	45 MI. EAST OF OCEAN CITY
TUNA, LONGFIN	77.0 LBS.	THOMAS BOOMER	9/20/2022	800 SQUARE
TUNA, YELLOWFIN	236.5 LBS.	MARK BENNETT	9/22/2002	WASHINGTON CANYON
WAHOO	131.0 LBS.	JOHN SCHAAR	6/30/2014	ROCKPILE
WHITE MARLIN	135.0 LBS.	GEORGE PIERSON	8/29/1980	POORMANS CANYON
WHITE PERCH	1.85 LBS.	ROBERT HUDSON	4/28/2022	ISLE OF WIGHT BAY
<u>SHARKS</u>				
BLACK TIP	193.0 LBS.	BRIAN ZYSK	8/4/1991	OCEAN CITY
BLUE	280.0 LBS.	MARTIN WALTMAN	9/13/1997	OCEAN CITY
DOGFISH, SMOOTH	18 LBS.	FAY GANSTER	10/22/2022	ISLE OF WIGHT SHOALS
HAMMERHEAD, SCALLOPED	266.5 LBS.	SCOTT CUSICK	8/8/2012	WASHINGTON CANYON
HAMMERHEAD, SMOOTH	375.0 LBS.	GEORGE WILSON FORD V	6/17/2004	PARKING LOT
MAKO	876.0 LBS.	JIM HUGHES	6/20/2009	POORMANS CANYON
THRESHER	642.0 LBS.	BRENT APPLIGIT	6/19/2009	THE FINGERS
TIGER	1,210.0 LBS.	GRACE CZERNIAK	7/9/1983	OCEAN CITY

Note: All Atlantic Coast records recognized as of December 18, 2024







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Hook Optics and the Pino family believe in community and supporting those looking to make a difference. This year they started a program called 'Nominate your Mate' in honor of the late Franky Pettolina. The goal was to recognize hardworking and dedicated mates who were looking to become captains on their own. Current captains were encouraged to submit letters nominating their mates for the award with the winner receiving a full scholarship to a captains school program. It was a tough decision, however after much review Joey Hurley was selected. He is pictured here with Hook Optic's Chris and Anthony Pino and Maddi Pettolina at the Ocean City Marlin Club Awards Banquet. The nomination letter for him is below.

To the nominating committee:

I would like to nominate Joseph "Joey" Hurley for the opportunity to win a scholarship to obtain his Captain's License.

I first met Joey in 2016 when we needed an extra set of hands for the OC Big Fish Classic. An avid light tackle angler at the time, Joey had only been offshore a couple of times in his life. With nothing to lose, I offered him a chance to ride along and keep watch overnight. I quickly saw that Joey had a passion for anything to do with fishing. We had the opportunity to fish a few more times that year and I invited Joey to join our team that winter for some sailfishing trips in south Florida. With a crew change after the WMO the following summer in 2017 Joey reached out and said he was able to continue fishing with our team and wanted to stay engaged with FFMD. Joey quickly became the "Next Man Up" to take over the mating duties on our boat... opportunity knocks at mysterious times in life!

Joey has been by my side the last eight (8) years throughout my journey of living with muscular dystrophy. We have learned a lot from each other about fishing, life lessons, hard work, & how to be better every day. On our journey together we often talk about all the people we have met throughout the fishing community. Without exaggeration we lose count of the people that have come into our lives including fishing captains and mates, new friends, and the many muscular dystrophy families we have met all over the country.

When I first met Joey, he was shy and what some folks might call an introvert. I have had the pleasure of watching Joey grow from a late teen into grown mature man. Joey has developed many life skills over the years and made many friends in the fishing world. It makes me proud to know that the FFMD program and my relationship with Joey has helped him in life. It is not often that a mate has the opportunity be involved in a program like Joey has with FFMD (it has been a lot about fishing... and a lot about helping others who are struggling-specially the kids and families we have met who struggle with neuromuscular disease).

Joey has always been more than just a mate to me and the FFMD program. He also has taken on more and more responsibility over years including what some may call captain's duties. With my mobility challenges Joey is always on point to make sure our boat and equipment are in top shape ready for the next trip. Joey is involved in the regular maintenance, upkeep, provisioning, and treating the boat and equipment like a typical owner or captain.

Our program takes on different obstacles including supporting an owner/ captain living with mobility struggles. Joey helps me aid with boarding, getting to the bridge, and all the other tasks that require me to have help. He helps me make my dreams come true!

If you ever speak with Joey or follow him on social media, you will quickly realize that he is an avid fisher man and hunter. His love for the outdoors is one that no one can question. I do not think he ever anticipated that he would make his career enjoying his passion and spending so much time on the water.

We recently upgraded our boat from a large center console. The opportunity for Joey to obtain his captain's license will provide a great opportunity not only for him to continue to grow professionally but will also allow me to continue fishing with a muscular disease knowing that I have a certified captain on our team. I believe Joey is deserving of this opportunity and know that he will not only represent our team and himself well for the years to come but will also be a long-time fixture in the Ocean City fishing community.

I hope that you will consider Joey for the well-deserved prestigious opportunity. Respectfully submitted,  
Paul L. Robertson





Angler Jeff Behney set a new record for Heaviest Wahoo for Delaware with this 88.5 lb. speedster caught in mid September. He was fishing on the "Lead Farmer" at the 30 Fathom Lump outside of the Hot Dog with Logan Behney and Rick's Bait & Tackle owner Mike Behney.

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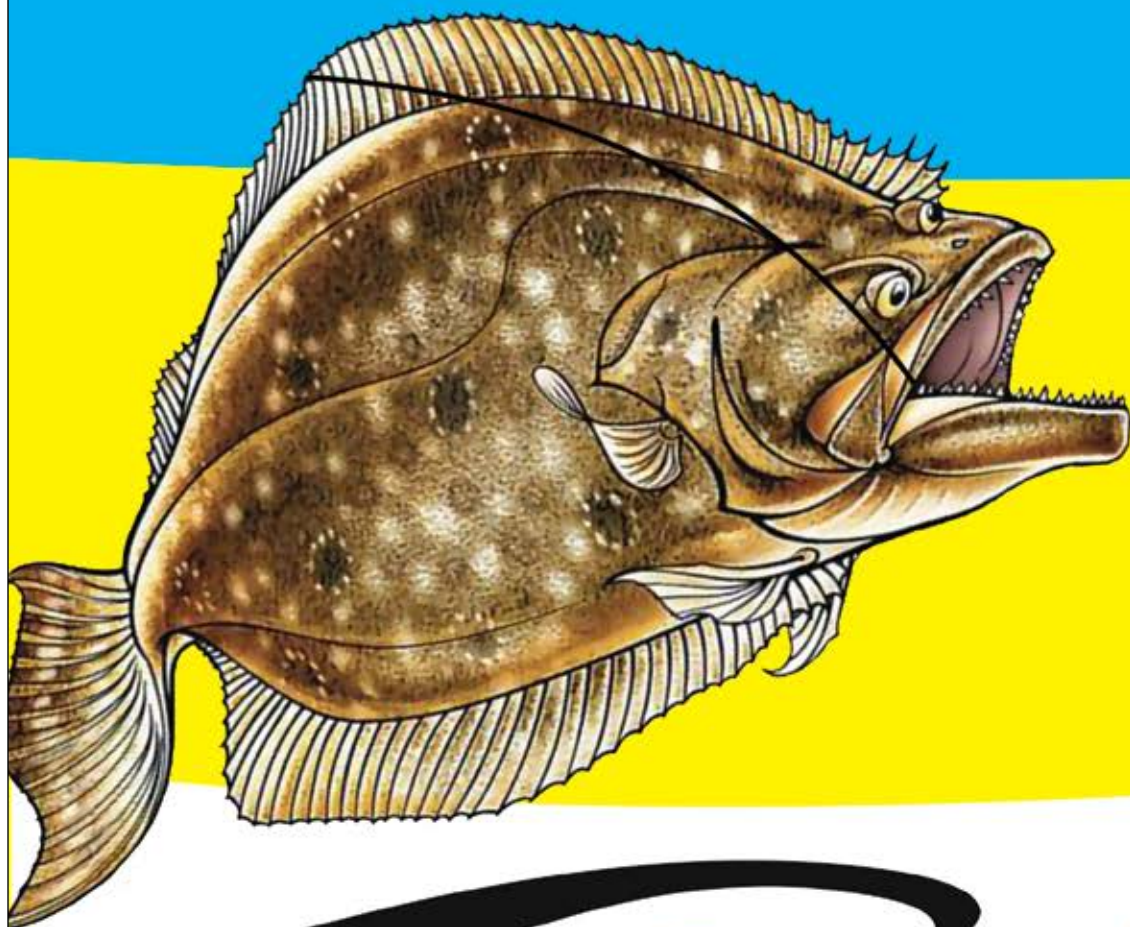
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Capt. Dave Caffrey of "On The Run Charters" got his customers on some serious bluefin tuna during this falls run. The Harman group on the left landed 3 using ballyhoo with the largest at 165 lbs. The others were 70 & 50 lbs. The team on the right of mate Anthony Sousa, Rob Joblonski and Capt. Dave caught their 110 lb. blue in a ballyhoo with a Hawaiian Eye at the African Queen. Both pictured at the tournament scales at the Bahia Marina.

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# WHO? WHAT? WHERE?

## The FISHING GLOSSARY

As most of our reader know, we use a lot of terminology and some slang to describe equipment, fish, locations, etcetera! We do get questions on these so we thought a Glossary would be interesting. It is not a complete list by any imagination, so if you have a term to add, email it to us at CoastalFisherman@comcast.net

### What Did They Mean?

**Fattie/Flattie** - Usually referring to a flounder or fluke

**Bailer Dolphin** - This phrase is used to describe a small dolphin, usually in the 2 to 5 pounds range and small enough to lift into the boat by grabbing the leader.

**Ballyhoo** - The ballyhoo is a baitfish of the halfbeak family and are frequently used as cut bait and for trolling purposes by saltwater sportsmen. Ballyhoo are distributed in tropical-warm temperate latitudes on both sides of the Atlantic in Florida where they inhabit shallow bank areas or grassflats associated with coral reefs.

**Calcutta** - Fishing tournaments of all kinds create opportunities for anglers to not only participate in these events for a set guaranteed prize money, but to also invest in specific categories based on their interest or ability to invest! These additional categories above and beyond the tournament entrance fees are commonly called Calcuttas. For example you can enter the White Marlin Open for a relatively small entrance fee and then enter the Calcuttas that you want. There are also Small Boat Calcuttas to allow smaller boats to compete against each other. Likewise there are options for heaviest fish by species (Tuna, Marlin, Dolphin, etc), daily catch, most billfish releases and some sizable Winner Take All choices. Most of these are funded by the anglers or bats paying the specific Calcutta fees. These fees can add up if a boat wanted to enter all Calcuttas in a tournament, or go 'across the board' as it is called. The combined totals can exceed \$50,000 for the larger events.

**CBBT** - Shorthand for the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel.

**Chains** - Like spreader bars, a Daisey chain is a combination of lures run sequentially in line. Unlike bars, these chains only have a single line or chain.

**Chunking** - This is a type of fishing whereby baitfish is cut into pieces and tossed over the side to attack fish. There are slight variations by species targeted, but the concept is to create a 'slick' of bait to attract the fish to the boat versus trolling for them. This is a popular method for tuna fishing certain times of the year in the Delmarva area and usually results in enormous amounts of butter fish being put into the Poor Man's Canyon! In this method, pieces of butter fish are put overboard with only 1 have a hook in it. As they sink and the tuna snap up the feast, eventually one hits the piece with a hook. It is very exciting to see tuna swarming behind a boat at anchor in a frenzy and can make for exciting multiple hookups.

**Convict** - Convict is a nickname for sheepshead given to them due to their notable stripes!

**Covered Up** - this term refers to when a boat has fish on all the hooks they have in the water.

**Cut Bait** - While we try to specify what bait is being used, sometimes we are only told 'Cut Bait'. This is simply any fish cut to size to fit the rig or hook. Common types in our area are bunker, mullet or spot.

**Deep Dropping** - Deep dropping is exactly what it sounds like. Dropping that bait DEEP. Deep dropping can be distinguished from bottom fishing when you are dropping baits deeper than 300 feet. Most anglers who deep drop and have a good depth sounder or good location coordinates so that they can find an abundance of tasty bottom fish. Often used in reference to swordfishing.

**Dink 20 or 30** - This refers to smaller reel sizes and bait (typically a naked ballyhoo). Reels ranging from 1000 - 3500 (aka 10 to 35) are typically used to target smaller fish and most often white marlin on our

area. Reels over 4000 or '40' are made for larger fish. So we will remark if a large fish like a tuna is caught on one of these smaller 'Dink' reels as it makes landing the fish much harder.

**Doormat** - Large flounder are often referred to as 'doormats' due to their size and flat profile. While subjective, we use a 26" minimum for the moniker. Actual doormats that look like flounder are available at many local stores for those so inclined!

**ESVA** - Acronym for the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

**Flotsam** - This is a term for floating debris on the ocean surface. This can be anything from natural items like weed lines or logs to artificial items like buckets, buoys, coolers, etc. Why they matter is certain fish



like to be under these items for shade or to chase the baitfish. For us most notably that would be mahi.

**Gaffer** - A 'gaffer' fish is one considered large enough to use a gaff to get it into the boat. It is usually used to differentiate or highlight that the fish caught is larger and is used often when referencing mahi.

**Grander** - Used in reference to a fish caught that is over a thousand pounds, usually in reference to marlin. For example the 1,135 lb. blue marlin caught by the "Billfisher" during the 30th Annual MidAtlantic was a true 'grander'!

**Green Machine** - The Green Machine is a classic offshore trolling lure which tempts virtually every pelagic in the ocean and tops the list of big winners. The original Green Machine offered by Sevenstrand consisted of a clear plastic bullet head with green beads inside, followed by a green glitter-flecked skirt. The company changed hands several times and there are a million knock-offs out there today. You'll find versions ranging from 8 to 12 inches, but ask just about any old-timer and he'll

tell you that the original is still the best.

**Gulp** - We often refer to baits used in shorthand versus the products full names. One of the most popular brands of artificial baits comes from Berkley Fishing. While they offer a



broad range of offerings for many species, their family of Gulp! Soft baits are the go to for many in our area. Flounder fisherman for example love the Gulp Swimming Mulletts and use several colors and sizes to see what is working on any specific day. We try to get details on color and type of Gulp used, but some captains consider that information state secrets!

**Ilander** - Ilander is a brand name for a family of trolling lures made by L & S Tackle with metal heads, artificial eyes and colored skirts. They come in several models, sizes and color variations and while there is a specific model 'The Ilander', any one is commonly referred to an Ilander. This is why we try to specify model or color when possible.

**Jigging** - The practice of fishing with a jig, a type of weighted fishing lure. A jig consists of a heavy metal (typically lead) sinker with an attached fish hook that is usually obscured inside a soft lure or feather-like decorations. Jigs are intended to create a jerky, vertical "jumping"



motion to attract fish.

**Kite Fishing** - Offshore kite fishing is a sport fishing technique used to keep live bait on the surface of the water to attract and catch surface feeding predators. It is used in Florida along the Atlantic coast and in the Caribbean for sailfish. It is also used for blackfin and yellowfin tuna, dolphin or mahi-mahi, wahoo, black grouper, and yellowtail snapper. It involves a kite from which a drop line hangs, attached to a lure or bait. The kite is flown over the surface of a body of water, and the bait floats near the waterline until taken by a fish. The kite then drops immediately, signaling to the fisherman that the bait has been taken, and the fish can then be hauled in.

**Knothead** - This is a nickname for black sea bass due to the pronounced lump in the top of their heads.

**Limit** - This expression is used when a private or charter boat catches the allowed amount of fish by the state for federal creel limits. Often used in reference to tuna catches as well as sea bass, but can apply to any species with a creel limit.

**Linesider** - Nickname for rockfish.

**Loran Lines and #'s** - Fisherman still refer to popular fishing locations using numbers from a legacy navigational system called Loran-C for Long Range Navigation. During this systems operation run from the



1950's to 2010, Loran lines were included on most charts (see image below) and were used to reference fishing or catch locations versus an actual longitude and latitude, thus providing a location, but not exact! Since the system went off line these lines have been dropped from most charts, however historical charts are still available from the Office of Coast Survey.

**Man in the Brown Suit** - This is a traditional name for the fish cobia.

**Naked Ballyhoo** - A naked ballyhoo is just that, a ballyhoo rigged with no other lure or skirt.

**Furuno Omni or Sonar** - While not a new technology, Sonar has been used in commercial fishing for a several years. Advancements in technology and pricing have however expanded the usage for recreational users, even though the cost to install one can run over \$100,000. This allows for the boat to effectively 'see' it's target and trajectory in the water. The device lowers an array below the boat like an upside down periscope and can operate at speeds up to 16 knots.

**Otter Tails** - We often refer to baits used in shorthand versus the products full names. One of the newer brands over the past couple of years comes from local company SquidNation and their 'Otter' family of artificial baits including Tails, Tubes and Spoons. Flounder fishermen for example love the Otter Tails for their effectiveness and durability, and use several colors and sizes to see what is working on any specific day.

**"Outside" the Canyon** - Often Captains reference a catch as being outside of a specific canyon, for example 'outside the Washington Canyon'. This means the boat has moved east of the canyon proper. Additionally depending on what inlet the boat departed from, 'outside' could mean Northeast or Southeast of the canyon depending on their approach. This is why we try to get depth information and other location indicators to help narrow down a location.

**Over** - Some regulations, mainly with tuna, allow anglers to catch a certain amount of fish under a certain length and a different number for fish over a number. So for example in 2022, the Federal Size & Creel Limits for bluefin tuna allow for one fish to be kept per vessel that are

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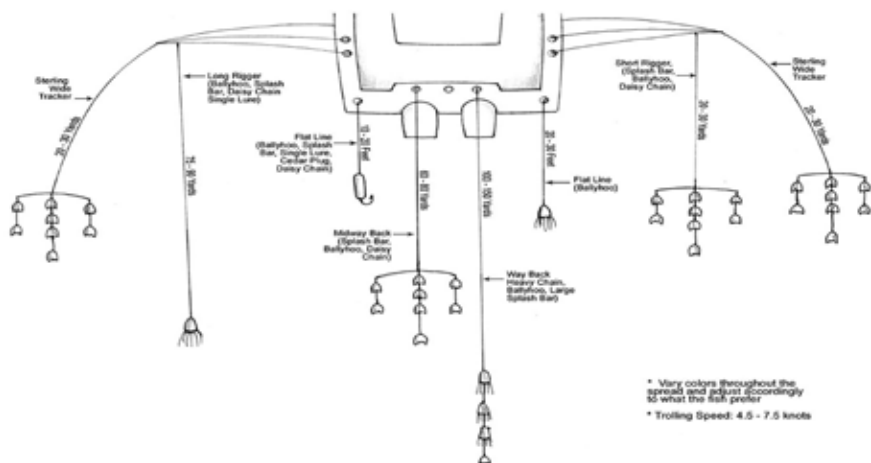
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**Peanut Mahi** - Peanut dolphin are the small, hand sized juveniles.

**Pitch Bait** - A 'Pitch Bait' is as it sounds, a rod, reel and bait already rigged and ready to pitch in the water when a fish shows up! These can use live or dead baits and are often used when an unexpected fish shows up that won't take a lure already in the water, or pops up around a spreader bar or dredge.

**Release** - Modern sport fisherman are leaders in the conservation efforts for the species found inshore and offshore with many fishermen fishing for sport and 'releasing' most of what they catch. In our context this phrase mainly refers to marlin caught and released. Most billfish



tournaments have a release only Calcutta or are release only events, so when we mention a boat or angler had 'x' releases that means they were able to hook a fish and get it to the boat and document that the crew had the fish under control in the water or got the leader to the tip of the rod. Once the specific criteria is met, then the fish is released unharmed.

**Roy Rig** - The 'Roy Rig' is a lure developed by avid local fisherman Big Bird Cropper. Over his years of fishing he has modified a jig head and shank to maximize impact on flounder, sea trout and bluefish.

**Schooler or Schoolie Fish** - In general these are smaller fish of a species,

so for example a schoolie striper would be a small or sublegal fish (currently under 28").

**Skirt** - A 'Skirt' is typically a lure with a heavy head with colored ribbons or fibers flowing from the head. If held upright the ribbons can look like a skirt. So when we mention for example a 'Skirted' Ballyhoo, that is a ballyhoo that has had some type of lure attached in front of the head to add weight and the skirt covers part of the bait.

**The Slot** - When a state or federal regulation only allows a fish to be kept if it is between a minimum or maximum size. For example, rockfish in Maryland for 2022 may only be kept if they were 28" or more, but no more than 35". So a phrase like "Gina caught a rockfish at the top of the 'slot'" would mean her fish was toward the 35" maximum.

**Squidnation** - Squidnation is a company with headquarters in Maryland that makes a variety of lures, artificial baits and equipment. They are often referenced by boats that use their spreader bars or chains or for the use of their artificial baits in the Otter Tails family.

**Sterling** - Sterling is a manufacturer of spreader bars, dredges, daisy chains and other items like the Joe Shute Lure.

**Stretch Lure** - There are many companies that make 'stretch' lures with the most notable being Manns Bait Co. Stretch Lures are some of the most effective lipped trolling lures because these lures to get down to where the fish are and are great for a variety of saltwater species from stripers and bluefish to big game fish like tuna and marlin. A model number usually follows the name such as a 'Stretch 20'. As the model number increases, so does the size of the lure and its depth range.

**Throwback Ratio** - This phrase refers to the ratio of how many fish you need to catch to retain a certain amount of legal size fish. For example for sea bass or flounder we might say the ration was 5:1, or 5 fish caught for every keeper.

**Tax Man** - a phrase used when a fish is on the hook but a shark takes some or all of the fish before it can be brought to the boat. Usually happens in southern waters/canyons and most notably with tuna.

**Top & Bottom Rig** - The top and bottom rig is one of the most universal rigs used by Anglers up and down the East Coast and throughout the

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Al Hunter had a different butterball for his Thanksgiving Table. He took his boat the "Old Hatt" to the 12 Fathom Lump with Brian Marshall, Evan Thomas, Dean Geoff and Charlie Carney and the crew boated this 62" and 115 lb. bluefin tuna. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Angler Matt Tribbitt of Ocean View, DE had a successful early October trip to an ocean wreck. He was fishing on the "Fish Tank" with Capt. Tyler Tribbitt and hooked this 24" and 11 lb. sheephead using sand fleas on a sweeper jig.

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Chesapeake Bay. It is a simple rig mainly for bottom fishing, but it can yield great results. While they can come in many variations, the basic concept is a rig with a weight to reach the bottom with 2 lines that trail above it with lures or bait. IE a 'top' bait and a 'bottom' bait. This dual system can entice fish on or near the bottom since it offers 2 hooks at different levels.

**Trolling Pattern locations** - Sometime we mention what line a fish hit on the boats trolling pattern. For example a lot of tuna have hit on a 'widetracker'. Other names include Flat Line, Long Line, Shotgun and Way Back. An example with other names are in the image above.

**Under** - Some regulations, mainly with tuna, allow anglers to catch a certain amount of fish under a certain length and a different number for fish over a number. So for example in 2022, the Federal Size & Creel Limits for bluefin tuna allow for two fish to be kept per vessel that are 27" to <47" in length. They are referred to as 'unders'.

**Canyon Wall** - This term is used when captains report fishing on the edges of the canyons, typically described as the west or the one closest to shore or the outer east wall.

**Widetracker** - This refers to a type of spreader or tracker bar that is designed to move outwards to the port or starboard to get the lures 'wide' in the spread. They can move as far as 30' outwards from a normal spreader bars patterns and put the lures into cleaner water outside of a boat's wake. They have proven very effective for tuna in the last several years.

**X for Y on Bites** - We often report tuna catches and marlin releases using a phrase like ... "Charter Boat "Boss Hogg" went 4 for 5 on white marlin today". This basically tells us they hooked 5 marlin for the day and got 4 to the boat. The 5th most likely was able to jump off the hook or the tackle failed. For tuna the expression has a slightly different meaning. As tuna travel in schools, it is common for a boat to hook up with multiple tunas at the same time. So for this example a boat could have 5 tuna hooked and boat 3, or they went 3 for 5. Fighting that many tuna at the same time makes it difficult to keep the lines clear and so sometime some break off.

## Fishing Locations

**800 Square** - This popular fishing location is at the intersection of two old Loran C lines, the 41800 & 26800. These old Loran lines are referenced by the last 3 numbers vs the all five, so this area is referred to as the 800x800 or 800 Square. It is located in the Washington Canyon.

**2nd Street Bulkhead/Chicago Avenue** - A popular spot to get access to the Ocean City East Channel from land is the bulkhead & walkway that parallels the water from 2nd Street north to 4th Street. The road adjacent is Chicago Avenue. There are rocks to deal with, but for the angler that can manage them this can be a productive spot.

**Artificial and Natural Reefs** - These terms are most often used by party boat captains who prefer not to divulge their fishing spots!

**Bass Grounds** - Large schools of this game fish will lay claim to this area as the Bass Grounds, which is located about 12 miles due east of Ocean City Inlet. This particular spot has always been popular for anglers seeking sea bass and tautog, both of which congregate within the submerged rubble of an artificial reef.

**Bass Pots** - pots used to catch sea bass and have buoys to mark them on the surface that fish can congregate under.

**East & West Channels in OC** - The main East Channel is the deep channel on the east side of the Ocean City bay between the draw of the Route 50 Bridge north to 14th Street. The gray townhouses at 14th Street are part of the Harbor Island Residential Complete.

**DA or 'A' Buoy** - This marker is about 14 miles slightly south east from the Indian River Inlet and is one of the markers for commercial traffic headed into the Delaware Bay. Just 2 miles north of this marker are a series of lumps that can rise up to a depth of only 8 fathoms surrounded by depths ranging from 10 to 14 fathoms. The area hosts an array of coral reefs and wrecks.

**Delaware Light or Lightship** - Heading out of the Indian River Inlet on a course of 120 DEGREES for about 20 miles will get you to this former location of an actual Lightship. It is now a large floating platform acting as both a light and transmitter for commercial traffic headed into the Delaware Bay. The floating platform attracts tiny baitfish, small

dolphin, various species of shark and lots of bluefish.

**Fathom Lines** - We will sometimes mention a Fathom Line in describing a catch location. Nautical charts will show these fathom lines that follow a certain depth. For example the 100 Fathom line or Natural 100 follows the outer edge of between the offshore canyons and outlines the canyons themselves. It is roughly the continental shelf. There are also fathom lines at 10, 20, 30 & 50.

**Fenwick Ditch** - The Fenwick Ditch connects the northern Assawoman Bay with the Little Assawoman Bay. The northern end is a productive fishing spot.

**Hambone** - The Hambone is just approximately 30 miles due east of Ocean City Inlet. This lump rises to within 19 fathoms of the ocean's surface with surrounding depths plummeting to 27 fathoms, thus forming an offshore oasis for a multitude of species.

**Hot Dog** - Among the most popular summer hotspots for a wide range of species is the Hot Dog. This 18-fathom lump is situated approximately 35 miles due east of Ocean City Inlet and is surrounded by depths ranging from 24 to 37 fathoms.

**Ice Breaker Pier** - This is the northern most breakwater in the DE Bay north of Cape Henlopen and is known for tog and sheepshead.

**Jack Spot** - The Jack Spot is a vast uprising from the ocean's floor that ascends to within 8 fathoms of the surface. The surrounding depths rapidly fall off to 17 fathoms, thereby the half-mile-long structure is similar to an oasis in the midst of otherwise bleak bottom.

**Massey's Ditch** - Massey's Ditch is located just northwest of the Indian River Inlet and is at the eastern tip of the Long Neck, DE peninsula. There is a Massey's Landing Public Boat ramp on the ditch.

**Ocean City Airport** - While many catch reports reference this Municipal Airport that is approximately 5 miles south of the Rt. 50 Bridge as the crow flies, the flounder are actually caught in the Sinepuxent Bay located to the east. From the bay you can see the approach lights and part of the runway.

**Ocean City Commercial Harbor** - Almost directly west from the Ocean City Inlet is a harbor for several commercial fishing and offshore work. When referred to as a fishing location, in general that means the mouth of the harbor outside of the long pier or at the entrance to Sunset Marina wrapping around north around the Martha's Landing community.

**Old Grounds** - The Old Grounds is a popular fishing area due to its productivity and relative closeness. It is about 15 east south east of the Indian River Inlet.

**Outer and Inner Walls** - These are two rock breakwaters outside of the Roosevelt Inlets at Lewes, DE. The Outer Wall is the longest with the ocean on one side and the bay on the other. The Inner Wall is further west and has the bay on both sides. These are noted for tog and sheepshead.

**Rt. 50 Bridge** - This is probably obvious as is the bridge that connects the Ocean City peninsula with the western side of the Ocean City Bay. The bridge has sidewalks on the both sides that allow anglers to fish the pilings that support the bridge. It is a great location for flounder, bluefish and small rockfish and you can find angler fishing at almost any hour of the day!

**Stinky Beach** - On the west side of the bay and just south of the Rt. 50 Bridge you will see a sandy beach where vacationers are fishing or just sunbathing. This is Homer Gudelsky Park (Some locals still call it by its old name, Stinky Beach). It's real deep here and there are some holes that go down to 40 feet. There are lots of potential for snags, but some flounder are caught here. Tautog are there too if you use live or frozen sand fleas.

**Thorofare** - The Thorofare sees a lot of flounder! It is located on the west side of the Ocean City Bay, just offshore of a residential area called Captain's Hill. It's deep next to the houses and just offshore there's a yellow house where locals say they catch a lot of big flounder. Going north, you will see Buoy #6 and from there you can follow the marshes back just offshore of a development called Isle of Wight to Buoy #16. By the time you hit #16 you are almost opposite Ocean Pines and can see the Route 90 Bridge in the distance.

**VFW Slough** - this is channel located in the southern part of the Indian River Bay and garners its name for being just off shore of the VFW Post 7234 at the northern tip of Cedar Neck Rd. It is known for flounder and for being difficult to navigate due to shallow waters on the approach and shifting sands. §



2025 “BIG MONEY” TOURNAMENT REVIEW



Even though they fished the 2nd day of the 4th Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament, the crew of the “Primary Search” had a number of firsts. They were the first boat to the scales that day. It was also the first time offshore for anglers Meaghan Coats, Carol Ann McCurdy, Kaitelyn McIntyre and Faith Engh with their experienced anchor Andrea Ensor. Capt. Austin Ensor had the boat right out front, by which he meant in the Poor Man’s Canyon in 300 fathoms. Mates Wyatt Melocik and Brian Suschke had just set the lines first thing when the girls got covered up by 5 bigeye tuna and miraculously got all 5 to the boat with new anglers! Once to the scales the largest of the bunch weighed in at 113.5lbs. and the stringer of 5 loaded down the scale to 508.5 lbs. That combo was enough to secure the crew 1st Place for Stringer Split and Stinger WTA as well as both Daily prizes and several others for a combined total prize payout of \$47,970, the largest of the event. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



The last day of the 37th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament was pivotal for the crew of the “Shotski”. Capt. Jose Rose was looking for bigeyes and headed to the corner of the Wilmington Canyon with anglers Casey Zolder, Spencer Neff, Jay Huss, Caden Schell, Preston Schell, Jack Giles and Kevin Ruppert with mate Austin Bowden. Around 10:30 AM they ran across a school of bigeyes and hooked four at the same time. The crew worked hard and were able to get all four to the boat, but only 3 in the boat! One broke off at the last moment. The heaviest weighed 149 lbs. at the scales at the Ocean City Fishing Center and the three together created a stringer of 412.5 lbs. That easily moved them into 1st Place in the Heaviest Stringer Division and earned the second largest prize of the event at \$171,700.

2025

FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles

 <p><b>BLUE MARLIN</b> 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p><b>YELLOWFIN TUNA</b> 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>BIGEYE TUNA</b> 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p><b>GOLDEN TILEFISH</b> No minimum • 8 per person/day</p>
 <p><b>WHITE MARLIN</b> 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p> <p>NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit</p>	 <p><b>BLUEFIN TUNA</b> 27" to &lt;47" curved fork length 2 per vessel/day or trip 47" to &lt; 73" curved fork length 1 per vessel/day or trip 27" to &lt;47" curved fork length 3 per Charter/day or trip 27" to &lt;47" curved fork length 12 per Headboat/day or trip 47" to &lt; 73" curved fork length 2 per Headboat/day or trip</p>	 <p><b>SWORDFISH</b> 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter) 1 per person / 15 per Headboat</p>	 <p><b>BLUELINE TILEFISH</b> 5/15 - 11/14 3 per person (Recreational) 5 per person Uninspected (Charter) 7 per person Inspected (Charter)</p>
 <p><b>DOLPHIN</b> No minimum Length Boat Limit 54 Charter Limit Daily 10 per angler</p>		 <p><b>SAILFISH</b> Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit</p>	 <p><b>WAHOO</b> No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day</p>

SHARKS

AUTHORIZED SPECIES

No Minimum Fork Length  
Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead

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

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

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

PROHIBITED SHARKS

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

Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov



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# 2025 “BIG MONEY” TOURNAMENT REVIEW



The crew of the charter boat “Wrecker” closed out the 37th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament with a bang. Braving the weather Friday, they fished in 250 fathoms in the Washington Canyon and put 3 yellowfin tuna on the scales at the Ocean City Fishing Center. The heaviest was 39 lbs. and the stringer weight was 117.5 lbs. Capt. Bobby Layton knew their Day 2 would need to deliver something big, and it did. Anglers Mike Killelea, Dan Steadman, Megan Humphry, Rich Olson, Joe Rodgers, Eric Siegel and Steven Humphry with boat owner Jeremy Blunt and mate Cody Smith spent Sunday in the Washington Canyon again. In the morning Megan landed a 39 lb. yellowfin tuna that secured her the Top Lady Angler Award and a \$2,000 prize. Around midday a line went tight, and they knew they had a bigeye. It was not until it got to the boat the Jeremy knew what they had. Once on the scale the eyeball weighed 191.5 lbs. easily taking first place where it finished the event. The big fish earned the crew the tournament’s top prize money payout of \$198,475.



The “Under Taker” rocked the scales on the final day of the 11th Annual Big Fish Classic. They were the first boat to the dock bringing in a white marlin, 3 yellowfin tuna and a mahi. Capt. Corey Kennington had run the boat up to the Spencer Canyon and was trolling in only 500’ of water along the 100 fathom line. It was sunset on Saturday when angler Michael Barry connected with a white marlin on a naked ballyhoo, taking only 10 minutes to boat the fish. That marlin was 71” long and weighed 68 lbs. As the only qualifying white weighed, it swept those calcuttas and took 3rd Place for Heaviest Billfish earning the second largest combined tournament payout of \$162,022. Rounding out the crew were boat owner Bill Doherty, Kevin Donalds, Sean McDevitt, Chris Whitfield, Nes Dickerson and CJ Walus with mate Wil Kennington. Pictured at the Talbot Street Pier.



# 2025 "BIG MONEY" TOURNAMENT REVIEW



This year's 51st White Marlin Open saw an unprecedented number of large blue marlin starting with this one from the local boat "Stone Cutter". Capt. Paul Menzi is a 28 consecutive year veteran of the Open and a prior winner in the Tuna Division. On Day 2 of the event, he headed to the Poor Mans Canyon and set a slow troll. Around midday the crew of Rich Couch, Dwayne Hoffman, Brad Martin, Bradley Martin, Joe Wyatt and Lance Blakemore saw a big blue come up and hit on a plug, making a giant hole in the water as it dived down, peeling out line. Lance Blakemore from Horseheads, NY was on the rod and spent 2.5 hours fighting the fish, getting the leader to the boat 8 times. As if that was not accomplishment enough, this was not only Lance's first blue marlin catch, but his first marlin catch ever! The 129" marlin weighed 897.5 lbs. taking over 1st Place where it finished the event capturing \$520,374 in prize money. It was also the 5th heaviest blue marlin in the tournament's history.





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# HEAVIEST

## Fish of the Year

2024

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



Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
<b>Bluefish</b> 	June 7 Craig Cropper Rt. 50 Bridge 12 lbs.	July 2 Capt. Rich Harpel Indian River Inlet 13 lbs.	<b>Weakfish</b> 	May 21 Jim Hitchens Delaware Bay 7.26 lbs.	June 17 Claude Davis Indian River Inlet 11 lb. 6 oz.
<b>Black Drum</b> 		May 3 Lacey Moffett Coral Beds 58 lbs.	<b>Bigeye Tuna</b> 	July 27 Steve Strawbridge Baltimore Canyon 305 lbs.	July 4 Crew "Rusty Reel" Baltimore Canyon 212 lbs.
<b>Cobia</b> 	August 25 Jason Stokes Ocean Wreck 50 lbs.		<b>Bluefin Tuna</b> 	December 1 Crew "Loose Knot" African Queen 250 lbs.	November 30 Mark Droney 12 Fathom Lump 211 lbs.
<b>Summer Flounder</b> 	November 18 George Guthridge Ocean Structure 13.5 lbs.	August 8 Michael Harden Indian River Inlet 13.2 lbs.	<b>Longfin Tuna</b> 		June 18 Mark Steiner Baltimore Canyon 38 lbs.
<b>Sea Bass</b> 	August 5 Monty Neel African Queen 5.24 lbs.		<b>Yellowfin Tuna</b> 	August 8 Austin Craig Washington Canyon 185.5 lbs.	July 19 Wayne Whitney Hotdog 100.7 lbs.
<b>Sheepshead</b> 	June 23 Capt. Wayne Anderson Ocean Wreck 11 lbs. 10 oz.	June 19 Dan Sander Ocean Structure 10.8 lbs.	<b>Dolphin</b> 	August 15 Sherri Saunders Poor Mans Canyon 53.3 lbs.	August 15 Tara Katz Baltimore Canyon 30.3 lbs.
<b>Striped Bass</b> 	May 19 Justin Field Rt. 50 Bridge 13 lbs.	May 13 Chic Stearrett Indian River Inlet 42 lbs.	<b>Swordfish</b> 	June 1 Bobby West Poor Mans Canyon 125 lbs.	
<b>Tautog</b> 	February 5 Jeff Johnson Ocean Structure 22 lbs.	April 15 Scott Shoup Ocean Structure 8.4 lbs.	<b>Blue Marlin</b> 	August 7 Lance Blakemore Poor Mans Canyon 897.5 lbs.	
<b>Wahoo</b> 	September 11 Randy Buttun 30 Fathom Lump 92 lbs.	September 16 Jeff Behney 30 Fathom Notch 88.5 lbs.	<b>White Marlin</b> 	August 6 Ven Poole Poor Mans Canyon 77.5 lbs.	

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



# 2025 "BIG MONEY" TOURNAMENT REVIEW



It did not take long for the billfish competition to light up during the 51st Annual White Marlin Open! Anticipation built on Day 2 as there were reports of a white marlin headed for Harbour Island and shortly after scales opened the "Waste Knot" arrived with a big white fish bag on the deck! Angler Ven Poole from Raleigh, NC had hooked a white marlin on an 80 wide with a lure outside of the Poor Mans Canyon in 1000 fathoms. After a quick 20 minute fight it was aboard. The marlin was quickly measured and at 70" met the tournament minimum exactly. Once on the scale it also beat the minimum weighing 77.5 lbs. As the first white to the scales, it took the 1st Place slot. The crew of Ven and Barry Bowling, Bryan Sinnett, Jonathan Kroart and Todd Saieed with Capt. Michael Tickle and mates Bryan Angel & Zach Grantham then had to sweat out 4 more days of the extended 6 day tournament to see their fate. Fortunately, only one challenger arrived but did not better their catch, securing their 1st Place for Heaviest White Marlin position and a \$3,699,631 prize! Pictured at Harbour Island.



The local boat "Billfisher" is no stranger to the scales at the White Marlin Open. Day 4 of the 6 day tournament was their day this year. Capt. Jon Duffie had the boat in the Poor Mans Canyon in 70 fathoms when a white hit on the right long. Angler Danny Goff was on station for the right long, but had just stepped inside the cabin, so mate Noah McVicker stepped up and grabbed the rod! Once to the scales at Harbour Island it weighed 76 lbs. and secured 2nd Place for Heaviest White Marlin and the second largest payout of the tournament at \$1,797,119! Rounding out the crew were fellow anglers Jeremy Duffie, Jonathan Duffie, Chris Weyandt, Lance Hightower, Kevin Paul and John Charles along with mate Willem Lambertson.

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Team Buckeye on the "Blue Runner" was having an unlucky season until the 51st Annual White Marlin Open. Capt. Mark DeBlasio shared that they had been hit by another boat in the spring in the Outer Banks. Even on the way to the Open a line got stuck on a fuel dock cleat as they left and it rocketed through the hull above the water line! Still, they remained undeterred. Day 2 of the event saw that luck turn around for the crew of Dave Dutton, Jamie Greer, Jarrod Keely, Jim Boynton, Lance Gildner and Rob Jones. They were trolling in the Wilmington Canyon and about midday got hit hard on a skirted ballyhoo. Rob Jones grabbed the rod and spent the next hour getting a bigeye to the boat. Once on the scales at Harbour Island it weighed 220.5 lbs. and easily slid into 1st Place for Heaviest Tuna. While several other boats tried to surpass it over the remaining 4 days of the tournament, none could. The big eyeball earned the crew the third largest payout of the tournament at \$1,007,012.



# 2025 "BIG MONEY" TOURNAMENT REVIEW



The 33rd Annual MidAtlantic Tournament kicked off with a bang. While only four boats came to the scales, they brought 2 white marlin, a blue marlin and a bigeye tuna. Cape May saw another white get weighed, and by the end of the day there was a 77 lb. marlin in the top slot followed by a 74 pounder. Those were looking like solid numbers until the "Lights Out" showed up on Day 4! Anglers Billy Haugland, Rich Malvino, Joe Meneo, Carson Rogers, Tommy Holder and Dan Caliendo spent the day trolling outside of the Poor Mans Canyon in 500 fathoms with Capt. Chester Sims and mates Jeffery Leiderman & Steven Stallings. They had five bites for the day, getting 4 of the white marlin to the boat. It was the one caught by Dan during a double hookup however that made the difference. His true white marlin measured 71 $\frac{1}{4}$ " and pulled the scale down to 81 lbs. easily sliding into 1st Place where it finished the tournament earning Dan and the crew the top payout of \$1,416,891.



Tuna did not seem to get the invitation to attend this year's 33rd Annual MidAtlantic Tournament! Only 20 qualifying tuna were weighed between the two ports with only two over 100 lbs. and one over 75 lbs. The crew of the "Reel Tight" of Capt. Steve Pilipauskis with anglers Nick Macinowski, Dave Schwartz, Jeff Hardest, Dave Angel and Kenny Minchin along with mates Grant Clubb & Ross Clubb however set the tone on Day 1 bringing a bigeye to the scales. The eyeball caught by Nick in the Wilmington Canyon weighed in at 180 lbs. putting them in 1st Place for the day. They had to sweat it out for 4 more days, but it remained unchallenged earning 1st Place for Heaviest Tuna and the third highest prize payout of \$720,442. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



The last day of the 33rd Annual MidAtlantic Tournament saw almost all of the participants fishing. With several big fish on the board the crews knew what they had to beat, especially in the Blue Marlin Category. The crowds at Sunset Marina were already a buzz with rumors that a blue marlin was headed to the scales on the new Duffie Boatworks 71 foot "Dem Boys". Owner Tommy Hancock with fellow anglers Denis Coleman and Marcus Pyne were offshore of the Poor Mans Canyon where they had two blue marlin hook ups. Both were caught by Tommy Hancock. The first was released, but the second one was boated after a 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  hour fight. Once to the scales at Sunset Marina the big blue measured an impressive 125" and weighed 760 lbs. sliding into first place at the time. Unfortunately about 30 minutes later a larger marlin was weighed in Cape May moving "Dem Boys" to 2nd Place where they finished the event. 2nd Place was not bad for the crew as they earned \$497,714 in combined prize payouts. Capt. Reid Bost was in command with mates Chip Byrd, Cordes Lucas and Evan Hamilton. Over their 3 fishing days, the crew caught 2 blue marlin and whites.





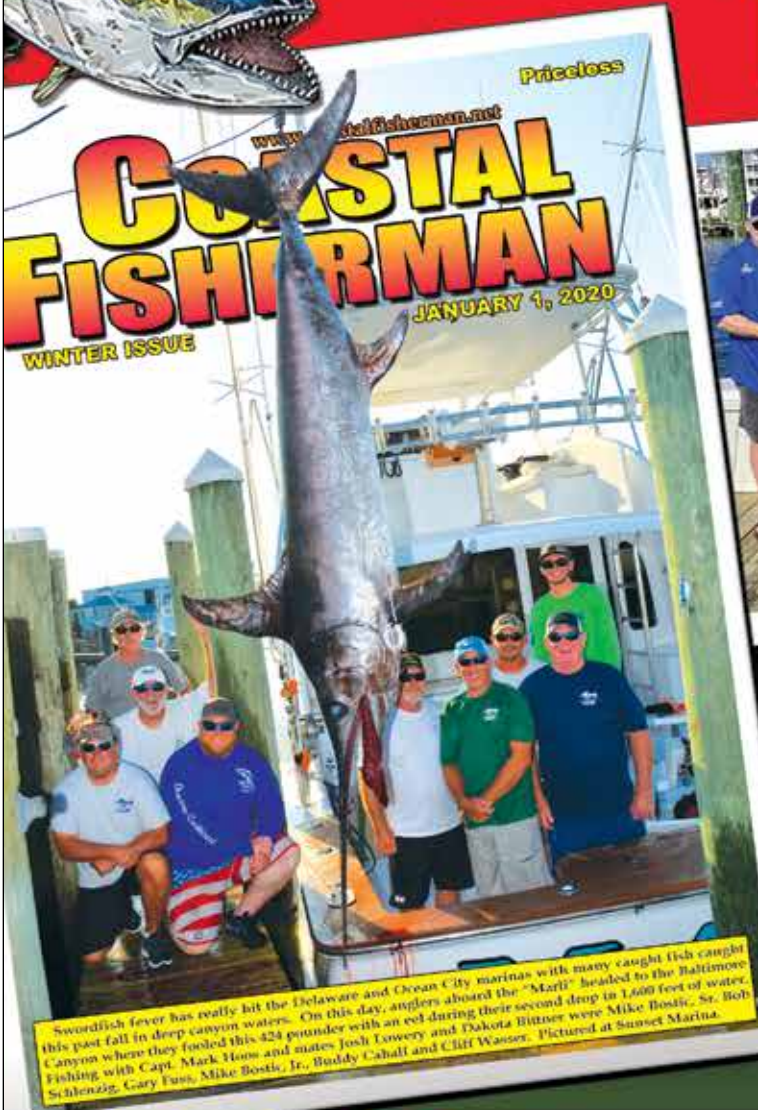
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2025 “BIG MONEY” TOURNAMENT REVIEW



The 30th Annual Capt. Steve Harman’s Poor Girls Open saw an impressive amount of billfish released over its 3 days. None however were as grand as the 8 white marlin released by team “Pure Lure”! Anglers Liz Elliott, Jen Hybki, Nancy Haines, Katie Tyler, Jess Shue and cancer survivor Trish Walsh released a total of 8 white marlin on Day 1 of the event! They were fishing with Capt. Anthony ‘Hook Optics’ Pino on the private boat “Sea Hag”. Capt. Anthony had a premonition that the marlin would be in the Wilmington Canyon in the flats, so mates Junior Bass and Drake Cropper set a regular marlin spread and they trolled in 60 fathoms. The ladies actually hooked 13 whites, getting 8 leaders to the boat! The catch locked them into 1st Place in the Billfish Release Calcutta earning a combined prize payout of \$127,310. Trish Walsh also won the new for 2024 Winner Take All – Survivor Calcutta for being 1 of the 38 cancer survivors fishing the tournament and being on the winning boat! Pictured at the tournament scales at the Bahia Marina. The American Cancer Society won too with a contribution of \$135,000 from the tournament and the Harman family.

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# 2025 "BIG MONEY" TOURNAMENT REVIEW



The mighty "Ro Sham Bo" pulled up to the dock at the Talbot Street Pier with a blue marlin flag flying right-side up after their 32 hours of fishing during the 11th Annual Big Fish Classic, so we knew we were going to see a big fish! Anglers Bill Zimmerman, Douglas Reynolds, Nick Shriver, Michael Wheaton, Mark Fones and Rusty Shriver had started fishing in the Washington Canyon on Saturday and found no bites, so they ran down to the Baltimore Canyon to fish on Sunday. In the early morning, they saw some action on the teaser reel and a short time later Rusty Shriver connected with the blue on the short rigger. Capt. Willie Zimmerman reported he made one big circle with the fish and after only 28 minutes it was at the boat. 1st gaff shot hit home and in the boat it came. The deckhands called out the measurements before bringing it up to the dock. 117.5 inches, well above the federal and tournament minimums. The big blue tipped the scales at 535 lbs. jumping the "Ro Sham Bo" to 1st Place fish for Big Fish where it stayed earning the crew the largest combined payout of the event of \$320,392. Pictured at the Talbot St. Pier.





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Young Theo Post of Berlin, MD is all smiles showing off the nice convict he caught while fishing with his Dad Dylan Post. The pair caught the 20" sheepshead in the Ocean City Inlet.




Jimmy Swagler put a nice 63" and 172 lb. bluefin on the deck of his boat the "Swagger". He was fishing at the 12 Fathom Lump with Kristin Quinn, Philomina Cannuli and "Restless Lady" owner Sean Welsh.


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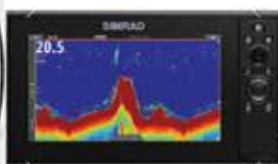
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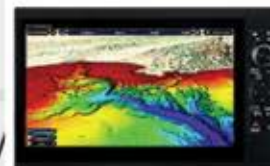


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## COASTAL FISHERMAN

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It was a day of big tuna for anglers Rick Stryjowski, Zach Stryjowski, Josh Stryjowski and Chase Stryjowski from Baltimore, MD. They were fishing with Capt. Willie Zimmerman and mate Joey Marowski on the charter boat "Ro Sham Bo" east of the Baltimore Canyon. They were trolling in 1000 fathoms where they caught 2 yellowfins with the largest at 150 lbs! They also caught 2 bluefin tuna, releasing one. The one in the box weighed in at 141.7 lbs. at the Ocean City Fishing Center Tournament Scale.

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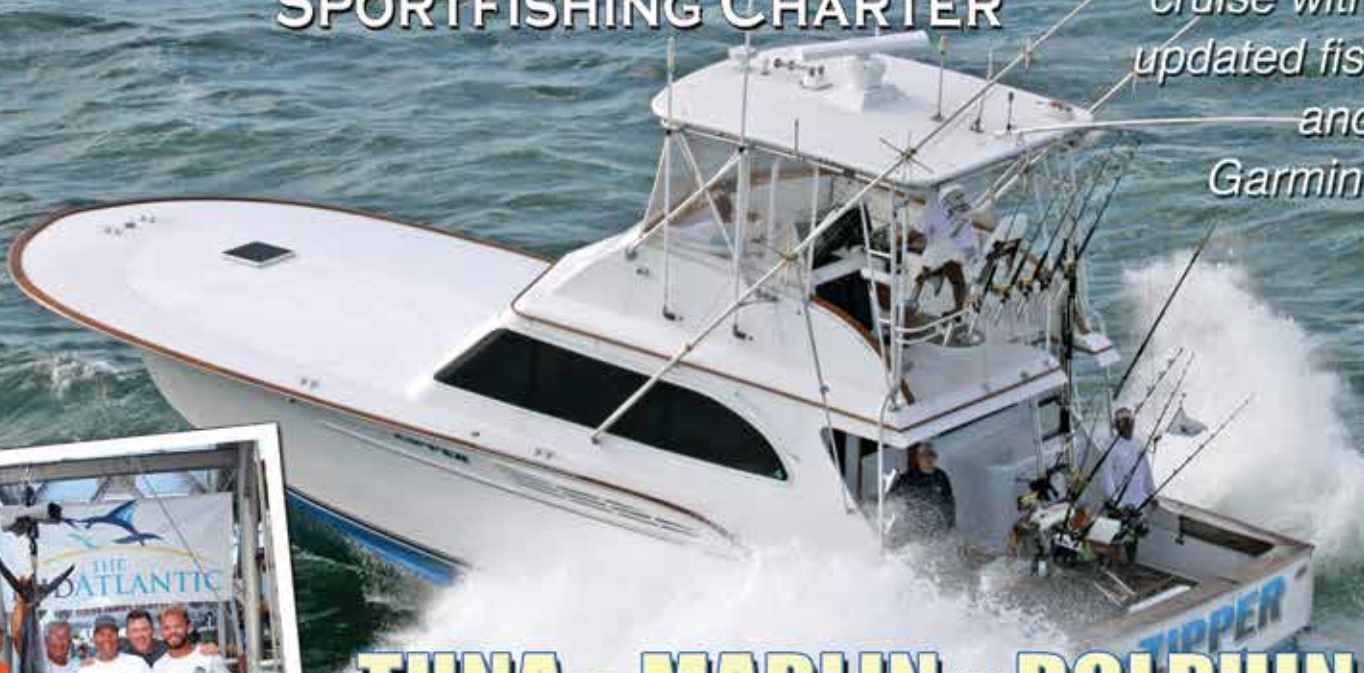


It was a great trip for Baltimore County based Michael, John, Andrew, John, Emmanuel and Gus George Pikounis. They spent a day in late September in the Ocean City Bay with Capt. Jason Mumford on the charter boat "Lucky Break". They ended the day with 6 sheepshead (up to 9.5 lbs.), 3 tog, a sea trout and some blow toads.

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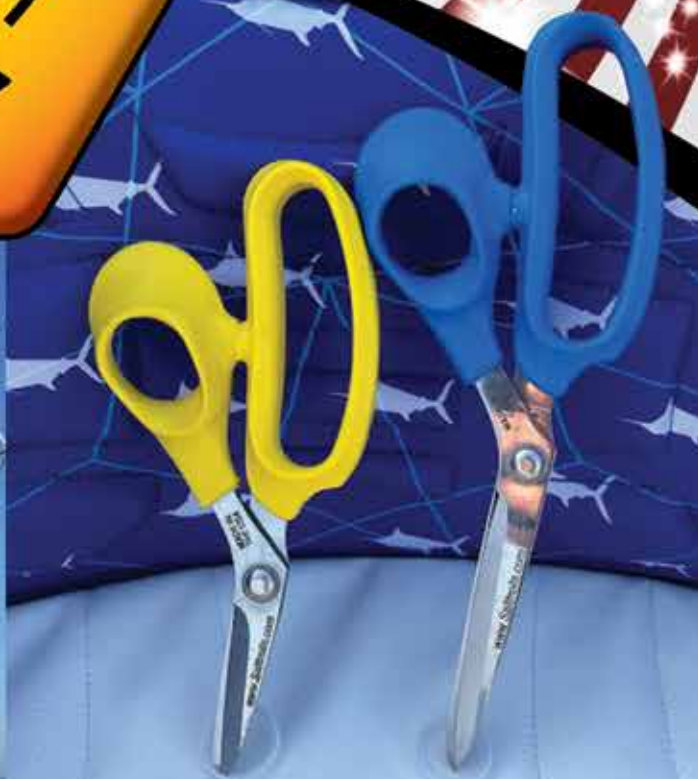
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## APRIL

**34th Annual Capt. Zed's Spring Flounder Tournament**  
April 25 - May 4 • Wachapreague, VA • 757-789-3222

## MAY

**Old Inlet Annual Spring Surf Fishing Tournament**  
May 3 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974

**Lewes Harbour Marina Canal Flounder Tournament**  
May 16 • Lewes Harbour Marina • 302-645-6227

**Cast for a Cure Team Surf Fishing Tournament**  
May 17 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974

**Battle for the Buckle**  
May 29-31 • www.pbroceancity.com

## JUNE

**3rd Annual Blues for D.U.**  
June 6-7 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

**OC Smackdown Tuna Tournament**  
TBD • Atlantic Tackle • 410-289-7438

**5th Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament**  
June 13-14 • Ocean City, MD • 410-212-7159

**School's Out Tuna Tournament**  
June 18 - 22 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

**10th Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament**  
June 20-22 • Indian River Marina • 302-227-3071

**46th Annual OCMC Small Boat Tournament**  
June 21-22 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

**7th Annual Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam  
Kayak Fishing Tournament**  
June 21-22 • Ocean City, MD • 410-868-5488

## JULY

**42nd Annual Canyon Kick Off**  
July 4-6 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

**South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown**  
July 9-12 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

**38th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament**  
July 11-13 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1613

**Paradise Bay Tournament**  
July 12-13 • ParadiseGrillDE.com • 410-213-1613

**21st Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic**  
July 19-20 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

**11th Annual HUK Big Fish Classic**  
July 25-27 • Talbot Street Pier • 410-213-0325

**Cape May Marlin Tournament**  
July 24-27 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

## AUGUST

**Marlins for Mason**

August 1-2 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1613

**17th Annual OCMC Franky Pettolina "Heels & Reels" Tournament**  
August 1-2 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

**18th Annual Worcester County Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament**  
August 2 • Ocean Pines Yacht Club • 410-641-5306

**52nd Annual White Marlin Open**  
August 4-8 • Harbour Island Marina • 410-289-9229

**Paradise Grill Flounder Pounder**  
August 13-17 • Long Neck, DE • www.FlounderPounderOpen.com

**32nd Annual Capt. Steve Harman Poor Girl's Open**  
August 14-16 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

**The MidAtlantic**  
August 18-22 • Cape May, NJ & Ocean City, MD

## SEPTEMBER

**67th Annual OCMC Labor Day Tournament**  
TBD • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

**20th Annual Bahia Marina Flounder Pounder**  
September 7 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

**47th Annual OCMC Charles Kratz & Scott Smith Challenge Cup**  
September 11-13 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

**24th Annual Ocean City Fishing Center Spot Tournament**  
September 13 • OC Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

**Delaware Seashore Fall Surf Fishing Classic**  
September 27 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974

## OCTOBER

**9th Annual Ocean City Inshore Classic**  
Oct 4-5 • Atlantic Tackle • 410-430-1016

**DMS Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament**  
Oct 11-12 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974

**Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament**  
November 15 - December 15 • Lewes, DE • 302-645-6227

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Barbara Dean of Ocean City, MD finally got her true doormat flounder! She landed the 10 lbs. of recycled plastic at Angler's. It was a welcome addition after a summer of throwbacks. Thanks Barbara for the good laugh!



Noah Tindall of Douglassville, PA shows off a proper Delaware stretch with these two tog! He caught the pair using green crab at the Indian River Inlet while fishing on the "Reel Nautical". The largest was 19" and 5 lbs.

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- Bait/lure used
- Location of catch
- Name of boat, if any

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- Have the angler facing into the sun to minimize shadows
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- If you are using a cell phone, make sure it is taking photos at the largest setting possible
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