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# COASTAL FISHERMAN

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The big winners of the Ocean City Tuna Tournament were the crew of the "Following Seas", from Palm Beach, FL. This 230 lbs. bigeye tuna, brought in by angler Hank Brucker, won the Single Heaviest Category, awarding the crew \$411,335. The crew was fishing with Captain Charlie Vanderbeck and mate Mike Ajamin. This monster Bigeye was caught at 100 fathoms and in 76 degree waters.





Away from the tournament there was some very good flounder fishing. None was bigger than the 32" doormat caught by Tracey Drocella who was fishing with her husband Steve at the OC Elementary Reef. The big flattie weighed an even 10 lbs. at Bahia Marina. Tracey and Steve were fishing on their boat the "MAKO MADNESS".



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OCMD local Hugh Thomas Cropper and Elliot Bennet (York, PA) brought in this load of flounder and a Spanish mackerel using cut spot at great gull.

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Joseph Cosgrove reeled in his first cobia this past week, which ended up being a nice 60+ pounder. Joseph caught this fish while fishing on a private boat 35 mile offshore with his friends Sean and Rob. Nice catch Joseph!





This hard-fighting tuna didn't stand a chance — Justin Field and Silas Naecker brought it aboard after a successful trip to the Washington Canyon.



8-year-old Brynlee McCleary from Fawn Grove, PA caught her first flounder while fishing behind Harbour Island using berkeley gulp white swimming minnow. Well done Brynlee!



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Hello and welcome back to another week of the offshore fishing report. The beginning of the week provided the first real storm system of the summer with tropical depression Chantal churning up the ocean Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday and Thursday provided a leftover swell but plenty fishable conditions and much lighter crowds with many of the smaller boats staying tied to the dock. Fishing definitely slowed down a little from the pace held the last few weeks but anglers still

picked at a few tunas both inshore and over the edge in the canyons.

On Thursday, while exploring for the tuna tournament we were surprised to catch a barracuda, one of several of these unusual fish caught by boats this weekend. The weekend weather provided a beautiful forecast for all three days of the 38th Ocean City Tuna Tournament, where 111 boats competed for a total purse of \$1,422,270. Fridays scales were busy with many stringers coming to the dock but

the main attraction was the 216 pound bluefin brought in by the team on the Elizabeth Ann, which would hold on to claim 2nd place heaviest fish and a prize of \$184,910. Saturday proved to be just as exciting of an evening over at the fishing center with a long line of boats waiting their turn to hang their catch on the scales. The tournament winning 230 pound bigeye brought in by the Following Seas lit up the dock Saturday night as well as the award ceremony on Sunday with a check worth \$411,335.

Saturday also provided the first place for both the dolphin and wahoo categories with Hopper's 27 pound mahi bringing them in \$55,200 and Leslie Ann's 45 pound wahoo bringing in \$130,320 worth of rollover money. First place stringer was won by the team on the Fly'n Fish who's two day stringer weight of

408 pounds earned them a check that weighed \$357,460. Other notable catches include the junior angler on board the Something Simple who caught a 175 pound bigeye to claim both top junior angler as well as third place heaviest fish along with a total of \$63,000. A congratulations also goes out to the lady angler on board the Amarula Sun claiming the top prize of \$2,000 with her 46 pound yellowfin.

Thank you to all of the hardworking staff at the Fishing Center and Micky Fins, both behind the scenes and on the docks, for putting on a wonderful event that many people, including myself, look forward to every year. Outside of the tournament, boats to our south continue to reinforce the fact that Oregon Inlet is the tuna capitol of the world as boats are returning daily with boxes full of tuna, as well as mahi and billfish releases. Quite a few marlin were seen this weekend in Ocean City as well with many chaffed leaders while

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Logos for Gulp!, ST. CROIX, PENN, DEADLY TACKLE, NLBN, J.O., and SEA STRIKER are shown at the bottom.

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will switch from tunas  
to billfish as J hooks  
will be replaced with  
circle hooks and anglers  
prepare for the upcoming  
schedule of tournaments.

As long as this season  
seemed to take for its  
arrival, it is hard to  
believe that we are  
now in the heart of the  
summer. I encourage  
anyone who may read  
this to appreciate every  
day you are able to spend  
on the water with friends  
and family as these days  
are too often taken for  
granted. The RoShamBo  
team and I are headed  
up to Atlantic City to  
compete in the Jimmy  
Johnson tournament as  
charter boats at home  
begin to chunk and  
marlin fish.






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Jim Knepp Sr. from New Hope, PA caught this 28" Gator blue fish on a Green Machine while trolling at the Jack spot. Jim was fishing on the "Reel Easy".



Ally Jones, of Charlotte, NC, reeled in her first trigger fish! Ally was fishing at the Fenwick Shoals and her bait was squid on a double hook with a 3 oz. weight, no lure. Congratulations Ally!



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During an overnight trip in the Baltimore Canyon, Anglers Matt Rohler, Mike Rohler, Dilan Rohler, and Rylee Pryce caught these seven yellowfin, 12 golden tile, and one mahi while fishing on their personal boat, the “Skidgette”.

2025

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 <p><b>CROAKER</b> 8" Minimum • 50 per person/per day</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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First flounder alert! 9-year-old Kristen Smith from East Petersburg, PA reeled this monster flounder using a night crawler in the 28th Street canal system.



Capt. Chris Ortolani, of Rehoboth Beach, DE, and anglers Seth Ross, of Ocean City, MD, and Alec Jennison, of Bethany Beach, DE, landed three yellowfin tuna on a trip offshore. Their catches weighed in at 40 lbs., 38 lbs., and 30 lbs. They were caught on skirted Ballyhoo in the Poorman's Canyon. This crew was fishing on the "SirReel" out of Indian River, DE. (Photo taken at Hook'Em and Cook'Em Bait & Tackle.)

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# OCEAN CITY

## FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This past week in Maryland, the weather was anything but pleasant. Strong storms bearing lighting, high winds, and heavy downpours crashed in our skies most evenings. The back bays and streams leading into the bays have become fast-moving rivers dumping tons of water into our back bays. The Ocean City bay has a ton more keeper flounder than in past weeks, despite the 17.5-inch minimum size limit. Anglers still have to contend with a bunch of throwbacks; however are catching a few fish to bring home for dinner. "Fish Bound Charters" had several trips last week with limits of fluke, along with being able to troll up blues and Spanish mackerels.

### Back Bays and Inlets

The back bays and inlets are alive with fish. Many anglers are reporting tons of bites. Many of these fish are undersized, however provide anglers with tons of opportunities, making the day on the water full of

action. The holes near the airport, as well as the main channels, are the hot spots of the week with the most keeper flounder coming from these locations. Due to the amount of small fish, anglers should use bigger Gulp baits or live spot when targeting keeper fish instead of continuous action. The inlet rocks are also showing signs of a summer bite with sheepshead and tog coming off the rocks. "Back Bays Adventures" had several good trips last week, delighting anglers with large catches of flounder and other bay fish. The groups had several bites and fish to target. Although a lot of fish were undersized, they provided a ton of action for anglers. Craig Cropper took out Jake from Freedom Baits and caught several nice-sized bluefish off the bridge. Cory Glover fished the Rt. 50 bridge and stated he had so many fish ready to bite his offering, the famous Roy Rig. Rich Fiore caught some nice slot rockfish as well as a few

overslot ones this past week. He states flounder have been quick to bite, but most are just undersized. John Spence stated that despite the smaller fish, he did find a nice 22" one to invite back for dinner. The "Bay Bee" had several full trips last week with a ton of tourists in town. They report anglers saw a ton of action with a few keepers thrown in. For many of these anglers, this is their first opportunity to try their hand at saltwater fish. The "Miss Ocean City" had a few days of lazy, slow drifting fishing which not only provided enough action to delight anglers but also made for a very relaxing day complete with wild horses and dolphins. Captain Kellen of "Back Bay Charters" reports he has openings for you to enjoy the day on your own private bay charter. The Oceanic Fishing Pier reports that their biggest catch this past week was a nice 21.5-inch flounder. Denise Arlene Varga fished the 2nd st

www.coastalfisherman.net bulkhead and landed a nice fluke. Jackson Lewes caught a nice 18-inch fluke from the inlet rocks at sunset last Thursday. Matt Hampton reports he caught four fluke on his first four drops in the east Channel on an outgoing tide the same night.

### Nearshore Wrecks and Reefs

The nearshore water got pretty churned up this past week with all the storms and has just begun to clear up. The water is dirty and full of runoff sediment. Deeper wrecks, such as the ones at the Great Eastern Reef and Jack's Spot, are your best locations for quality fish and cleaner water. Both the bass grounds and African Queen are producing, but with the dingy water, fresh bait is producing better than artificials. A few mahi have been found near the super buoy and on the bass pots, but have not arrived in any great numbers as of yet. As the water clears in the upcoming weeks and the temps stay high, many more of these pelagic fish should move into the nearshore waters. See this week's guide on how to effectively target these fish. "Double Trouble

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Charters" had several good trips inshore for sea bass and flounder. Matt Moran from the "Ocean Princess" states the fishing has been pretty good for bass, flounder, and especially triggerfish. The "Morning Star" also reports good catches of fish on their 8-hour trips. The "Miss Kathleen" delighted anglers with tons of action on their half and full day trips, catching sea bass and flounder.

### Surf Fishing

Surf fishing is slow with a ton of spot and kingfish in the surf. Anglers are also finding croaker in schools that will pass through from time to time, allowing anglers a fast action time of catches on almost every cast. Caleb and Travis Wharton used cut bait to catch their big shark just south of the shipwreck on the island, and then caught another the following night right at the entrance to the OSV.

### How To

This week, we will discuss how to fish the bass pots for mahi. When the mahi show up on the pots, there are two ways to target them. The first is a method called pot hopping. In this method, you pull up near a bass pot marker and toss a circle hook tipped with squid or cut bait near the pot and allow it to

sink, bringing up the fish for a strike. Try to remain as far away from the marker as possible to not spook the fish. As the day goes on, many of these markers will have been visited by numerous boats, causing the fish to dive deeper in the water column, and a small sinker may be needed to reach the depth of the fish. The second method is to troll small spoons, chuggers, or Islamorada Flying fish lures past the post at around 5 mph. This method works the best as far as I'm concerned, as many fish become weary of baits being splashed into the water as anglers cast to the pots. By trolling, you present the baits in a more natural way, and this presentation will attract more bites as well as bigger fish, which tend to move between pots. Many of my bites have come between pots in open water that casters would never try or see. Chuggers and squid lures can be found at most local tackle shops. The flying fish lures can be found online and, for some reason, always seem to catch the biggest fish. The mahi will be all sizes, from very small peanuts up to around 15 lbs. Be aware an HMS permit is required to target these pelagic fish and can be purchased online.

Until next week,  
Tight Lines and Fins Up



OCMD local and 6-year-old Carter Nichols had a fun day out on the water while looking for some fish to cook for dinner with his dad and friends. Carter ended up reeling in five flounders and two sea bass.

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# HEAVIEST

## Fish of the Year

2025

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

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
<b>Bluefish</b> 	June 22 Sean Hitchens Ocean City Bay 9.65 lbs.	May 11 Ronin Jehl Fenwick Beach 10 lbs 14 oz.	<b>Weakfish</b> 		January 8 Jim Hitchens Roosevelt Inlet 2.4 lbs.
<b>Black Drum</b> 		May 8 Billy Mister Delaware Bay 64 lbs.	<b>Bigeye Tuna</b> 	June 8 Adam Messer & Robert Smack Poor Man's Canyon 214 lbs.	
<b>Cobia</b> 		 July 15 Raymond Young Undisclosed Location 63 lbs.	<b>Bluefin Tuna</b> 	January 1 Kenny Schoen Hambone 442 lbs.	July 3 "Prime Hook" Crew Baltimore Canyon 206 lbs.
<b>Flounder</b> 	June 4 Ryan Edgell East Channel 7.3 lbs.	June 25 Jeff Moraco Ocean Structure 8.2 lbs.	<b>Longfin Tuna</b> 		
<b>Sea Bass</b> 	May 26 Eli Hasco Great Eastern Reef 4.06 lbs.		<b>Yellowfin Tuna</b> 	June 26 Spring Mix II Crew Inshore (20 fathoms) 97.5 lbs.	
<b>Sheepshead</b> 	June 22 Charles Breon Ocean City Bay 4.09 lbs.		<b>Dolphin</b> 	 July 12 Charlie Carney Undisclosed Location 27 lbs.	
<b>Striped Bass</b> 	June 21 Gary Ward Ocean City Bay 8.15 lbs.		<b>Swordfish</b> 		
<b>Tautog</b> 	March 28 Kevin Twilley Ocean Structure 16 lbs.	May 17 Eamonn Carey Indian River Inlet 17 lbs.	<b>Blue Marlin</b> 		
<b>Wahoo</b> 	 July 12 Ellen Willey Undisclosed Location 45 lbs.		<b>White Marlin</b> 		

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# FISHING CHARTERS



These anglers on the "Wrangler" reeled in a literal boat load of yellowfin tuna. In total, 10 tuna were brought into the boat, leaving this crew with plenty of tuna steaks.



Bren Chorman and his grandfather holding a great sized mahi while aboard the "Ocean City Girl". This mahi is a strong contender for heaviest of the season but without a weight we cannot be sure, so remember, always weigh your fish to be eligible.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



This past Saturday, the “Ocean Princess” landed their biggest flounder of the season — measuring in at 25” and weighing in at 5lbs 10oz. The crew said that the fishing for this season has been great so far and that they hope the fish keep biting.



This crew on the “Lucky Break” reeled in these three sheephead and one flounder.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Check out this patriotic trigger fish caught on the "Miss Kathleen"!



This crew on the "Fish Bound" reeled in this load of 14 flounders. Well done boys!

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Captain Brian Porter brought these anglers to the tuna on the "Boss Hogg". In total these anglers caught nine yellowfin tuna.

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# Beach Talk

by Skylar Snead and Chris Taylor



If you fish the surf at Assateague Island long enough, you're going to hook a shark. You might be tossing cut bait for red drum or hoping for a big bluefish run, and suddenly your rod doubles over and your drag starts screaming. It's a wild moment, but here's the thing: what you do next really matters—for your safety, the shark's life, and staying legal.

Sharks aren't rare on Assateague, especially during the summer months when the water warms up and the baitfish are thick. Blacktips, sandbars, sand tigers, and even bigger species

like dusky and tiger sharks make appearances in the wash. Most of us aren't coming here specifically to target sharks, but throw out some fresh bunker or mullet, and chances are good you'll find yourself hooked up eventually.

It's part of what makes surf fishing exciting. You never know what's on the end of your line. But once it is a shark, the game changes—and you've got a responsibility to handle that catch the right way.

Shark fights are no joke. These fish are strong, fast, and unpredictable. If you're fishing medium tackle and you hook into

something that's clearly a shark, consider breaking it off early. Long, drawn-out fights can kill a shark before it even hits the wash.

If you are set up for sharks—or just want to be ready—you need heavy-duty gear. That means a stout rod, a high-capacity reel with smooth drag, and a proper leader setup with a non-stainless steel inline circle hook. And that's not just a suggestion—it's the law in Maryland. You must use non-stainless, inline circle hooks when fishing for sharks from shore. Stainless steel is not allowed because it doesn't rust out, and circle hooks are designed to reduce gut-hooking and make releases cleaner. These regulations exist for a reason, and you will be held to them.

In addition to pliers or a dehooker, you need two critical tools:

1. A strong cutter capable of snipping through wire or heavy braided cable.
2. A pair of bolt cutters for cutting large hooks during release if needed.

And here's the catch: bolt cutters usually won't cut through cable. That's something many anglers learn the hard way. If you're running steel leaders or coated cable, make sure you've got a proper cable cutter or heavy-duty snips. You don't want to be fumbling around trying to free a tired shark with tools that can't get the job done.

If you bring a shark to

[www.coastalfisherman.net](http://www.coastalfisherman.net) shore, your goal should be to keep it on wet sand where waves are still washing over its gills. That thin layer of water keeps the shark breathing and makes for a safer, quicker release. You don't need to stay knee-deep in the surf if you're not comfortable—wet sand with the wash coming and going is a solid compromise.

If you're experienced and the surf conditions are calm, keeping the shark suspended in shallow water is even better—but only if you're confident. Moving water, soft footing, and a big thrashing shark can turn things sketchy fast. Don't put yourself in a bad spot just to get a cleaner release. Safety always comes first—for you and the fish.

It's worth noting that in Delaware, state law requires protected shark species to remain suspended in the water at all times. Maryland doesn't have that specific requirement, but the same best practices still apply. Keeping the shark breathing and minimizing time out of the water is key no matter where you are. Use long-handled tools to remove the hook. If it's deeply hooked or the removal gets risky, cut the line close to the hook and let it go.

And remember—if you're not 100% sure what species it is, release it immediately. Many of the sharks caught off Assateague—including sandbar, sand tiger, dusky, and tiger sharks—are protected and must be released without delay.

Assateague is a special place. Between the wild ponies, protected dunes, and uncrowded beaches, there aren't many spots like it left. As anglers, it's



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www.coastalfisherman.net on us to help keep it that way. That means handling fish responsibly, cleaning up after ourselves, and not putting on a show with sharks that could get the whole fishery more restricted.

Take your photos quick, or don't take them at all. Don't leave bloody sand or bait scraps behind. And don't be that guy dragging a protected shark 20 feet up the beach for a cell phone video. We all lose when that happens.

Quick Tips from the Sand

- Non-stainless, inline circle hooks are required – no exceptions.
- Use heavy gear to shorten the fight and increase survival chances.
- Keep sharks on wet sand with the surf washing over them, or in the


shallows if safe.

- Use long-handled dehookers or pliers.
- Bring strong cutters capable of cutting wire or cable leaders.
- Carry bolt cutters for hook removal—but remember, they won't cut cable.
- Cut the line if it's deep hooked or unsafe to remove.
- Know your species—or release it if you're not sure.

Surf fishing at Assateague is one of those raw, wild experiences that keeps you coming back. Every cast could bring something new. When it's a shark on the other end, do it right. Gear up, know the rules, and respect the fish.

See you on the sand!

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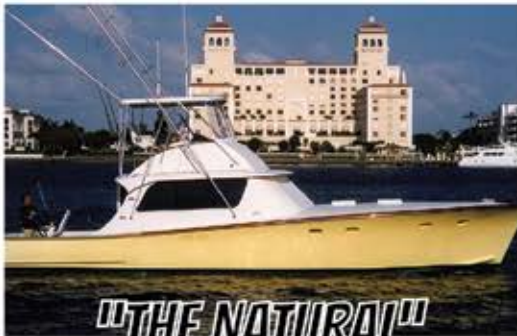
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12-year-old angler Annabelle Belcher from Parkton Maryland was able to reel in and release her first blue marlin while fishing on the "Floor Reel". The crew estimated that the marlin weighed around 700 lbs and it took Annabelle over 2 hours to catch. Annabelle was fishing with her grandfather, Rob Belcher, Captain Dave Warren, and John Ols.

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Brittany Sydlík, of Ocean City, MD, landed this 19" flounder on the "Snag'n and Brag'n." Britta-ny used live minnow as her bait.

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# DELAWARE

## FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This past week in Delaware brought with it some of the largest storms we have seen in years. Massive lightning storms, strong winds, and torrential rain downpours came on numerous evenings. High temperatures added to the humidity and wetness of the days. Fishing overall has continued to get better, with more keeper flounder arriving each day. Numerous undersized fish still plague the near shore wrecks and reefs but a few more fish over the 17.5 inch size can be found. A few small mahi are being caught off the bass pots, but the majority of larger fish have yet to arrive. The Delaware Bay is full of small croaker as well as a few big flounder being found near the lighthouses and shoals. The surf is a mix of croakers and spot with several kingfish thrown in. The evenings have produced several nice sized sharks and a few bluefish along

the coast and at the inlets.

### Back Bays and Inlets

The back bays have been producing a better catch of flounder, although several undersized fish must be weeded through before finding a keeper. Along the rocks of the inlet, sheepshead and tog are being caught on a regular basis in the early morning and evening hours. A few bluefish are being taken near the old bridge pilings, along with an occasional striper. The 8th annual Paradise Bay Pounder Tournament was held this past weekend. The bay was filled with anglers targeting the prize-winning fish. The final winners are as follows: In first place was Andrew Coffey with a flounder weighing 7.3 lbs, second place was Vito DiFrancesco with 7 lbs, third place was Kevin Garber with 5.6 lbs, fourth place was Chris Donaldson with 5.5 lbs. and in fifth place was Dominic

Costantino with 5.5 lbs. Congratulations to all the winners and participants. Further north, Billy Mister checked into Lewes Harbour Marina with a nice 30-inch, 9.5 lb flounder sporting a massive 22.75-inch girth. Nice fish! Rick Paskowski fished IR Bay, and the three of them ended up with 7 keepers. That is one of the best hauls from the bay I have seen since the size limit change went into effect. Dustin Houtz caught a few fluke in the bay with most measuring just under the 17.5-inch minimum. Brian Barnes got his biggest fluke this past week from the bay using squid and Gulp.

### Nearshore Wrecks and Reefs

The nearshore coral grounds and wrecks are holding better flounder than in previous weeks however, the ratio is still over ten throwbacks to get one keeper. Targeting deeper

wrecks with larger baits or live mullet and spot is your best chance to steer clear of smaller fish and snag that keeper doormat. Live spot and larger bucktails have produced the best quality of fish overall. On the shoals, the Spanish Mac bite has been very good. The bite typically runs from first light till around 9 am. Trolling small spoons and swimbaits are catching most of these fish. Small bluefish are also in the mix on the shoals.

Nearshore shark fishing has been very consistent as Eric Brehm from New Albany, Ohio, found out when he went fishing with "Bottom Bouncer Fishing" and landed a few big sharks on their charter. The Spanish Macerel and bluefish were more than willing to cooperate with Jim Zimmerman and Ken Fleetwood on their half-day trip on the "Quick Draw Sportfishing" charter. The group had steady action all morning long and brought home plenty of fish for dinner. "Action Jackson Sportfishing" had a nice constant bite of tog and triggerfish while fishing

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the shoals. The biggest trigger was 3.5 pounds. The tog bite, although consistent, did not produce any keepers. Bradyn Coleman had a great day landing tons of triggerfish while using slow pitch jigging lures. He stated it was a first for him, but he will definitely do it again. I have found that there isn't much a slow pitch jig won't catch in the ocean. Patrick Thomas checked into Rick's Bait and Tackle with an impressive 25-inch, 6.4 lb flounder he caught while fishing the Fenwick Shoal. Jeff Monaco also checked in to Ricks with an 8.2-pound, 27.5-inch fluke he caught on ocean structure. Steve Kuhlman fished the Old Grounds and site 11 and caught mainly small sea bass along with a few keepers. Unfortunately, he stated the juvenile sea bass were relentless and struck his bait as soon as he hit bottom, not allowing the bait to remain on the bottom long enough for the bigger fish to locate it. Ocean Arsenal Tackle was with young Owen when he caught his personal best flounder, weighing in at 4.8 pounds, while using a pink OA squid thing. John and Cheryl Engler took the girls out flounder fishing and returned to the docks with a cooler full of flat fish. The group had tons of laughs and caught even more quality fish. Go Girl Power! Larry and Brittany Lee were back at it again, catching limits of flounder. This father /daughter duo sure can find the fish. Matt Brough spent the last few days on the shoals and landed some quality fluke, including his new personal best of 8 pounds. "Daylights Wasting

Charters" had a solo trip for sheephead and boated 4 of 6 fish hooked. All the fish were between 18 and 24 inches.

### Surf Fishing

Surf fishing is in its summertime slow-down mode with mainly spot and small croakers making up the majority of the catch. Some kingfish are also being found, but not in the numbers we usually see at this time of the year. Joe Dinisio took a short trip to the beach and loaded up the cooler with croakers. He stated he has enough meat for tacos for days. Joe Kondash also found the croaker ready to bite and landed a few big ones up to 12 inches. Kyle Jacobs was at IR Inlet and landed a couple of small flounder from the beach. Andrew Riehl was out at Conquest Beach and had nonstop action with kingfish and spot. He also got 3 cow nose rays and a few kingfish. Alex Volpe scored a nice 34-inch rockfish from the beach last Tuesday using a mullet rig. The fish was safely released.

### Crabs and Clams

Crabbing remains strong with pts yielding between 8 and 10 keepers per pot. Be aware that the hot, low-oxygen water is causing many crabs to die in the pots if left for the full 3 days to soak. Pulling the post every other day would help to secure a better catch with healthier crabs. Clamming is good however many clams are of the larger soup size. Holts Landing and the Rehoboth Bay are the hot spots for clamming this week.

Till next week,  
Tight Lines and Fins Up



First fish alert! Sayah Cannaday from Baltimore, MD caught her first fish with this 9" flounder using white gulp while fishing on a boat out of Clarksville, DE. Congrats Sayah!

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# FIRST

## 2025

### *Fish of the Year*

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

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

To report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200 or email to [coastalfisherman@comcast.net](mailto:coastalfisherman@comcast.net)



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TALBOT STREET PIER • OCEAN CITY, MD





Karter Neary, Olivia Lopez-Pacheco, Luca Lopez-Pacheco, and Nora Lopez Pacheco reeled in this haul of Spanish mackerel while fishing the Fenwick Shoal. These young anglers fished on the “Lit Up”.

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;73" curved fork length 1 per vessel/day or trip 27" to &lt;73" curved fork length 1 per Charter/day or trip 27" to &lt;73" curved fork length 1 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 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](https://www.fishbase.org) & NOAA.gov





Angler Billy Mister, of Lewes, DE, landed this 9.5 lbs. flounder on Gulp. He was fishing over an ocean structure on the "Crown Jules." Pictured at Lewis Harbour Marina.



Luke Peternel, of Stevensville, MD, landed this 6-foot tiger shark off of Assateague Island. The shark was caught on tuna belly and was safely released.







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## HEADQUARTERS TWO TEAMS IN THIS YEAR'S TUNA TOURNAMENT



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Capt. Willie Zimmerman



**PLAYMATE**  
60 FT. CUSTOM CAROLINA  
Capt. Jeremy Shandrowski



**TURNIN' FINS**  
46 FT. OCEAN YACHT  
Capt. Jake Shaffer



**FINATIC**  
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Capt. Mark Malamphy



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# THE GALLEY

## For That Tournament Winning Bite

### Spicy Tuna Ceviche:

A fresh bite and the perfect appetizer.

#### Ingredients:

1 lb. fresh yellowfin tuna

Juice of 1 lime

Juice of 1 lemon

4 tbsp. minced sweet onion

1-2" piece of fresh ginger, chopped

½-1 small jalapeño, seeded and minced

2-3 tbsp. minced red bell pepper

2-3 tbsp. fresh cilantro, chopped

2-3 tbsp. fresh mint, chopped

Dash kosher salt

#### Directions:

1. Cut the fish into bite-sized pieces.

2. In a medium glass bowl, combine the citrus, onion, ginger and jalapeño; add the fish to this mixture and stir well.

3. Refrigerate for about 2 hours (stir periodically to ensure the fish is evenly coated).

4. Just before serving, drain the liquid from the fish. Add the red bell pepper, cilantro, mint and a dash of kosher salt; stir well and taste for seasoning.

5. Serve with tortilla chips,

crostini or plantain chips.

2 tsp. mustard

2 tbsp. light mayo

1 large egg

2 tsp. old bay

1/3 cup bread crumbs

¼ cup parsley



## For A Refined Flounder Feast

### Stuffed Flounder with Crabmeat:

We see all that flounder you've been reeling in—here's the perfect recipe to highlight delicate fish with savory crab stuffing.

#### Ingredients:

4 large flounder fillets

8 oz. crab meat

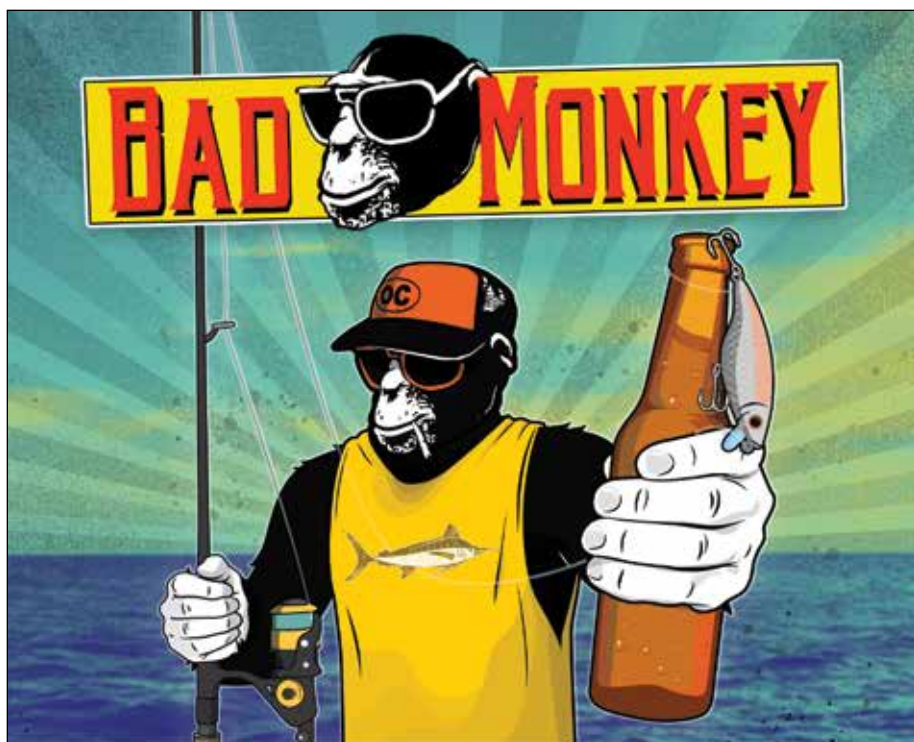
Juice of one lemon

#### Directions:

1. Mix together crab meat, mustard, mayo, old bay, egg, and bread crumbs.

2. Set the crab mix aside and prepare a baking sheet with a thin coating of olive oil. Place into an oven and set it to preheat to 400 degrees.

3. Take out your flounder fillets and dry them well with paper towels. You want your



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fish to brown on the baking sheet and not steam.

4. When the oven is preheated, pull the baking sheet and place your flounder fillets onto it. Lightly salt and pepper the fillets.

5. Top each with  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the crab mixture. Spray the tops of the fillets with cooking spray and put into the oven for 13-18 minutes (depends on thickness of fillet).

6. Garnish with parsley, fresh lemon slices and juice and serve.

### For A Quick Meal from Today's Fresh Catch

#### Crispy Parmesan Flounder Bites:

Golden, crispy, and packed with savory parmesan and ranch flavors – ready in just 30 minutes.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup Panko
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup grated parmesan
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp kosher salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp fine ground black pepper
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup all-purpose flour
- 3 tbsp. water
- 1 large egg
- 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. flounder fillets
- $\frac{2}{3}$  cup sour cream

- 1 tbsp. Plain yogurt
- 2 tsp ranch seasoning

#### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400F. Spray a baking sheet with cooking spray or line with parchment paper.

2. Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the panko and parsley to the pan and cook for 2 minutes or until golden brown; stirring frequently.

3. Combine the panko mixture, parmesan, salt, and pepper in a shallow dish.

4. Place the flour in another shallow dish.

5. Whisk the egg and water in another shallow dish.

6. Dredge the fish in the flour, dip in the egg mixture, and then dredge in panko mixture.

7. Arrange the fish bites on the baking sheet and bake for 12 minutes or until done.

8. In a small bowl, combine the ranch seasoning with the sour cream and yogurt. Serve with the fish bites as a dipping sauce.

### The Dolphin That Weighed In For The Tournament (And Dinner)

#### Pan-Seared Mahi Mahi with Pineapple Teriyaki Glaze:

Golden, flaky, and glazed in

tropical teriyaki.

#### Ingredients:

- 4 mahi fillets
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup pineapple juice
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup low-sodium soy sauce
- 2 tbsp. honey
- 1 tbsp. rice vinegar
- 1 tbsp. fresh ginger, grated
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 tsp cornstarch mixed with 1 tbsp. water
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup fresh pineapple chunks
- 1 tbsp. toasted sesame seeds
- 2 tbsp. green onions, sliced

#### Directions:

1. Pat mahi fillets dry and season both sides with salt and pepper.

2. Heat olive oil in a non-stick skillet over medium-

3. Sear mahi for 3-4 minutes on each side, or until golden and cooked through. Remove and set aside.

4. In a small saucepan, combine pineapple juice, soy sauce, honey, rice vinegar, ginger, and garlic. Bring to a boil.

5. Reduce heat and simmer for 3-4 minutes, then stir in the cornstarch mix.

6. Continue simmering until the glaze thickens to a syrupy consistency (about 2-3 minutes).

7. Stir in fresh pineapple chunks and simmer for 1 additional minute.

8. Spoon the glaze over the seared mahi mahi.

9. Garnish with sesame seeds and green onions. Serve immediately.

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### For Another Yellowfin Recipe, This Time With A Tropical Kick

#### Yellowfin Tuna With Spicy Mango Salsa:

Sweet heat and a winning catch.

#### Ingredients:

4 yellowfin tuna  
1 tbsp. fennel seeds  
1 tbsp. coriander seeds

1 tbsp. whole mixed peppercorns  
1 tbsp. sea salt  
Black pepper  
3 mangoes, ripe, peeled and cut into ¼ inch, diced  
1 medium red onion, peeled and cut into small cubes  
1 jalapeño, stemmed, seeds removed, and minced  
1 ½ tsp ginger, minced

1 tbsp. Sriracha hot chili sauce

¼ cup lemon juice

Salt and pepper, to taste

#### Directions:

1. In a large ceramic bowl combine the mangoes, onions, jalapeño, ginger, Sriracha, and lemon juice, and blend well. Season with salt and pepper. Use or refrigerate.

2. In a mortar, crush the fennel seeds, coriander seeds, mixed peppercorn, sea salt, and regular pepper together until all seeds are crushed. Place the rub on a plate, add the yellowfin tuna and coat them well on both sides.

3. Meanwhile, heat to high heat a non-stick skillet. Once the skillet is hot, rub some olive oil over the yellowfin tuna and place the oiled side into the pan. Sear on high for 1 ½ to 2 minutes per side.

4. Remove from the skillet when done: they should be pink in the middle, sprinkle more olive oil over it, and gently squeeze lemon over each tuna.

5. Spread some of the spicy mango salsa in the middle of the plate and place the yellowfin tuna over it.

### When You Need To Celebrate a Catch-And Sip Something Sweet

#### Strawberry Basil Margarita:

www.coastalfisherman.net

Sweet, herby, and ready to sip.

#### Ingredients:

½ pint fresh strawberries

½ cup blanco tequila

1.5 oz. Cointreau

1 lime, juiced

1 tbsp. honey

2-3 basil sprigs

Ice

Kosher salt

#### Directions:

1. Pour about ¼ cup of kosher salt onto a small side plate. Rub the juiced lime rhine around the edge of two rocks glasses, then dip each glass into the plate of salt to rim edges. Fill each glass with crushed ice or several ice cubes.

2. Place the strawberries, tequila, cointreau, lime juice and honey into a blender. Blend thoroughly on high until the strawberries are pulverized. Finely chop the basil and place into the bottom of a decanter or cocktail shaker. Muddle the basil to release the flavors and oils. Pour the blended margarita ingredients into the decanter along with the muddled basil and stir vigorously to incorporate. Pour into salted, iced glasses and serve immediately.

3. Pour about ¼ cup of kosher





salt onto a small side plate. Rub the juiced lime rhine around the edge of two rocks glasses, then dip each glass into the plate of salt.

4. Place the strawberries, basil, tequila, cointreau,

lime juice, honey and a few handfuls of ice (6-8 cubes) into a blender. Blend thoroughly on high until the strawberries, basil, and ice are pulverized. Pour into the salted glasses and serve immediately.



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# 21<sup>st</sup> Annual **KID'S CLASSIC**

**JULY 19-20, 2025**



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To Benefit the **WISH-A-FISH** Foundation

**REGISTRATION:** FRIDAY JULY 18 from 6:00 - 8:00PM

or Virtual Captain's Meeting available on the Club's website and Facebook page

**FISH 1 or BOTH DAYS:** JULY 19 and/or JULY 20

**LINES IN 6:30am • • LINES OUT 3:00pm**

**WEIGH-INS:** JULY 19 3:00-6:30PM • JULY 20 from 3:00-6:00PM

**CARNIVAL & AWARDS BANQUET** Sunday July 20 from 5:00-8:00pm under the Clubhouse

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Nicholas Mattera from Calvert County, MD caught his first flounder while fishing with his dad, Anthony Mattera. Nicholas was using 3" Gulp Mullet on a 3 way rig.



Kim Peck was out with Mike Maggs and used his brand new LHM Double D rod to muscle in this 39 lbs. golden tilefish, Awesome catch!



**UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!**

**21st ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC \***  
To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation  
Registration: July 18, 6:00-8:00pm  
Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 19 & 20  
Weigh-Ins: July 19, 3:00-6:30pm and July 20, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina

# TOURNAMENT SERIES

## — 2025 SCHEDULE —



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

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

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

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

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Despite reports of a tough day of fishing these four young anglers brought back three dolphin after their trip on the "Fishizzle".



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## The Magician

As I approached Miami International Airport, I reflected on my first trip to the Galapagos. It was 2009, and I had just visited a place I would fall in love with. I had caught my first fish on a fly—a beautiful striped marlin. I swam with turtles and hammerhead sharks. Sea lions befriended me and followed me around while snorkeling. I caught a 2 lb. wahoo—the proverbial wehoo. What an amazing trip. Now, just a two-hour layover in Miami and then home.

Uh oh. I misread my ticket. I have a nine-hour layover. I'm not getting a hotel for just a few hours! Who can I call to take me fishing?

After making a few calls, a friend set me up with a guy who told me to meet him at a bar called Mo Bar & Lounge. He would take me tarpon fishing all night and have me back at the airport in time to catch my flight. Well, this layover mistake just got exciting.

We sped out of the inlet, made a quick left, and stopped. My guide's name was Russell Kleppinger. I'd never heard of him, but I was grateful. I wouldn't be spending a few hours in an

overpriced hotel—and maybe I'd catch my first tarpon. He was a good dude, and the only evidence of his confidence came when I told him I'd never caught a tarpon. He smiled and said, "We're about to fix that."

Fifteen minutes into the evening, a freight train ate my bait. The silver king took to the air. I don't know if it was my imagination or if I really saw the moonlight reflect off those metallic, plate-sized scales—but that fish glowed like shiny sequins. Russell grabbed the leader, plucked off a scale, cut off a piece of fin, and stuck it in a saline-filled vial. He snapped a few photos, stood up, and said, "Now that that's outta the way, let me tell you about these prehistoric, majestic creatures."

I learned more about tarpon in the next twenty minutes than I ever knew, and the dissertation would have continued had another hungry tarpon not interrupted us—over and over and over again. At one point, as my semi-light action rod was doubled over and a second reel started screaming, Russell let out a big belly laugh and yelled out, "Hey all you folks on Collins Avenue, the real party is out here! You wanna dance? Come dance with the king of

the shoreline! Because the real party is right out here! Billy, why aren't you out on Collins Ave now, checking out the Latinas?"

I sheepishly answered, as if I were on the other end of the line with Jerry Maguire, "Because the real party is out here?"

"That's right, Billy!" Now we had three tarpon jumping, moonlight shimmering off their scales, Latin music carrying out to meet us from all the bars along the strip, and this dude I'd met an hour ago screaming, "Because the real party is out here!" We released all three fish and then set up to do it again. We released thirteen tarpon that night, ranging from 25 lbs. to well over 100.

That was my introduction to tarpon fishing—and to Captain Russell Kleppinger. For the next sixteen years, I've been trying to screw up flights just to spend another evening with "The Tarponator." I've followed the tarpon north to Haulover Inlet

[www.coastalfisherman.net](http://www.coastalfisherman.net) and south to Bahia Honda in the Florida Keys. Russell follows the tarpon. It's amazing—the various techniques we've used according to the size of fish we're targeting and the locations we're fishing.

Up until now, I've used this space to write about exotic locations around the world to fish. But this piece is about a guy who follows the fish he's obsessed with. He studies tarpon. Those little fin clips he took off my fish that first night? They were for a genetic sequencing study at the University of Miami. He has taught me more about a tarpon's eyeball than most guides will ever know about the fish itself.

My favorite place to fish for tarpon is in Marathon Key. The technique there is completely different from other locations where we target tarpon. It's even different depending on whether we fish during the day or at night. During the day, we drift crabs while moored under a bridge. When we hook up, we release the mooring and fight the tarpon away from the bridge. At night, we hunt for them using side-scan sonar, then cast at the fish. His subtle adjustments while fishing might go unnoticed—except that he's







teaching us the entire time he's adjusting.

The bonus? We're fishing in the Florida Keys. I love the laid-back Keys vibe compared to the traffic and expense of Miami. No matter where I meet Russell, I know he's going to give maximum effort, and we'll fish at the best possible time. How do you know when a guide wants to catch fish more than you do? When he tells me, "Let's meet at 11:00 p.m. and fish till 3:00 a.m." Why? Because that's when they'll be biting tonight. One would think he's caught enough. Why not just do the standard 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.? No, sir—we are fishing the tide. "See you at 11:00!" We caught eighteen that night.

One night, in between bites, he was telling my friend Kim Hermanowski and me about a new technique he was working on—catching swordfish on 20 lb. line during the day. Kim had never caught a swordfish and really wanted one—but she didn't want to just push a

button; she wanted to hand-crank a sword. We booked a couple of days to try to get Kim her sword. Kim is a cancer survivor, but because of her recovery medications, she has substantially weakened. So the thought of catching a sword on a 20 lb. line was daunting—but appealing.

The bonus was that part of Russell's bait presentation involved using Squidnation Otter Tails. On day two, Kim got the bite. What a thrill it was to watch her hand-crank a small sword to the boat for a perfect release—her first swordfish, on a Squidnation product, using a new method that Russell developed. The trifecta of a special fish!

Russell is for hire, but I'd suggest you book early during his high season. He tends to tarpon fish from Haulover Inlet to Government Cut from October to early April. Then he moves to Marathon Key from early April until the end of May.



For swordfishing, he prefers the calmer fall waters. If peacock bass or snook are on your bucket list, give him a call as well.

Now... How can I screw up my

next layover?

**Russell Kleppinger** can be reached at (786) 290-3474 or on Facebook and Instagram.



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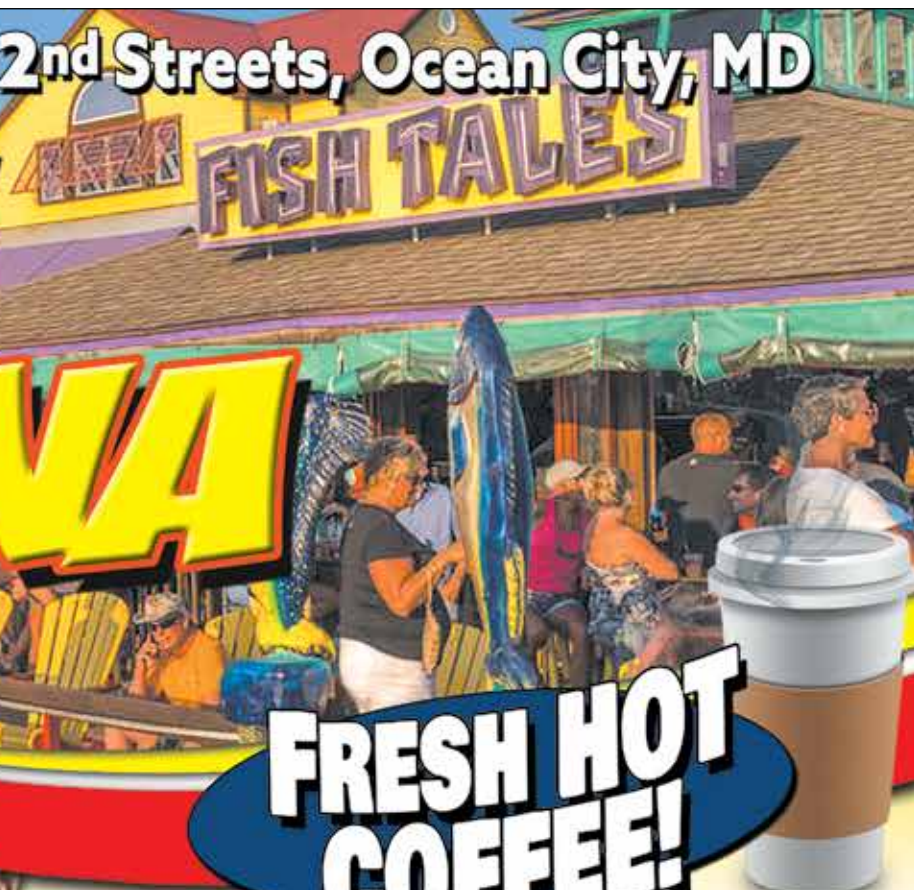
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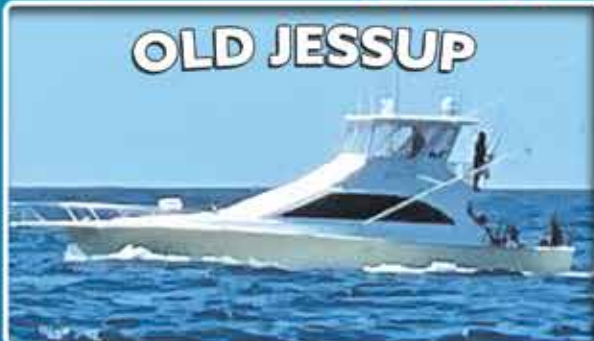
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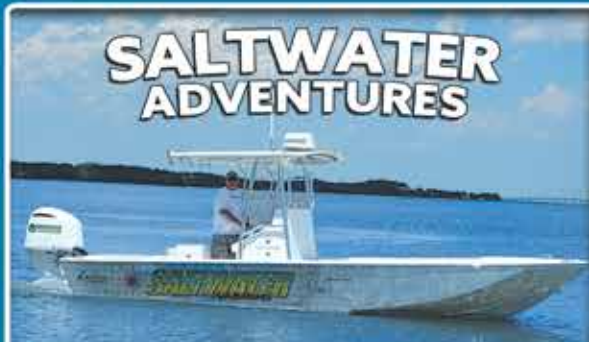
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While fishing on the “Reel Easy”, Jimmy Knepp III from Doylestown, PA caught this 28” Gator Blue Fish. Jimmy was using a green machine while trolling at the Jack Spot.



Dan Austill, of Reading, PA, was fishing with his father, Mike, when he landed this flounder. His catch measured 21” and weighed in at 3 lbs., 5 oz. They were fishing at the Rt. 50 Bridge using minnows.



# OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. JULY 16	High 12:17 am High 12:50 pm	Low 06:27 am Low 06:54 pm
THUR. JULY 17 Third Quarter	High 01:04 am High 01:47 pm	Low 07:15 am Low 07:57 pm
FRI. JULY 18	High 01:56 am High 02:51 pm	Low 08:06 am Low 09:03 pm
SAT. JULY 19	High 02:56 am High 04:00 pm	Low 09:00 am Low 10:11 pm
SUN. JULY 20	High 03:59 am High 05:07 pm	Low 09:58 am Low 11:18 pm
MON. JULY 21	High 05:02 am High 06:12 pm	Low 10:59 am Low -----
TUE. JULY 22	High 06:03 am High 07:13 am	Low 12:22 am Low 12:01 pm
WED. JULY 23	High 07:03 am High 08:10 pm	Low 01:19 am Low 12:59 pm

source: usharbors.com

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

Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high tide

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


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


Quinby Inlet, VA - subtract 6 minutes for high tide

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


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"Foolish Pleasures" with some tunas on the docks at Bahia Marina. Captain Dale Lisi reported that the tunas were tough to keep on the line but they managed to hold on to a few.



Mary Harshman caught this 20.5" flounder on a pink 4" mullet gulp bait in a 1/4 ounce jig head last night in West OC, which she followed up with a 17 1/2" using the same bait on the very next cast!



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The Lowry Family did some deep dropping and were rewarded with these blue line and golden tilefish. Their catch included three citation sized fish up to 19 lbs. Nice work everyone!

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> 8" minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day Charter</p>	 <p><b>BLACK DRUM</b> 16" minimum 1 per person/day up to 6 per boat/day</p>	 <p><b>COBIA</b> 43" minimum 1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/20 Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers</p>
 <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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## When Bilge Pumps Matter Most: The Unsung Heroes Of Boat Safety

Bilge pumps might not be the most glamorous piece of marine equipment, but when things go wrong on the water, they can make the difference between a safe return and a sinking ship.

Often overlooked until an emergency strikes, these pumps are a frequent source of service calls for marine technicians. Understanding how they work—and what they're designed for—is critical knowledge for every boat owner and captain.

## Keeping Water Out... Or At Least Under Control

The American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) defines a standard electric bilge pump as one "intended for control of spray, rainwater, and normal accumulation of water due to seepage and spillage."

In other words, bilge pumps aren't designed for full-on damage control—but they are often the first line of defense when water gets where it shouldn't.

A typical bilge system includes three parts: the pump, the plumbing, and the electrical wiring. When properly installed and maintained, these components can quietly and reliably manage everyday

water intrusion.

## A Matter of Flow

The danger of water intrusion increases dramatically depending on how far below the waterline the breach occurs.

For example, a one-inch hole just one foot below the waterline can allow 1,500 gallons of seawater to flood into a vessel per hour. A two-inch hole at two feet depth? That jumps to over 6,000 gallons per hour, according to "U.S. Navy Salvor's Handbook"

Compare that with a popular

electric pump, like the Rule 1500. Though rated for 1,500 gallons per hour in ideal conditions, real-world performance drops once you account for discharge hoses, elevation, and low battery voltage.

So while bilge pumps are excellent for controlling everyday water—from rain, spray, or a minor drip—they're not capable of keeping up with a major hull breach.

## Choosing the Right Pump

There's no one-size-fits-all solution. The right setup depends on the boat's design, the number and size of compartments, and the likely sources of water.

Most boats rely on submersible centrifugal pumps, which



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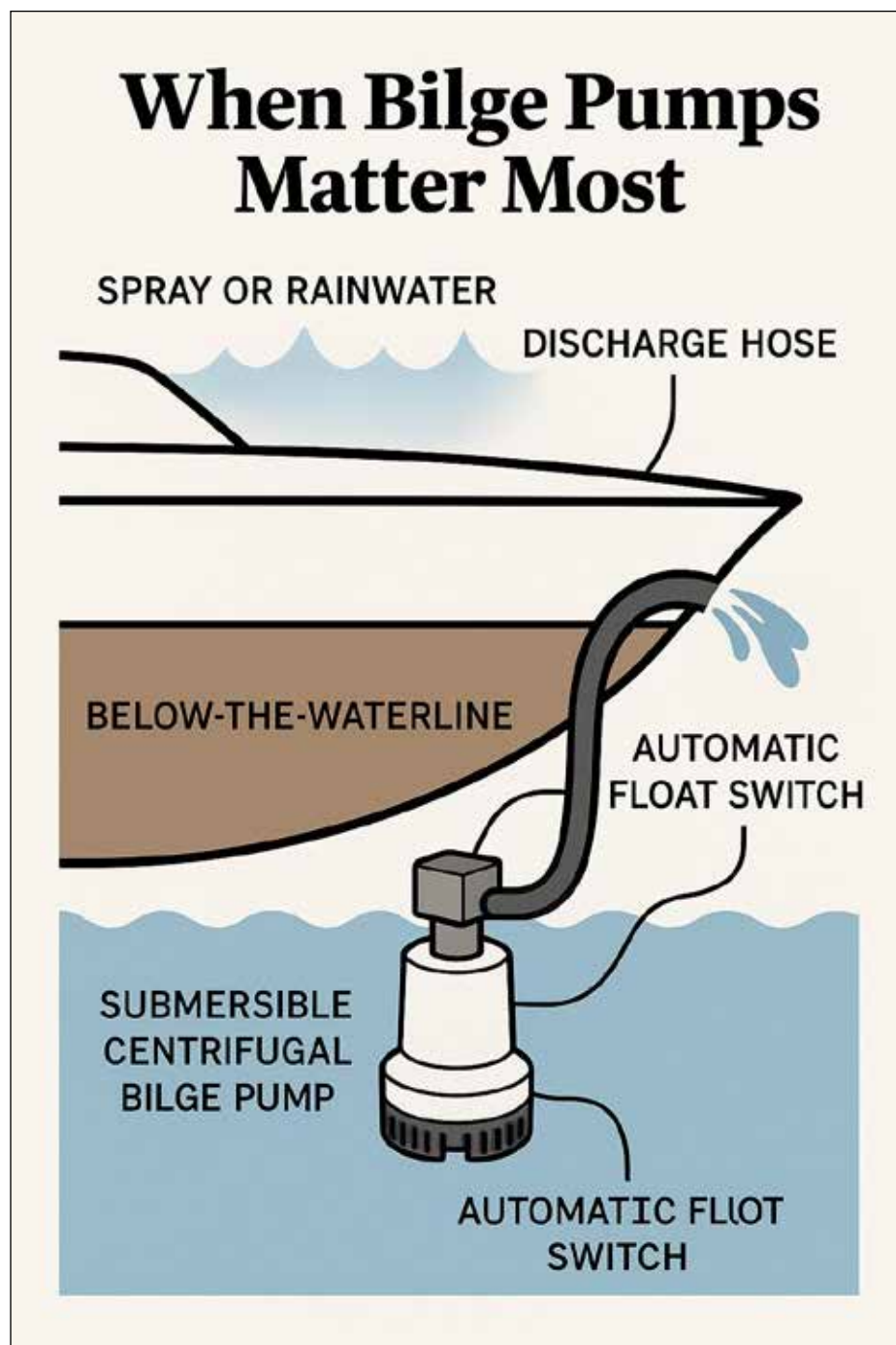




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are inexpensive and efficient. They sit low in the bilge and pump water out when triggered by a float switch or manual command. However, they do require a small amount of standing water to operate.

Diaphragm pumps offer a different approach. Mounted remotely with a hose that reaches the bilge, they can pump nearly dry—but tend to be more susceptible to clogging, and installation is more complex.

In rare cases, boats may also use impeller-driven pumps or manual pumps as backups. These offer strong suction but often require more care and regular maintenance.

### Installation and Upkeep

Like any system on board, a bilge pump setup is only as good as its installation.

Pumps should be placed in the lowest part of each bilge compartment, where water naturally collects. Discharge

hoses should be as straight and smooth as possible. Fuses or breakers need to be installed close to the battery, and all wiring should be marine-grade.

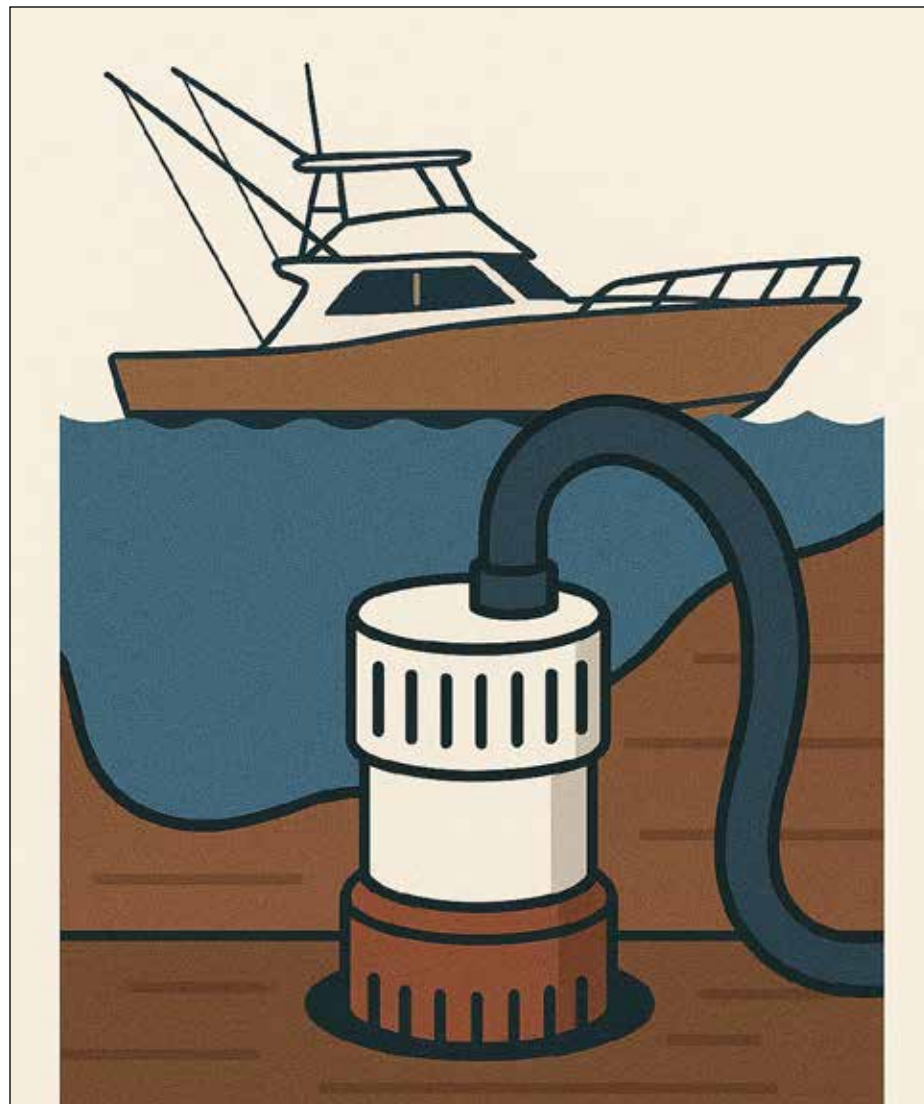
And don't forget the switches—install automatic float switches, but also provide manual controls at the helm in case something fails.

Regular testing is critical. A monthly checkup can catch clogs, low voltage, or mechanical wear before they become a problem.

### A Quiet Guardian Below Deck

Bilge pumps may not get much attention until they're needed—but when they are, they're the quiet heroes of the hull.

Make them part of your regular maintenance routine, and know their limits. Because when the water starts rising, you'll be glad your bilge system is ready to go.



Jay Betz from York, PA was fishing the West Channel when he caught this 22" flounder using a gulp and minnow combo. Jay was fishing with his dad, Dan Betz, on the "Rev-Er-Up".

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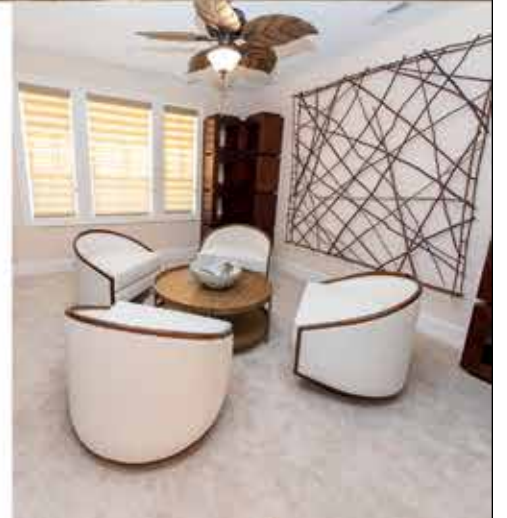
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Raymond Young used a bucktail to hook this 57.5" 63 lbs. cobia as it cruised past his boat while bottom fishing. Raymond takes the lead on the heaviest fish of the season for cobia.



Mario Marisa of Johnstown, PA reeled in the 20", 20.5", and 21" Flounder using Minnows with gulp at the OC inlet.

# MAKE THAT PHOTO A KEEPER!

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

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- Make sure the side of the fish is facing flat towards the camera
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- Be sure to SMILE 😊 Stone faces are bad luck for future fishing trips!

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Peyton Elder and Richard Hoenes (both from Baltimore, MD) managed to work their day jobs then find some inshore Mahi on a late afternoon troll. The pair were using ballyhoo rigged behind sea witch lures.

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Ocean City, MD



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



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Fish Mapping does not guarantee finding fish.

Photo credit: Paul Menzi.





Caleb Coghill from New Oxford, PA caught these 22" and 20" flounder on gulp at the African Queen wreck while fishing on "Something's Fishy".



Lamont Hilbert had a great day in Back Bay with these 3 keepers and lots of throw backs caught on gulp and minnows.

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This family had a great day aboard the "Ocean Princess", which has been having a great season of fishing so far, saying that they have had a string of successful trips and that there's also been no shortage of action, thanks to the steady presence of undersized sea bass keeping anglers busy throughout the day.



These two young anglers had a blast aboard the Miss Kathleen, each reeling in a catch to remember! Big smiles, great memories, and plenty of fish tales to tell!

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7-year-old Jackson Radke reeled in this 3ft Hammerhead Shark with the help of his Grandpa Ron Radke using live minnows on a deadly tackle double trouble pink at Kelly's Reef. Jackson and Ron are both from Ocean Pines, MD, and were fishing on "Ron's World". After taking this picture, the hammerhead was released back into the ocean.



Stephen Decatur Middle School honor student Joni Michalski from Ocean City is seen holding this 23.5" flounder caught by her father Captain Jeremy Michalski on the "Bound and Determined". This flounder was caught at Russel's Reef on strip bait.

# 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"	<b>SHARK:</b>			
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.	<b>TUNA:</b>			
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	1.5 lb. or 16"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"	40 lbs.
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	20 lbs.	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"	32"
Red Drum*	36"	45"	46"	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Sailfish*	Any Size	-	Any Size	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"	100 lbs. or 60"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	10 lbs. or 24"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	4 lbs. or 26"				
Speckled Trout	24"	-	5 lbs. or 24"				
Striped Bass	40"	44"	44"				
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	9 lbs. or 23"				

\* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program

\*\* DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release

\*\*\* Use curved-fork-length measurements

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Will Schindler and Richard Daiker caught these 6 flounder measuring up to 20.5" on bunker around the bridge.

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July 13-19 • Atlantic City/Sunset Marina •

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**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](http://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

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Congratulations to angler Seth Price, who reeled in his first Delaware sheephead of the season! Seth's catch measured 17 ½ inches. He was kayak-fishing the Indian River Inlet.

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OCEAN CITY

TUNA TOURNAMENT

2025 RESULTS

SINGLE LARGEST TUNA

1st- "Following Seas"	230 lbs.	\$411,335
2nd - "Elizabeth Ann"	216.5 lbs.	\$184,910
3rd - "Something Simple"	175.5 lbs.	\$61,500

HEAVIEST STRINGER WEIGHT

1st - "Fly'n Fish"	408 lbs.	\$357,460
2nd - "Sushi"	374 lbs.	\$58,430
3rd - "Leslie Ann"	353 lbs.	\$47,800

HEAVIEST MAHI

1st - "Hopper"	27 lbs.	\$55,200
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HEAVIEST WAHOO

1st - "Leslie Ann"	45 lbs.	\$130,320
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TOP LADY ANGLER

1st - "Amarulla Sun"	46 lbs.	\$2,000
2nd - "Tidal Search"	43.5 lbs.	\$1,500
3rd - "Take Em'"	41.5 lbs.	\$750

TOP JUNIOR ANGLER

1st - "Something Simple"	175.5 lbs.	\$1,000
2nd - "Absolut Pleasure"	51.5 lbs.	\$750
3rd - "Godzilla"	42 lbs.	\$500

BOATS 40' & UNDER

Single Heaviest Tuna - "Reel Moore"	\$24,300
Heaviest Stringer - "Charlie's Plunder"	\$24,300

BOATS 41' - 53'

Single Heaviest Tuna - "Chain Reaction/Hooper"	Included In Total
Heaviest Stringer - "Leslie Ann"	Included In Total

BOATS 54' & UP

Single Heaviest Tuna - "Following Seas"	Included In Total
Heaviest Stringer - "Fly'n Fish"	Included In Total

Total Prize Money

\$1,422,270

2025 Boats Entered - 111

Boats Days Fished

Day 1 - 69      Day 2 - 72      Day 3 - 82



While fishing on the “Amarula Sun” from Tarpon Springs, FL, Sharyn Craig was able to reel in these two Yellowfin, the heaviest of which (46lbs) placed her first in the Lady Angler category, winning the crew \$2,000



While fishing on the “Elizabeth Ann” out of Indian River Marina, Angler Will Hall brought in this 69.25”, 216.5 lbs Bluefin in the Washington Canyon using Ballyhoo, which was good for second place in the Single Heaviest category, awarding them \$184,910. Will was fishing with Captain Jim Bunting, Mate Dylan Wiley, owner of the boat Tom Healy, and friends Will Kennington, Tyler Tribbit, Ted Raberti, Niko Digs, and Matt Mudry.





Angler Charlie Carney was able to reel in this 27 lbs Dolphin while fishing on the "Hopper" out of the Ocean City Fishing Center with Captain Nick Merrill and Mates Joey Collins and Derrick Donahue. This fish won the Heaviest Mahi Category, which awarded the "Hopper" \$55,200. The crew also brought in five these five tuna.

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 <p><b>\$75,000</b></p> <p><b>2020 Pathfinder 2300 HPS</b> Yamaha VF250 SHO w/617 Hours Ameratrail Trailer Included</p>	 <p><b>\$299,000</b></p> <p><b>2023 Cobia 320 Center Console</b> Twin Yamaha 425XT0 w/ 55 Hours Yamaha Warranty Until 6/14/2031 - No Trailer Included</p>	 <p><b>\$239,500</b></p> <p><b>2020 Pursuit S288 Sport</b> Twin Yamaha F300 w/ 117 Hours, Tandem Axle Trailer Included</p>






Captain Jake Boltz and Mate Bill Woods along with their crew on the “Fly’n Fish” from Virginia Beach, VA, placed first in the Heaviest Stringer category with a total of 408 lbs over their two days of fishing, winning the crew \$357,460.


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“Sushi”, from the Oregon Inlet, NC, placed in second in the Heaviest Stringer category, winning them \$58,430. Captain Charley Pereira, Mates Marcus Burnett and Anglers Hunter Kurtz, and Anglers Adam Volz, Riley Mccabe, Michael Dacre, Brian Bentz, and Mike Bundy were able to reel in a total of 374 lbs of tuna during their two days of fishing.





Angler Ben Connolly reeled in this impressive 175.5 lbs Bigeye tuna while fishing on “Something Simple” from Ocean City, MD, with Captain Mike Cusimano and Mate Joe Vince Cusimano. This Bigeye was caught using Balyhoo in 78 degree waters, and won Ben the Junior Angler category, awarding the crew \$1,500.

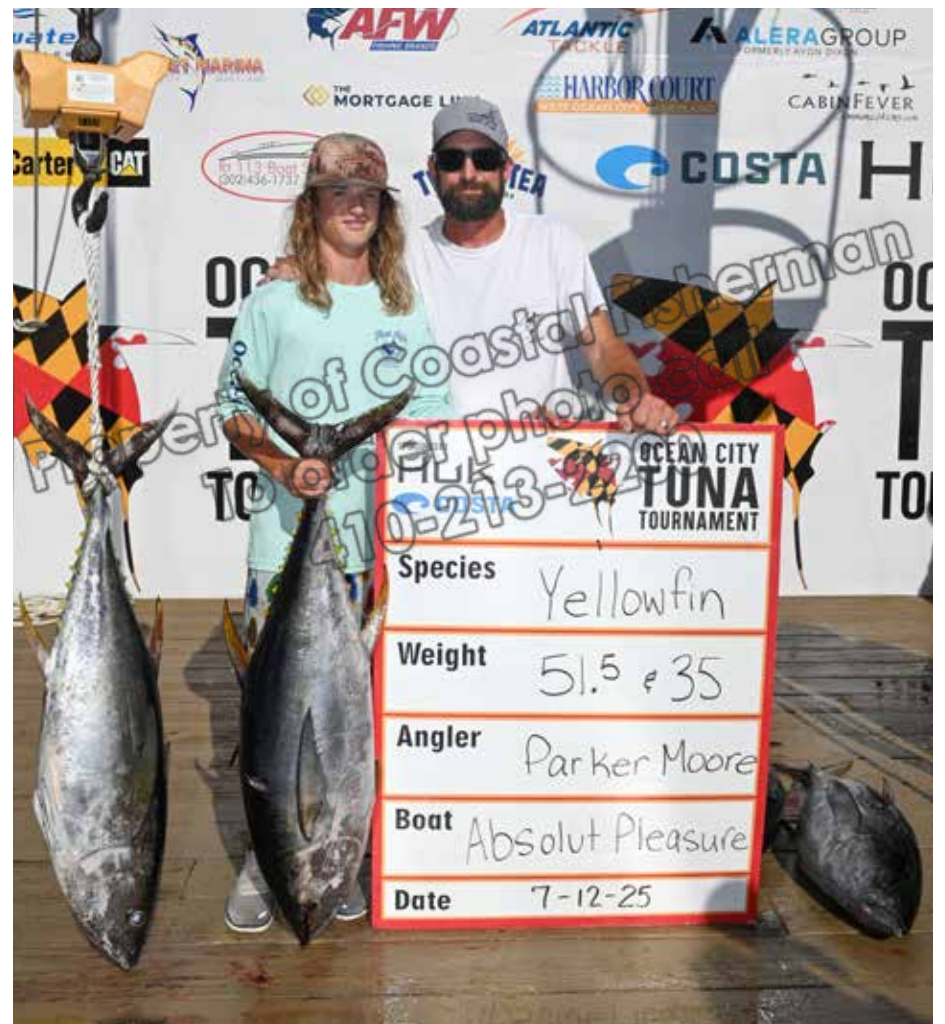


While fishing on the “Leslie Ann” from Ocean City, MD, Angler Allen Willey reeled in this nice 45 lbs Wahoo. Due to there being no qualifying Wahoo during last year’s tournament, the payout carried over to this year, which made this Wahoo worth \$130,320! Also on the boat was Capt. Mark Murphy, Mate Kyle Peet, and Anglers Mark Robbins, Todd Harrington, Mike Bradley, Hunter Hopkins, and Jonah Phen.





While fishing on the “Tile Search” out of Fenwick Island, Angler Emily Bracht reeled in this 43.5 lbs Yellowfin, which was good for 2nd place in the Lady Angler category, winning the crew \$1,500. Emily was fishing with Captain Scott Hardy, Mate Eamon Gallaghor, and Terry Brokovich.



Parker Moore caught these two nice Yellowfin while fishing on the “Absolut Pleasure” out of Ocean City, MD. The haviest tuna, which weighed in at 51.5 lbs, won Parker the Junior Angler category. This awarded the crew \$1,500. Also on the boat were Capt. Steve Moore, Mates Rich Hastings and Scottie Peltus, Jamie Romero Jr, Jamie Romero Sr, Bill Sherman, Gary Thron, Scott Peters, Parker More, and Matt Fogle.

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# VIRGINIA

## FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



The rain is slowing so it's time to get going. The weather should allow for a little more cranking and we need to take advantage of every chance we get to cast a line that might have a memory tugging on the far end!

The azul of the Atlantic has been the center stage for Eastern Shore action. The near shore wrecks and reefs, like Blackfish Banks and The Paramore reef, have proved to be populated with nice flounder just waiting to be dipped up. The most productive prescription for positive floundering, includes 1.5 to 4 ounce jigs tipped with 5 to 6 inch gulp curly tail baits in the colors of white, chartreuse, pink, and orange. Cut bait trailers like long strips

of squid and flounder belly are also enticing offerings to lure a fat filet into the frying pan. These jigs are best twitched over and around the structure in a high frequency motion for a waiting flounder to ambush.

While searching the near shore reefs keep a lookout for Cobia cruising amongst the many submerged structures that pepper the bottom off the Eastern Shore Barrier Islands. Once spotted, these bullish brown brutes can be tempted by casting a live eel or brightly colored jig within striking distance. And As long as we are talking about bullish fish, a big beautiful bronze bunch of reds were recently spotted just off the Assateague beach. While gifts like this are not common by

far, be aware of the potential possibility... it could be an exciting experience that you will never forget!!

The deep blue continues to cooperate with comparatively great pelagic pullage. Nearly all the activity has been confined to the canyons. Tuna and mahi have made up the bulk of the rod bending battles. Anglers have trolled sidewinders, daisy chains, and skirted ballyhoo to tease the tuna and mahi to the tip of the gaff. Purple/ black, pink/white along with the ol' standard blue/ white set the stage for a super charged struggle over the transom.

The sounds have been a little quieter as the summer doldrums dominate the Chesapeake chatter. However,













with the cloudy sunrises, the early morning bite holds strong with specs and rock surprising anglers with strikes on the surface that satisfy like a cool breeze just before a thunderstorm. Surface walking lures like the Lonely Angler and Rapala Skitterwalks have given a "spec" of hope to anglers who had previously thought that our troubled shallows were in metaphorical as well as lateral "hot water". While you cruise the Chesapeake keep a weather eye out for opportunities like shoaled reds and blues. All of which are prevalent and could provide a perfect addition to an already great time.

Yes, the temperature may be a little hot and the threat of a thunderhead is sure to be a bit unsettling. However, don't give up trying to enjoy the great opportunities for experiences that make us so lucky to live in this wonderful place that we call home!

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> 43" minimum / Only 1&gt;50" 1 per person/day • 2 per boat/day 6/15 - 9/20</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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