

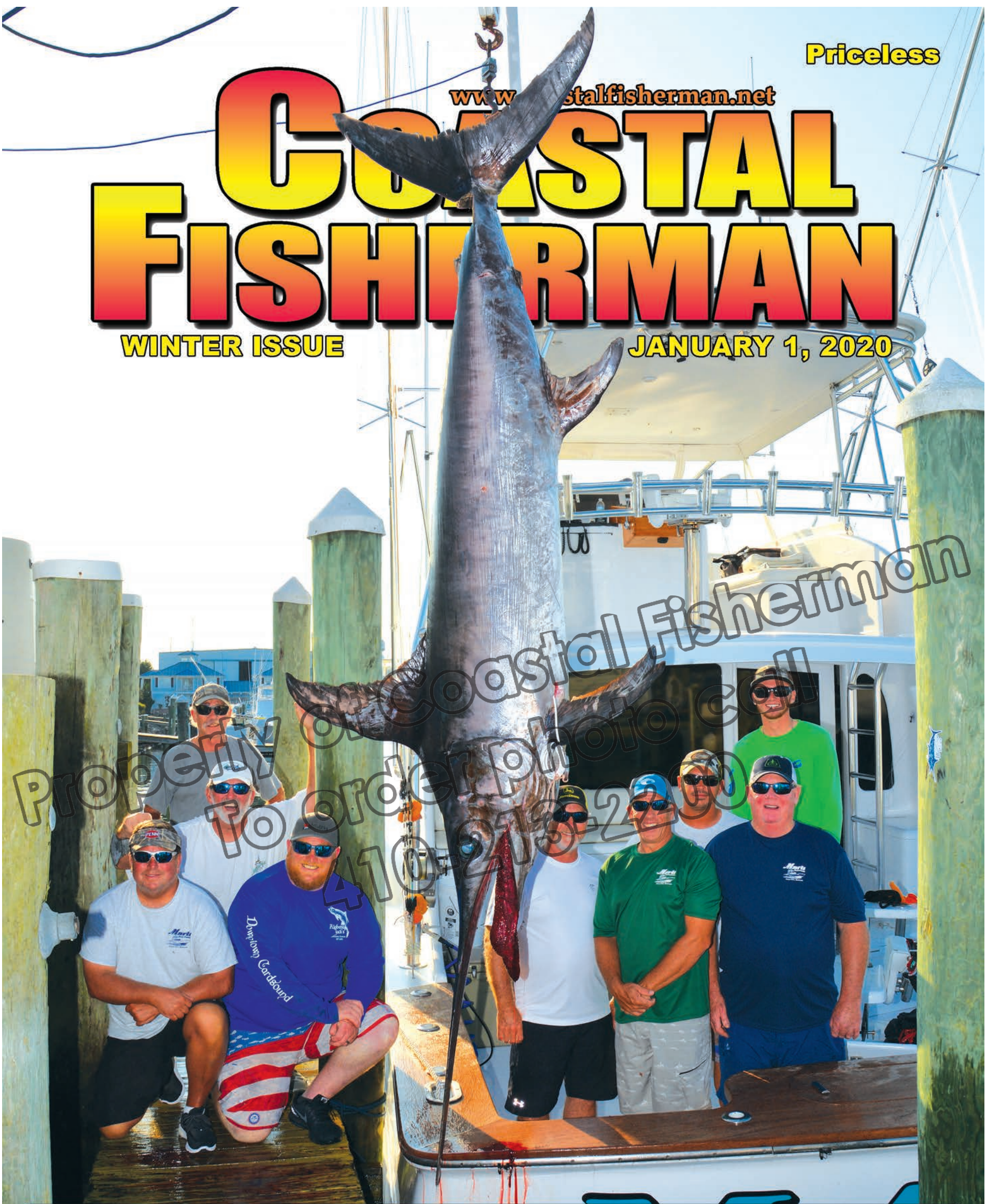
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# COASTAL FISHERMAN

WINTER ISSUE

JANUARY 1, 2020



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Swordfish fever has really hit the Delaware and Ocean City marinas with many caught fish caught this past fall in deep canyon waters. On this day, anglers aboard the "Marli" headed to the Baltimore Canyon where they fooled this 424 pounder with an eel during their second drop in 1,600 feet of water. Fishing with Capt. Mark Hoos and mates Josh Lowery and Dakota Bittner were Mike Bostic, Sr. Bob Schlenzig, Gary Fuss, Mike Bostic, Jr., Buddy Cahall and Cliff Wasser. Pictured at Sunset Marina.





In late November, Andrew Byler muscled in this 6 lb. 12 oz. flounder after hooking it on a bucktail at an ocean wreck. Andrew was fishing on the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mate Rich Fouts.



In mid-October, anglers on the "Hammer Down" deep dropped in the Wilmington Canyon and caught this 84-inch swordfish that was estimated to weigh 380 lbs. Pictured are Andrew Smith, Mike Freiji, Charlie Fiedler, Tony Freiji and Jackson Carter.

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 The advertisement features a central image of the fishing boat "Angler" with several people on deck. Surrounding this are smaller inset photos: a group of people on the boat, a man holding a fish, a woman holding a fish, and another man holding a large fish. A red starburst graphic contains the text "From FAMILY FUN to the AVID FISHERMAN!". At the bottom, there is a Facebook logo and a "Follow us!" graphic with a penguin icon.



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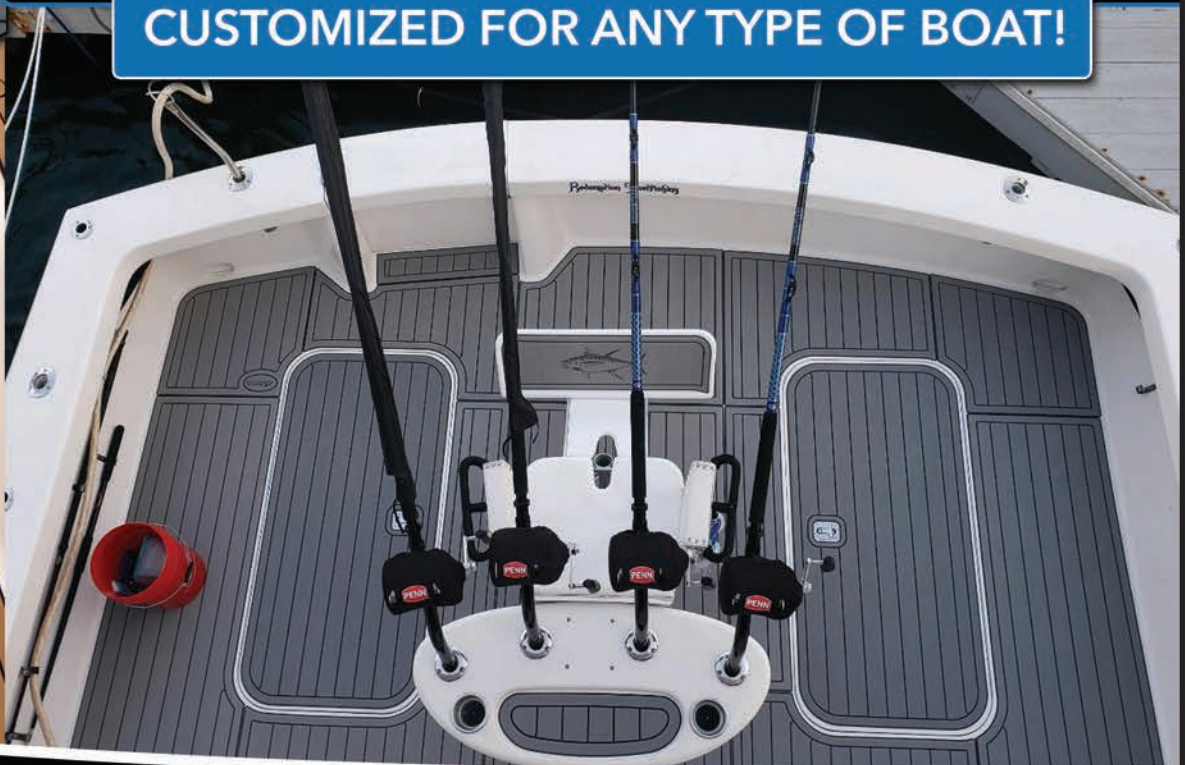
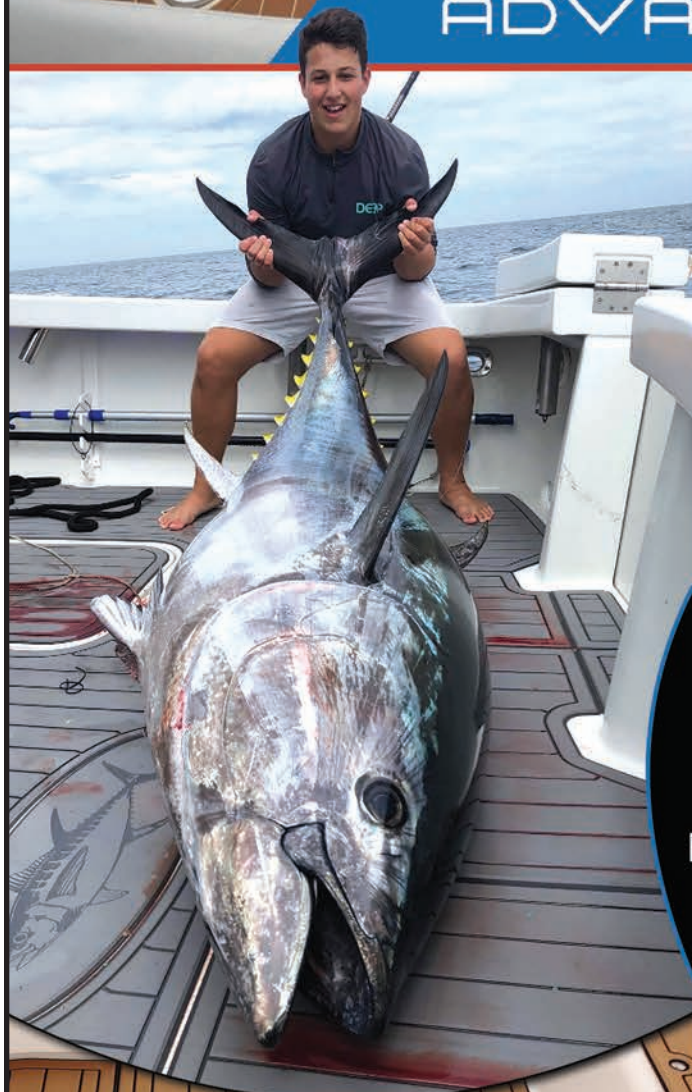
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In early December, Todd Meredith caught a pair of 13 lb. 5 oz. stripers and Bill Vernon added a couple more to the box that weighed 16 lbs. 11 oz. and 19 lbs. 11 oz. All four were hooked while trolling mojos and Stretch lures off the Indian River coast.



During a trip aboard the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley, angler John Niemiec caught this 9 lb. flounder while dropping a Gulp and strip bait combination on an offshore wreck.



While fishing in early November on "Gret's Three J's", anglers Dave Black, Scott Black, Tommy Cline, John Conrad, Kelly Bunting and mate John Griffith boated this 115 lb. swordfish and released a blue shark in the Poor Man's Canyon. The swordfish was fooled with a rubber worm.

An advertisement for a SunChaser pontoon boat. It features a photo of the boat on the water with several people on board. The text includes "Visit Us at the 2020 OC Seaside Boat Show Feb 14-16 BOOTH 206" and "8522 FISH-DLX". The SunChaser logo is prominently displayed.

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# 2019 Year in Review

## by Larry Jock



Following is a summary of the Fishing Reports in each weeks issue of the *Coastal Fisherman*. Issue dates are in **bold**.

**May 1, 2019** - Quite a few BIG tautog were caught in January when anglers experienced some of the best tog fishing in recent years... Rich Watts graced the cover with a couple of 5 lb. flounder caught out of Wachapreague, VA where early season flounder fishing was good... Spring was plagued with rainy and windy days... winter striper season was another dud... the best flounder bite was on the Thorofare flats... trolling outproduced drifting... bluefish and short stripers were caught around the South Jetty... smaller stripers were caught around the Rt. 90 Bridge... stripers were scarce for surfcasters, but some black drum were caught... IN DELAWARE - the flounder bite

was pretty good in the Lewes Canal, closer to Roosevelt Inlet... Broadkill Beach produced short stripers and black drum... tog were plentiful at Site 10, but throwback ratio was high... small bluefish were caught in the IR Inlet... a few keeper flounder were caught around the VFW Slough... bluefish and a few black drum were caught off the beach at Fenwick Island.

**May 8, 2019** - Flounder bite was good in the Thorofare and over the flats, but the throwback ratio was high (4-1)... white Gulp was the top producer followed by flounder belly... bluefish were the "Star of the Week" with fish caught in the bay and along the beach... most were snappers, but some measured up to 24-inches... schools of shad were found in the OC Inlet... big tautog were caught on green crabs in 40-feet of water... surfcasters off Assateague caught black drum and bluefish... stripers were

nonexistent... IN DELAWARE - flounder fishing in the Lewes Canal was very good, especially between the Yacht Club and Lewes Harbour Marina... flatties were also found in the VFW Slough, but shorties were numerous... a lot of bluefish were caught in the surf off Cape Henlopen... tog fishing was tough with a lot of throwbacks... black drum bite heated up off Broadkill Beach and at the Coral Beds... Broadkill Beach also produced some good size stripers... the bluefish bite was strong in the Indian River Inlet and off the beach around Indian River... black drum were also caught off the beach at 3R's Road and in front of Savages Ditch... schoolie stripers were found in the Fenwick Ditch.

**May 15, 2019** - Eddie Santiago caught a 20 lb. tautog on an inshore wreck in 50-feet of water... the bluefish bite continued to run strong in the bay and along the beach... most of the bluefish were caught around the Rt. 50 Bridge during the incoming tide... larger bluefish were caught off the beach on mullet rigs... flounder bite was hurt by dirty water, but the best bite continued to be in the Thorofare and over the flats... trollers still outproducing drifters... first red drum of the season was caught off Assateague Island... schoolie stripers were caught around the Rt. 50 Bridge... a 46-incher was caught on 10 lb. test line off the Oceanic Pier... a few black drum were caught off the beach while using clams for bait... first bluefin tunas of the year were caught in the Wilmington

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Canyon... other bluefins were caught in the Baltimore Canyon... dolphin were caught in 1,000 fathoms outside the Rockpile... IN DELAWARE - flounder fishing in the Lewes Canal was spotty... flounder were caught around the Cape Henlopen Pier... small bluefish and stripers were caught in the Canal with larger choppers around the Pier... small tautog were caught at the Outer Wall... short stripers and bluefish were caught in the IR Inlet... black drum were caught at the Coral Beds... a few keeper striped bass were caught off the beach at 3R's Road.

**May 22, 2019** - The first thresher shark was caught in 58.5-degree water at the Jackspot... the first mako shark was caught in 70-fathoms in the Wilmington Canyon... bluefish were numerous in the OC Inlet and around the Rt. 50 Bridge... a load of shad and small stripers were found around the Rt. 50 Bridge... the flounder bite spread out this week with fish caught from the Thorofare down to behind Assateague Island... small stripers were caught around the South Jetty... the black sea bass season started out strong with many boat limits caught in 120 - 150 feet of water... bluefins were snapping in 125 fathoms in the Wilmington Canyon... skippies and mahi were also caught in the Wilmington... IN DELAWARE - bluefish were caught from the beach in Fenwick Island and were thick in the Rehoboth Bay, Lewes Canal and off Herring Point... short stripers were numerous in the Fenwick Ditch... snapper bluefish and small stripers were caught in the IR Inlet... the best flounder bite was in the Indian River Bay near Buoy 5... the best sea bass bite was at the DelJerseyLand Reef and at the Dry Docks... most had better luck in 125-feet of water... the first weakfish of the season

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was caught in the Indian River Inlet on a chunk of clam... stripers were caught in the Cape Henlopen surf and off the Indian River Inlet Jetties on SP Minnows and swim shads... big schools of shad were seen in the IR Inlet... black drum were caught off Broadkill Beach and at the Coral Beds.

**May 29, 2019** - The first sheephead of the season was caught on a green crab at the South Jetty... the first yellowfin tuna were caught in 100 fathoms in the Poor Man's Canyon where water temperature was 68-degrees... bluefins and mahi were hooked in the Baltimore Canyon... several makos and threshers were released at the Fingers... black sea bass weren't found until you reached 150-feet of water... the first weakfish of the season was caught in the Thorofare... one was also caught by the South Jetty... short stripers, bluefish and sheephead were also caught around the South Jetty... flounder were hooked in the Thorofare and in the East Channel... larger bluefish moved into the bay and the bite centered around the Rt. 50 Bridge... IN DELAWARE - a lot of shad were

found in the IR Inlet and snapper bluefish were caught during the incoming tide on shad darts and spoons... black drum bite at the Coral Grounds was still going strong... kingfish were caught in the Fenwick surf... a few keeper size stripers were caught in the Indian River surf... flounder bite in the Lewes Canal was slow, but anglers kept busy with bluefish and weakfish... weakies were also caught at the Outer Wall and at DE Bay reef sites... big chopper bluefish were all over the bay.

**June 5, 2019** - A 553 lb. thresher shark was caught at the Fingers... the first white marlin was caught and released in 660 fathoms between the Poor Man's and Washington Canyons... a few blue marlin were hooked and lost near the 461 Lump and in the Baltimore and Washington Canyons... the dolphin bite was fantastic in all of the canyons with bigger fish coming from the Baltimore... a few yellowfins were hooked, but bluefins dominated the tuna action in the Baltimore Canyon... several makos were released in the canyons... sea bass fishing was good in 100+ feet of water... a couple of cobia were caught in



Daytime swordfishing was hot last fall and the crew aboard the "Magic Moment" had several good days including this trip when they captured a 144 lb. swordfish while deep dropping a bonita strip near the Wilmington Canyon. Fishing on the "Magic Moment" were Mike Freiji, Chris Daugherty, Brandan Barbey, Jim Barbey and Capt. Jim Bugg.

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In early November, Charles Wright jumped on the headboat, "Angler" and was rewarded with a 29-inch, 8 lb. 8 oz. flounder while dropping a bucktail on an ocean wreck. Capt. Chris Mizurak was at the helm and mate Rich Fouts worked the deck.

the surf... short stripers were plentiful around the Rt. 50 Bridge... weakfish were caught in the OC Inlet... good numbers of sheepshead were found at the South Jetty... dirty water hurt flounder fishing, but fish were caught on rigs with spinner blades in the Thorofare, East Channel and around the South Jetty.

**June 12, 2019** - The bigeye tuna bite was very strong in 500 fathoms between the Baltimore and Poor Man's Canyons where water temperature was between 69 and 71-degrees... a few yellowfins were also in the mix... mako sharks were hooked in Massey's Canyon and outside the Hot Dog... thresher sharks were caught near the Jackspot... the sea bass bite slacked off, but boats found better ocean flounder action around Site 11 and the Old Grounds... the bay flounder bite was slow, but the fish were FAT... best action was in the East Channel... flounder bite behind Assateague Island near the duck blinds improved greatly... all sizes of bluefish were caught around the Rt. 50 Bridge... a lot of sheepshead were caught around the South Jetty... snapper bluefish and sharks were caught

in the surf... IN DELAWARE - kingfish were caught in the surf off Fenwick on Fishbites and small bluefish ate small pieces of mullet... the Lewes Canal flounder bite was slow and the throwback ratio was high... the ocean flounder bite improved dramatically and the fish were larger than typically seen this time of year... weakfish were caught at the Walls and at various DE Bay reef sites... the black drum bite at the Coral Beds slowed down as bluefish moved in... short stripers and weakfish were caught in the IR Inlet... headboats out of Indian River found flounder snapping 10 miles off the beach.

**June 19, 2019** - Over the weekend, the yellowfin tuna bite was epic in 200 fathoms between the Washington and Norfolk Canyons... bigeyes were also in the mix and a few white marlin were released there as well... The bite shifted to the Baltimore Canyon after the weekend... the first blue marlin was released in 200 fathoms between the Washington and Norfolk Canyons... mako sharks were hooked in 500 fathoms south of the Washington Canyon... threshers were caught around

the Old Grounds... schoolie stripers were caught around the Rt. 50 Bridge and South Jetty... speckled trout were caught in the bay behind Assateague Island... dirty water hurt flounder fishing again, but the best bite was near the duck blinds behind Assateague Island... IN DELAWARE - short stripers dominated action in the Indian River Inlet... the flounder bite in the Lewes Canal really slacked off with a 5:1 throwback ratio... the black drum bite at the Coral Beds ended... weakfish, small bluefish and schoolie stripers were caught around the Walls... kingfish, sharks, skates and rays were caught in the surf.

**June 26, 2019** - Local boat, "Top Dog" won the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament with a 914 pounder... the exceptional yellowfin tuna bite continued in the Baltimore Canyon and moved to the Poor Man's and Washington Canyons by the weekend... bluefins popped up in Massey's Canyon... anglers on the "Blood Money" boated a 237 lb. bigeye tuna in 68-degree water in the Poor Man's... swordfish were caught in 1,200 to 1,700 feet of water in the Washington Canyon... black sea bass fishing was tough... stripers bit around the South Jetty... the flounder bite was spread all over the bays from the East Channel down to behind the OC Airport... the ocean flounder bite picked up at Sites 10 & 11 in addition to various locations around the Old Grounds... sheepshead were caught at the South Jetty... small bluefish and kingfish were hooked in the surf... IN DELAWARE - a 470 lb. thresher shark was caught near "B" Buoy... the flounder bite was good in the IR Inlet near the Coast Guard Station... a few weakfish and sheepshead were caught in the IR Inlet... bluefish dominated the surf action off Indian River... cobia were captured just off the coast of Bethany Beach... ocean flounder bite really improved at the Old Grounds... there was a good sea bass and flounder bite at the DelJerseyLand Reef... in the DE Bay, weakfish were caught at the Star Site Reef and at both Walls... the croaker bite improved along the southern side of the Indian River Inlet... small bluefish were caught at Fenwick Shoal.

**July 3, 2019** - The epic

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yellowfin bite slowed down, but most boats still returned with a handful in the box... many boats opted to stay inshore to catch bluefins in Massey's Canyon... yellowfins were mixed in with bigeyes and white marlin in the Poor Man's... anglers on the "Blood Money" had a great day in the Spencer Canyon where they caught 5 yellowfins, 3 bigeyes and released both a white and blue marlin... swordfish were caught in 1,200 fathoms in the Washington Canyon... boats in search of black sea bass have had to venture further offshore than normal... cobia were hooked by surfcasters and by anglers fishing inshore lumps... the flounder bite was good, but anglers had to hit many locations to catch their limit... White Gulp and Z-Man baits drifted in the East Channel and at the north end of Assateague produced solid catches of flounder... IN DELAWARE - flounder fishing was the brightest spot of the week with good bites at the Old Grounds and Site 11... fishing for black sea bass was the best at the DelJerseyLand Reef... tog season opened on July 1st... small bluefish, Spanish mackerel and triggerfish were found at Fenwick Shoal... triggers were also caught at the Ice Breakers in the DE Bay... spot and kingfish dominated around the Cape Henlopen Pier... good numbers of cobia were hooked along the coastline from North Ocean City up to Bethany Beach... small stripers were caught in the Fenwick Ditch... water temperature in the IR Inlet increased to 75-degrees and flounder fishing improved... headboats out of Indian River found flounder on ocean structure 7 to 12 miles off the beach... kingfish, small weakfish, pompano and sharks were caught off the beach.

**July 10, 2019** - Great week of fishing!... yellowfins were caught between the Baltimore and Wilmington Canyons... a 52.4 lb. dolphin was caught in 30 fathoms in the Washington Canyon... the dolphin bite has been outstanding... white marlin were hooked outside the Poor Man's and in the Baltimore... blue marlin and bigeye tuna were released in the Baltimore... "No Quarter" returned with 4 bigeyes from the Baltimore... the



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class of yellowfin improved greatly highlighted by the 88.2 pounder caught in the Baltimore... mako sharks were released in the Poor Man's Canyon... black sea bass bite was horrible with marks thick on the sounders, but fish just weren't eating... a 10 lb. 10 oz. flounder was caught at the Old Grounds, but overall it was a frustrating week for flounder fishing... red drum were surprisingly caught at the Great Eastern Reef... flounder fishing in the bay behind OC really turned on, especially behind Assateague Island... larger flatties were caught along the wall at the East Channel... big bluefish, weighing up to 14 lbs., roamed the waters around the Rt. 50 Bridge... IN DELAWARE - spot were plentiful around the Cape Henlopen Pier... croakers were caught along the south side of the IR Inlet... kingfish and weakfish were caught on DE Bay structure... the DelJerseyLand site continued to be the best spot for sea bass, but the bite was tough... Spanish mackerel and snapper bluefish were found at Fenwick Shoal... the surf off Lower Delaware contained a variety of fish

including kingfish, pompano, cobia, spot, bluefish, sharks and rays... Spanish mackerel were also caught in the Fenwick Ditch and the Indian River Inlet... flounder fishing was good in the IR Inlet with good success coming on Gulp Pink Shine... a 372 lb. thresher shark was caught at "B" Buoy.

**July 17, 2019** - Bluefin action centered on the Massey's Canyon, 19 Fathom Lump and Lemke's Canyon areas... bluefins took all 3 of the top single fish spots in the Ocean City Tuna Tournament... anglers released white marlin in the Baltimore Canyon during the week and shifted to south of the Norfolk Canyon (98 miles from OC Inlet) during the weekend where yellowfins were also found... a 109 lb. wahoo was caught in 30 fathoms in the Poor Man's Canyon... other big speedsters were hooked in the Baltimore Canyon... Great white sharks were seen at Winter Quarter Shoal... swordfish were caught in 1,400 feet of water outside the Baltimore Canyon... the bay was loaded with peanut bunker... flounder fishing was very good by the duck blinds behind

Assateague Island... the deep holes in the West Channel also produced good catches of flatties... a few weakfish were caught in the OC Inlet and around the South Jetty... several cobia were caught by Winter Quarter Shoal.

**July 24, 2019** - Cobia were caught along the coast from the Indian River Inlet south to Great Gull Shoal... white marlin were released in the Baltimore Canyon and in 1,000 fathoms outside the Poor Man's Canyon... tuna fishing in the canyons was slow with water temperatures ranging between 80 and 85-degrees... early in the week, yellowfins were caught by the 800/800, but moved to the Baltimore Canyon during the weekend... blue marlin and a few wahoo were caught in 800 fathoms in the Baltimore Canyon... the dolphin bite continued to be spectacular in several canyons... flounder fishing on ocean structure was good in 75 to 100-feet of water... divers reported water temperature at 48-degrees on the bottom... black sea bass fishing continued to be inconsistent... large schools of Spanish mackerel were found just outside the OC

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Inlet... triggerfish were plentiful at Winter Quarter Shoal... flounder fishing in the bay was excellent, especially on live spot in the East and West Channels... bluefish, Spanish mackerel, pompano and stripers were caught around the Rt. 50 Bridge.

**July 31, 2019** - Jeff Wright set a new, short-lived MD State Record for dolphin with a 74 pounder caught in 300 fathoms in the Poor Man's Canyon... "Pumpin Hard" caught a 455 lb. blue marlin in 250 fathoms in the Poor Man's Canyon to win the Big Fish Classic... many white marlin were released in the Poor Man's Canyon and some were hooked at the northeast corner of the Wilmington and down by the Rockpile... blue marlin were also caught in the Washington and Wilmington Canyons... the dolphin bite continued to be incredible with several weighing over 30 lbs. caught in the Poor Man's... anglers dealt with a lot of short flounder while fishing in the bay with the best bite coming in the Inlet and behind Assateague Island... flounder fishing on ocean structure was tough with headboats having to hit many areas to reach some



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See website for details at [cedarcreekmarinecenter.com](http://cedarcreekmarinecenter.com)







On November 2nd, Jeff, Jon and Robert Hartman were fishing in the Poor Man's Canyon aboard the "De-Bait-Able" when they caught a 60-inch bigeye tuna that they estimated at 120 lbs. Water temperature was 62-degrees.


limits... bluefish were caught in good numbers around the Rt. 50 Bridge... the sea bass bite continued to be inconsistent with marks showing up thick on sounders, but the fish just wouldn't bite... cobia were quietly caught around Little Gull Shoal... Spanish mackerel were found at Fenwick Shoal and Little Gull Shoal... king mackerel were caught at the Bass Grounds... IN DELAWARE - the flounder bite was steady in the Lewes Canal where anglers also found a good number of spot... small weakfish and slot stripers were hooked near the Roosevelt Inlet... in the DE Bay, kingfish, bluefish and triggerfish were found on various pieces of structure and big flounder were caught at Site 8... flounder were thick in the IR Inlet, but most were short... the best flattie bite was around the Coast Guard Wall and the Handicap Pier... keeper striped bass were caught during the daytime by the bridge... kingfish, pompano, bluefish, croakers and flounder were caught in the surf... the Spanish mackerel bite at Fenwick Shoal died off... tuna were seen busting the water around "B"

Buoy... others saw tuna on the surface only 5 miles off the beach... cold water on the bottom seemed to hamper ocean flounder fishing... triggerfish were hooked in the IR Inlet, at Fenwick Shoal and at the Ice Breakers while using clams for bait.

**August 7, 2019** - This year, 404 boats entered the White Marlin Open and competed for over \$6,186,870... good billfish action in 1,000 fathoms outside the Baltimore Canyon... early in the week, billfish were caught around the Rockpile... 112 lb. yellowfin was caught outside the Baltimore... another 100 pounder was also caught in the Baltimore... outside of the big yellowfin, it was not a good week for tuna fishing... dolphin were caught in all the canyons and the average size increased... the ocean flounder bite was sub-par and scattered... inshore lumps produced Spanish mackerel and bluefish for anglers trolling spoons... cobia were caught along the coast from Indian River down to Little Gull Shoal... a 63 lb. cobia was caught at Great Gull Shoal... in the bay, flounder fishing was good in the East

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Channel and in the Thorofare... started to see flounder being caught around the South Jetty... flounder, striped bass and bluefish were caught around the Rt. 50 Bridge... croakers still a no-show... IN DELAWARE - flounder fishing improved greatly in the IR Inlet especially with live spot near the Coast Guard Wall... bluefish were caught in good numbers during the incoming tide... stripers, triggerfish and sheepshead were caught along the rocks in the IR Inlet... headboats out of Indian River found flounder 10 to 16 miles off the beach... kingfish and small bluefish were in the surf... slot stripers were caught in the Lewes Canal... DE Bay was filled with croakers and spot... triggerfish were found at the Walls... sea bass were still being caught at the DelJerseyLand Reef... anglers deep dropping squid in the Washington Canyon found a good tilefish bite.

**August 14, 2019** - "Fish Whistle" won the White Marlin Open with a 72-inch, 79.5 lb. white marlin caught in the Wilmington Canyon, winning them \$1,504,719... white marlin releases in the tournament



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doubled versus 2018... white marlin were hooked primarily in the Wilmington and Spencer Canyons... blue marlin were caught in the Washington... the winning tuna was a 201 lb. bigeye caught in the Wilmington... yellowfins were caught in the Baltimore... a 91 lb. wahoo was caught in the Wilmington... dolphin were plentiful in all of the canyons... "Big Deal" released 28 white marlin during their 3 days of fishing... a good number of cobia were caught around Little Gull, Great Gull, Fenwick Shoal and off the coast of Bethany Beach... big king mackerel showed up at the Bass Grounds... ocean flounder fishing was better than in the bay... top bay flounder spots were the Thorofare, South Jetty and East Channel for anglers drifting live spot and mullet... keeper striped bass were caught around the Rt. 50 Bridge... big sheepshead were caught at the South Jetty.

**August 21, 2019** - Kristy Frashure caught a 74.5 lb. dolphin to set a new Maryland State Record (and possibly a new IGFA World record)... Kristy hooked the bull dolphin in 1,200

fathoms behind the Poor Man's Canyon... good size yellowfin tuna were also caught in the Poor Man's... 925 lady anglers participated in the Poor Girls Open... wahoo were caught in the Washington Canyon... white marlin releases were recorded just north of the Poor Man's and in the Baltimore... anglers on the "Triggerfish" returned with a 437 lb. swordfish caught in 1,400 feet of water between the Washington and Norfolk Canyons... bigeyes were caught in the Wilmington... the incredible cobia bite continued along the coast... a 72 lb. cobia was caught off Bethany Beach... barracuda and bluefish were found at the Jackspot... sea bass fishing was the best in 90-feet of water... sheepshead were caught around the South Jetty... the East Channel and the Thorofare were top spots for bay flounder fishing... a surprisingly good number of pompano were caught in the surf... IN DELAWARE - for the second year in a row, a flounder under 10 lbs. won the Paradise Grill Flounder Pounder... flounder fishing was decent in the Lewes Canal but slot stripers disappeared... a few triggerfish

were caught around the Walls... croakers were all over the DE Bay and in the Shipping Channel... flatties were snapping at the Star Site Reef and Sites 6 & 8, but the best bite was at McCrie Shoal off Cape May, NJ... Spanish mackerel, king mackerel and dolphin were caught on the troll around the 19 Fathom Lump... good sea bass action was found at the DelJerseyLand Reef... the Indian River and Rehoboth Bays were loaded with spot... flounder fishing improved along the rocks in the Indian River Inlet... triggerfish and sheepshead were caught off the IR Jetty.

**August 28, 2019** - Ocean City anglers took 84% of winnings in the MidAtlantic Tournament... a record 73 blue marlin were hooked in the tournament... 487 white marlin were released during the tournament... "Haulin n Ballin" finished an amazing summer season season with a 1st place finish in the Blue Marlin Division by catching a 630 pounder on the final day... "Stalker" caught a pair of bigeyes in the Washington that weighed 207 and 226 lbs. to take the top 2 spots in the Tuna Division... wahoo were caught in the Poor



Heading to the Outer Wall in the Delaware Bay was a smart move by Mike Thompson who caught this 3 lb. 6 oz. black sea bass. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



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Some mid-December tautog fishing was on the minds of Dave Morin, Jeff Powell and Capt. Nick Clemente so they took the charter boat, "Get Sum" out to the South Jetty where they picked up 5 while using green crabs for bait. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center in West Ocean City, MD.

Man's and Washington Canyons... the amazing dolphin bite continued... cobia were caught at Little Gull and Great Gull Shoals... Spanish mackerel were also caught at Great Gull... inshore flounder action was frustrating, but the best bite was at the Old Grounds on bucktails... black sea bass were inconsistent... small dolphin were plentiful not far off the beach at Great Gull Shoal... the bay flounder bite was hampered by poor weather, but fish were caught in the Thorofare... IN DELAWARE - flounder fishing in the IR Inlet was decent with fish caught weighing up to 6 lbs... the best flounder bites were near the Coast Guard Wall and around the Bridge... bluefish were caught in Massey's Ditch... Fenwick Shoal held bluefish and Spanish mackerel... small dolphin were caught in good numbers from "A" Buoy to the Delaware Lightship and around the pots near "B" Buoy... flounder were caught in the Lewes Canal near the Roosevelt Inlet... the DE Bay was loaded with snapper bluefish, kingfish, and increased numbers of weakfish... the triggerfish bite

was excellent at the Haystacks... pompano were still biting in the suds off Fenwick Island.

**September 4, 2019** - Most of the billfish and dolphin action centered on the area outside the Rockpile and in the Poor Man's Canyon, but some marlin bites were also found in the Wilmington and Norfolk... several sailfish were released by the Rockpile and in the Poor Man's... the best blue marlin bite in years continued into this week with releases in the Poor Man's and Washington Canyons... swordfish were caught in 1,200 fathoms south of the Poor Man's and in the Norfolk... wahoo were captured outside the Hot Dog, around the Sausages and in the Poor Man's... inshore flounder fishing continued to be sporadic with the best bite in 90-feet of water... bluefish, Spanish mackerel, flounder, bluefish, false albacore tuna and mahi were caught at the Jackspot... cobia were hooked at the Fingers and along the Fenwick Island coastline... big bluefish, striped bass and flounder were caught around the Rt. 50 Bridge... flounder fishing in the bay was spread out and depended on

finding clean water... the best bite was in the East Channel... tautog were caught around the South Jetty and along the rocks in the West Channel... bluefish, kingfish, flounder stripers and sharks were caught in the surf.

**September 11, 2019** - The effects of Hurricane Dorian were felt along the Delmarva coast, putting a damper on fishing... flounder fishing in the bay was decent in the East and West Channels and around the South Jetty... before the bad weather moved in, the ocean flounder and sea bass bites were excellent with flounder fishing the best in 115-feet of water... big wahoo were captured in the Poor Man's Canyon... dolphin and white marlin were hooked south of the Rockpile before the blow and switched to between the Wilmington and Baltimore Canyons over the weekend... the dolphin bite was insane in the Baltimore and Wilmington Canyons... IN DELAWARE - good sea bass fishing was found at the DelJerseyLand Reef... ocean flounder fishing picked up at the Old Grounds... bluefish dominated the action in the surf... the flounder bite in the IR Inlet was as good as it's been this season with a lot of 3 to 5 pounders caught in the Inlet... the sheepshead bite around the Outer Wall was outstanding... headboats found flounder, triggerfish, bluefish, sea bass and croakers 8-miles off the beach.

**September 18, 2019** - Bad weather continued to negatively impact fishing, but dolphin fishing was still incredible with huge catches coming in from the Baltimore Canyon... white and blue marlin were released in the Baltimore... white marlin were also released in the Poor Man's... good size yellowfin tuna were caught in the Baltimore... the black sea bass bite turned on in 100+ feet of water with headboats returning with limits of knotheads... in the bay, water clarity wasn't very good, but flounder were caught in the East and West Channels... sheepshead were caught in good numbers around the South Jetty with fish up to 13 lbs. hooked on crabs... IN DELAWARE - flounder fishing was good in the Lewes Canal, especially near Roosevelt Inlet... sheepshead and triggerfish were caught at the Walls and along the rocks at

Brandywine Shoal Lighthouse... some DE Bay reef sites were holding weakfish... the bluefish and small striper bite was good in the Fenwick surf... in the IR Inlet, anglers caught small stripers at night and bluefish and Spanish mackerel during the day... short tog were hooked on crabs along the rocks... black drum, pompano, triggerfish, sea bass and bluefish were caught on inshore lumps... headboats out of Indian River ran 10 miles off the beach to find good flounder fishing... flatties were caught at the Old Grounds and on the west side of "A" Buoy.

**October thru December** - After the effects of Hurricane Dorian blew through the area, the black sea bass bite really turned at the end of September... sheepshead continued to be caught in good numbers around the South Jetty... the state will be cracking down on sheepshead and instituting a 4 fish per person limit in 2020... flounder fishing was pretty good through mid-October with bay flounder caught around the Rt. 50 Bridge on live spot and bucktails... On October 30th, Mike Glyphis caught a 5.6 lb. triggerfish at the "Washingtonian" wreck to set a new Maryland state record... daytime swordfishing dominated the offshore action in October and November with numerous fish caught in 1,200 to 1,600 feet of water, mainly outside the Baltimore and Poor Man's Canyon... On November 9th, the crew on the "Hammer Down" went 9 for 13 on swordfish in a single day with the largest tipping the scale at 250 lbs.... bigeye tuna were caught right through the last week of November... wahoo and yellowfins were caught outside the Hot Dog in late September... white marlin and dolphin were caught right through the end of September in the Wilmington and Baltimore Canyons... speckled trout were biting around the Rt. 50 Bridge in early November... in mid-November the tautog bite around the rocks in the West Channel heated up... large schools of bunker were seen off the coast during the 3rd week in November, but stripers never showed up in force until the very end November... around December 7th, the striper bite improved greatly along the coast, especially off Delaware.



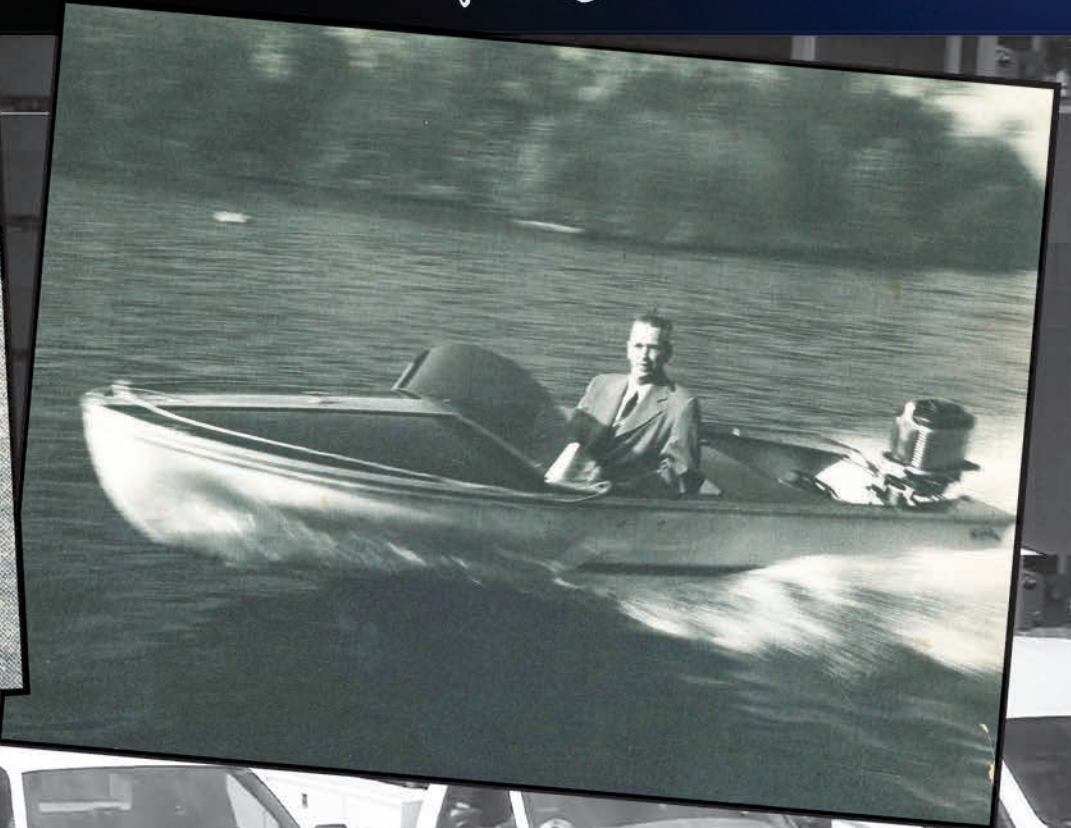
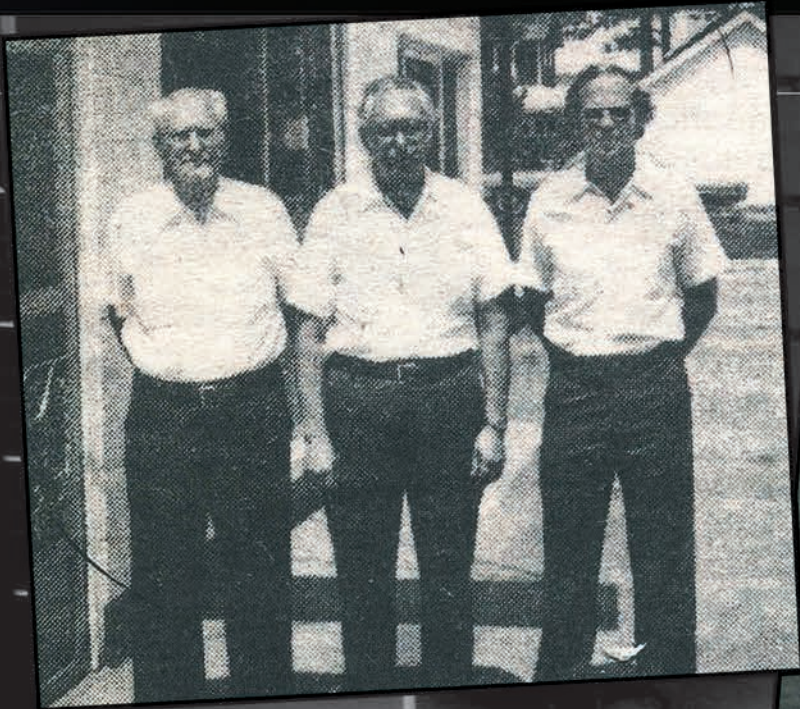
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Roger Guderian took a trip on the headboat, "Judy V" and was rewarded with a pair of nice triggerfish. The largest trigger tipped the scale at 4 lbs. 11 oz. at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Mark Brown was fishing on the charter boat, "Grizzly" out of Lewes, DE when he caught this huge, 13 lb. 4 oz. sheephead while soaking sand fleas on a Delaware Bay reef site. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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While fishing in 1,500 feet of water in the Poor Man's Canyon, Robert Remo, Eric Thibodeau, John West and Paul Daisey captured this 280 lb. swordfish during a trip aboard the "Black Magic".



Luke Wingate jumped on the migrating striper bite in early December and caught this 45-incher while trolling mojos along the coast off Bethany Beach, DE. Luke was fishing on the "Blu Bye U" with Del Baker.

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# CHUM LINES

by Capt. Mark Sampson



When I was in my twenties I made a decision to leave a secure job, buy a boat and go full time into the charter fishing business. At the time, I anticipated the long hours and sometimes grueling work that would be needed to keep a boat booked and running every day, but I never imagined some of the unexpected and just plain "weird" things that would happen in the years ahead.

## Fishing For Deer

One beautiful October morning, we were trolling for bluefish about 9-miles offshore when I noticed something floating just barely above the surface. As we trolled past it my mate looked up and asked, "Is that a dead deer?"

"It sure is," I squawked, "get the lines in and we'll stop on it and try to figure this out." When we pulled up we could see the 6-point buck looked to be in pretty good shape, so when one of our clients asked if they could get a picture with it just for fun, I didn't see a problem with hauling it aboard for a short photo session.

Once on deck we had the

chance to inspect the animal more closely in hopes of finding some kind of clue as to how it ended up being where it was. Probing around we found no evidence of broken bones, bullet or arrow holes and when we pushed on the ribs and water came out its mouth we assumed that it must have drowned. Just out of curiosity I cut into a hind quarter and was surprised that the meat didn't stink or have any signs of spoilage at all. I had never used a fillet knife to skin a deer before, but I did that day! The whole time we all expecting to find something or "anything" that would tell us not to bring the meat home with us, but the more we cut the more we concluded that there didn't seem to be a thing wrong with it, so, you guessed it, besides the fish we caught that day, we brought home a cooler full of venison as well! Oh yeah, and in case you're wondering - it tasted just fine and no one got sick from it.

## Huge sharks and bluefish

Many years ago in early May we were headed up to Fenwick Shoal to do some bottom fishing. We had only

travelled about five miles to the northeast when we spotted the fin of a very large shark cruising at the surface. Of course, my clients wanted to know what kind of shark it was and from a distance the best I could tell them was judging by the distance between the dorsal and the tail the shark looked to be 15 to 20-feet long and this time of the year and this close to shore the only two options would be either a basking shark or a very large white shark. We tried to get closer to figure it out, but each time we approached the shark it would go deep and then pop up somewhere else.

When someone asked if we could try and catch it I explained how if it was a (plankton eating) basking shark there was no way we could, or even would want to try and catch it. After all, we didn't have any plankton in the bait cooler and I was pretty sure we didn't have any hooks small enough for it if we did, so basking sharks were out for the day. I went on to say that if it's a white shark there might be a chance of getting it to take a bait, but since we didn't have any really heavy tackle onboard the only way we might have a shot at getting such a fish to the boat would be if we connected two of our 50-pound rods to one leader so two anglers could fight it at the same time. So that's what we

did! Two rods attached to one leader and as many mackerel (I think it was 3) as we could jam on a 14/0 hook. We motored up into the flight path of the shark, shut the engine off, sank the bait down about 15-feet below the boat and waited for the shark. When it was about 20-yards out it sensed the boat and submerged, but kept coming our way. We could just barely make out its silhouette as it passed under us and over the bait. The reels were in free-spool with just the clickers on and I instructed the clients that if they got a bite that they would have to be in sync with the drop back and setting of the hook. I also reminded them that a basking shark would definitely not take the bait, so if we did get a bite, it would almost certainly be a white shark.

I was barely finished talking when the lines tightened and "click-click-click" - we had a bite! Probably more than anyone else onboard I was in total disbelief that we actually got the bite, and as the anglers did their 3-2-1 countdown to set the hook, my mind was spinning around with thoughts like "Oh no! What are we getting ourselves into?!!"

On "NOW" the two reels were thrown into gear, cranked tight, the hook set and a 12-pound "bluefish" jumped out of the water - dashing our



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dreams of glory and bringing the level of excitement we'd been trying to contain down to a more manageable level. Apparently a school of bluefish was traveling with the "basking" shark and while a couple mackerel on a stick are of no use to such a plankton eater, at least one of the big fellow's escorts considered it as an easy breakfast. Since then we've had a quite a few basking and white shark encounters, but none that have had us so worked up and confused as that one.

### *Cold Dolphin*

We were trolling around the Hot Dog area and hoping for a tuna or anything else that might find our spread attractive when we got a bite on the left rigger. No sooner had the rod bent over before the fish was in the air and we saw that we had a nice size dolphin on the line. After the first couple jumps the dolphin simmered down, allowing the angler to quickly get it to the boat. As my mate grabbed the leader he made some kind of indiscernible remark that had me confused until he swung the fish over the transom and I saw that it was wearing a down vest!

Yes, that's right, I said a "down vest". Just like you or I would wear on a chilly day, it was wrapped around its body and the dolphin's head was poking out through the collar! Needless to say that at first there was a lot of "What the ... ?" being repeated by everyone aboard before we came to the conclusion that the vest must have been floating along and after we hooked the dolphin the line was pulled into it and allowed the garment to slide down to and over the fish. The hook impaled on the collar of the vest keeping it right up around the gill area. Mystery solved, dolphin in a vest - go figure!

### *Best Catch Ever*

Some might remember about five years ago when, as a prank, a person (or "persons") pushed a bunch of Bethany Beach lifeguard stands into the

water one night. A day or two later we came upon one of the stands that was floating along about 8-miles northeast of Ocean City. Knowing that our good neighbors up in Delaware would probably like to have their chair back, we decided to load it up and bring it in. Of course, being as the large contraption weighed a few hundred pounds, the loading part was easier said than done, but once aboard we were able to stand it up and it fit quite nicely in the cockpit. In fact, it fit so well that on the ride home I had my mate climb up into our new wooden "tuna tower" for a quick photo.

We unloaded the stand at the Ocean City Fishing Center and notified the folks in Delaware. The next day I got a call from a writer from a local paper who said they were doing a story on the stands and asked for some details about the one we found. I gave the fellow some details and offered to send the photo we took of it on the boat. Later I got a call from someone from another paper, then another, then from an online news site, then from someone with a local radio show. I think that before the week was out the story of us bringing in the lifeguard stand was in every local newspaper (our photo made the cover of two), on the radio and all over the internet. In all our years of fishing we've had our share of "moments in the spotlight" when we caught something that got us some good press and free publicity. But I think the simple act of bringing in that lifeguard stand darn-near generated more publicity than the combined total of every fish we've ever caught!

### *Things happen*

There's weird stuff and then there's the stuff that's not so weird as it is just totally unexpected - and probably not in a good way. Every fisherman knows that glitches will routinely occur with their boat, tackle, equipment, weather and crew that will turn a simple day of fishing



During a trip on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley, Bill Pissarro caught this 12 lb. sheepshead after fooling it with a green crab on an inshore wreck.

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Page 22 Coastal Fisherman January 1, 2020  
into anything but routine.

### *A Threshers Story*

It was a hot August afternoon and our lines had only been in the water for fifteen minutes when we were hooked up to something big enough that the 30-pound tackle wasn't slowing it up a bit. So less than ten minutes into the fight we were already off the anchor and chasing the fish to keep from being spooled. A half hour later our suspicions were confirmed when a 300-pound thresher shark broke the surface 200-yards away. Two hours after that we were still dogging the shark when the angler

announced that he had a "problem" and held up the "unattached" handle of the reel!

With a big fish on light tackle stretched out a country mile and with no way to crank it in and no extra handle for the reel, we had a problem that needed to be solved really quick! So while I kept the boat moving slowly with the fish, my mate grabbed another rod and stripped off a couple hundred yards of line and cut it. We then moved the boat a little faster towards the fish, purposely putting slack in the line. We quickly cut the line going to the fish and tied it to the line that remained on the

other rod and "viola!" our thresher was now on a fresh new rod and after "two more hours" we had it to the boat for a clean release. Our half day shark trip was indeed unique with one bite, one fish, two rods and hooked up the whole time!

### *Tuna Trashes Reel*

Not unlike our thresher incident, we were once in the middle of fighting a decent sized tuna when suddenly the angler was holding the reel in one hand and the rod in another. The reel seat had broken off the reel leaving no way to reattach the two. To make the best of the situation we formed a three man team. One to hold and pump the rod, one to hold the reel and the other to crank the reel. I can't say that it was a slick and smooth operation, but it did work well enough that we landed the tuna.

### *Lost Anchor*

We had a full day bottom fishing trip and our first stop was one of the shallow wrecks at Fenwick Shoal. After marking the wreck we dropped anchor and allowed the boat to settle back over it. It was a beautiful, calm morning and the fish were biting well so we had hopes of staying for at least a couple of hours before moving on to another structure or two. But after about a half hour I realized that we were drifting. Hustling up to the bow, I checked the anchor line only to find that it had chafed and parted a few feet from the chain! Losing the anchor and sliding away from a good bite was bad enough, but we had a full day to fish and not having a way to set-up properly on a wreck was not going to enhance our chances for success.

We needed an anchor, and knowing that there was a perfectly good one nearby and just 25-feet down I chose the only option, I had my mate take the wheel and maneuver the boat back over the wreck, donning my snorkel gear I swam down with the parted end of our anchor line, found

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the anchor and tied the two frayed lines back together. After a quick return to the surface for a breath of air, I went down once more and repositioned the anchor on the bottom so that the line was no longer rubbing on the rusted structure. When I left the dock that morning I didn't expect to go for a swim that day, but sometimes you just gotta do what you just gotta do!

### *Crazy clients*

Not every angler pops out of the same mold. Those who choose to plunk down their hard earned money to step aboard a boat for a day of fishing represent a diverse cross section of humanity. Some are just like you and me, and (maybe fortunately) some are very different. The different people I've met over the years have run the gamut from intriguing to taxing and everything in-between.

### *Dolphin Caught & Wife Lost*

We had three guys and a woman aboard the boat one day and the woman caught a big dolphin. At the end of the day the fish was weighed at the marina and while it was hanging, the group posed with it for a photo that appeared in the *Coastal Fisherman* newspaper. The next year, two of the men returned for another trip. I asked how the woman and the other guy were doing and I was told that they were engaged to be married. Mentioning that I thought they were already married, I was told that last year they were only "dating" and that the guy's "wife" became privy to the affair and filed for divorce when she saw the picture of him, the fish and the woman in the paper. A year later, the two guys were back again, and when I asked about how the "newlyweds" were doing they told me that a few months after the wedding the woman left the guy for someone else. To this day I still feel a little responsible for that fiasco - if only I had steered the boat left instead of right we would never have caught that

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# THE SPORT FISHING SURF SHOP



Page 24 Coastal Fisherman January 1, 2020

dolphin and none of it might have happened!

### Experts and Egos

Most of the best fishermen I know are very modest about their angling skills, allowing actions and results to do the talking for them. Then there are those who rail on about themselves so much that you'd think they invented the sport. I had one such fellow who, while booking a charter over the phone, painted himself as quite the experienced angler. Prior to the trip, during the trip and even after the trip, all he talked about was how good he was at catching fish. Of course, his credibility began to wain the moment he picked up a spinning reel and tried to use it with the reel on top of the rod. When I gently suggested that type of reel is designed to hang below the rod, he became somewhat indignant saying, "That's the way we do it up north." Reluctantly, he flipped the reel over and proceeded to crank it backwards until the handle unscrewed and came

off in his hand. Then he looked at me and asked, "What kind of goofy reels do you have on this boat anyway?" Experts and egos can make for a revealing day on the water!

### Women Rule!

We had a party of two married couples aboard for an offshore shark trip that didn't exactly turn out as planned. All week the fishing had been good and the conditions seemed right, but we fished all day without a bite. On days like that it's not uncommon for clients to start getting antsy and start grumbling a bit wondering if the trip is going to be a bust. Instead, as we went through the day the two men sat quietly at the dinette table and read books while the two women hung out on deck with my mate and excitedly talking, asking questions and helping with the lines - in other words "fishing".

Finally, our time was up and as much as I hated to give in to a "skunking" I announced that it was time to bring in the

lines and head home, but just as we were cranking in the last bait a mako came in from behind and ate it! For the next hour the two women were in total amazement of the runs, the jumps and the power of the shark as they took turns fighting the 200 or so pounder to the boat. During the entire time the two men sat quietly at the table and watched from a distance. I was happy to see that at least they put their books down!

After the ladies got the shark to the boat and we were preparing for the ride home, I asked the group, "Well, was it worth the wait?" To which both women agreed that it was one of the greatest adventures they've ever had and the shark was a perfect ending to a great day! As he reopened his book, one of the men quietly squeaked out, "It sure took a long time to get a bite."

I know that this planet is full of women who are excellent anglers and very passionate about fishing - in fact I'm married to one, so I'm

not going to suggest that the men should have been the ones who were more excited over the fishing trip than the women. But the way that day unfolded was just kind of weird and when it was all over and we were back at the dock with the boat cleaned up and the clients gone, my mate and I had a few minutes to sit down and recount what just happened. I remember him saying, "That was really bizarre. We'll never see anything as strange as that again!" It was his first year working on a charter boat so I cut him a little slack and just told him, "Don't bet on it. We've got a whole summer ahead and I've got a feeling that you ain't seen nothing yet!"

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



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Ralph Short caught this 94 lb. wahoo in late September while trolling in 50 fathoms inside the Baltimore Canyon. It was the largest wahoo landed in Delaware this season and was one of 4 caught during the trip aboard the "Fish Whistle" with Capt. Charlie Horning. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em.



At the end of September, Danny Cox on the "Ms' Der" muscled in this 22 1/2-inch, 5 lb. 6 oz. flounder while drifting live spot in the Thorofare. This was Danny's largest flattie of the year!

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In early November, David Rippy of Ocean Pines, MD was fishing at the Rt. 50 Bridge when he caught his limit of 4 speckled trout on 4-inch Riptide Glo soft plastic baits. Pictured at the Coastal Fisherman office on Sunset Avenue in West Ocean City, MD.



The mid-December striper bite off the coast of Delaware was strong and anglers who could get out there found good size fish working schools of bunker being bombarded by diving gannets. On this day, Hannah Pry caught a 34-incher while trolling mojo rigs along the coast off Sea Colony in Bethany Beach, DE.

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 This is a large advertisement for Bank of Ocean City. It features a close-up, high-action shot of a large striped bass leaping from the water, creating a splash. The text is overlaid on the image in a stylized, white font with black outlines. The bank's logo, 'boc', is prominently displayed, along with the full name 'bank of ocean city' and the website 'bankofoceancity.com'. A small 'Member FDIC' logo is in the bottom right corner.



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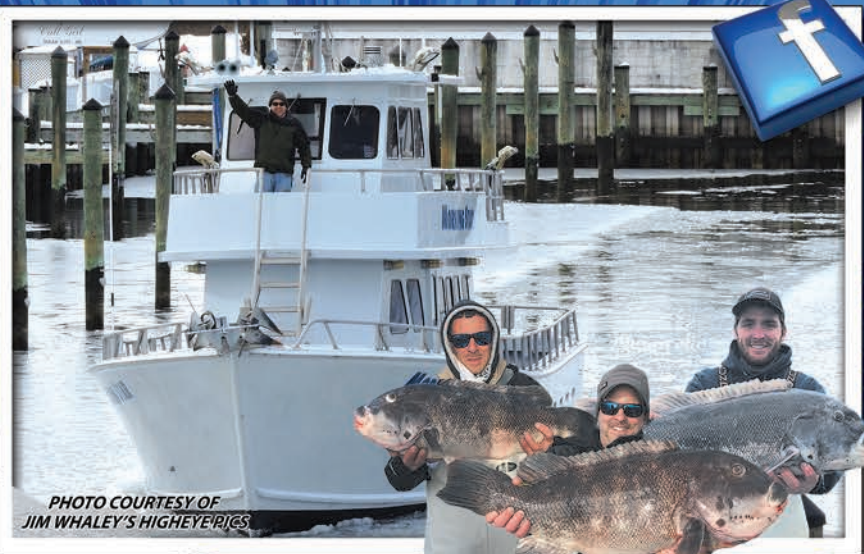


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Acie Mankins caught bluefish, black sea bass and triggerfish during an early November trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. Acie and his fellow anglers found a good sea bass bite, but they had to weed through a lot of small fish to find their keepers.



Wild Bill Giordano from Delmar, DE caught the largest fish of the day while fishing on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins at the helm. Bill's knothead measured 19 1/2-inches and was caught while using clams for bait. He was the first angler to catch their 15-fish limit during the trip.



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Black sea bass were snapping pretty good on this day in mid-December and Patrick Dougherty took largest fish honors on the "Morning Star" with a 21-incher caught on offshore structure. About half the anglers fishing on the "Morning Star" caught their limit of black sea bass this day in addition to boxing some scup and snapper bluefish. The "Morning Star" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Flounder pounder, Richard Crosariol caught this 21-inch flounder while drifting in the West Channel during the incoming tide. Richard made the most of his only bite all day and fooled the big flattie with a live spot.

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# Murphy wins Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament



The 2019 Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament ran from mid-October to mid-November with 150 anglers looking for the top prize. Bob Murphy ended the tournament in 1st place with an 8.85 pounder caught on a green crab.



Second place in the 2019 Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament was won by Chip Graves (right) with an 8.46 lb. tog. Chip is pictured with Billy Low at the tournament weigh-ins.

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Greg Ferzetti won 3rd place in the annual Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament with an 8.4 pounder caught while using green crabs for bait. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.



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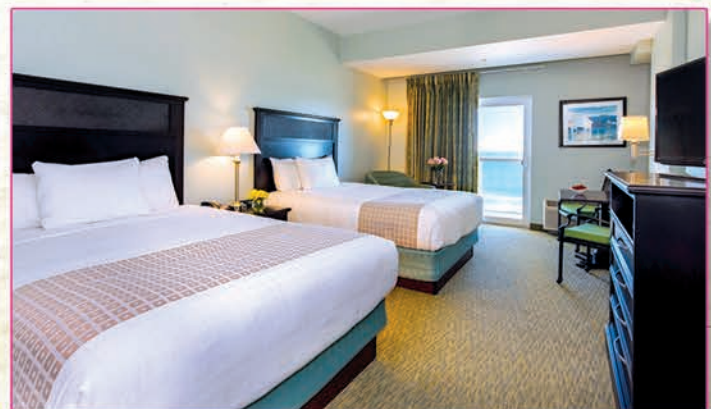
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Jim Wagner of Phillip, PA caught this 14 lb. black drum while fishing with sand fleas around the South Jetty on the charter boat, "Lucky Break" with Michael Ardene, John Haley and Capt. Jason Mumford (pictured). The anglers also boated a few keeper tautog and some toadfish during their trip. The "Lucky Break" is docked at Frontier Town.



In early October, Grayson Wooldridge and his dad, John Wooldridge were targeting striped bass around the mouth of the St. Martin River when Grayson hooked this fat 20 1/2-inch flounder in 66-degree water. The flattie was fooled with a Rapala plug off a trolling sinker in only 8-feet of water.



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Alex Cortizo caught a 14 lb. sheephead and Dennis Muhlenforth boated an 11 pounder while fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. The duo were part of a larger group that ended up catching 10 sheephead during their trip.



Summer Storm of Saylorsburg, PA is all smiles after catching and releasing her very first striped bass while fishing in the canal by Harpoon Hanna's. Summer hooked the 23 1/2-inch linesider on a jig head tipped with a white Gulp Swimming Mullet.

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On November 10th and 11th, the crew on the charter boat, "Reel Chaos" caught a couple of bigeye tuna, a longfin albacore tuna and 5 swordfish while fishing in 1,000 to 1,300 feet of water in the Poor Man's Canyon. They were really dialed in on the swordfish action with 15 bites during their 2 days of fishing. Joining Capt. Anthony Matarese, Jr. and mate Mike Matarese (both pictured) were anglers Dan Harrison and Mike Fernandez. Pictured at Sunset Marina.





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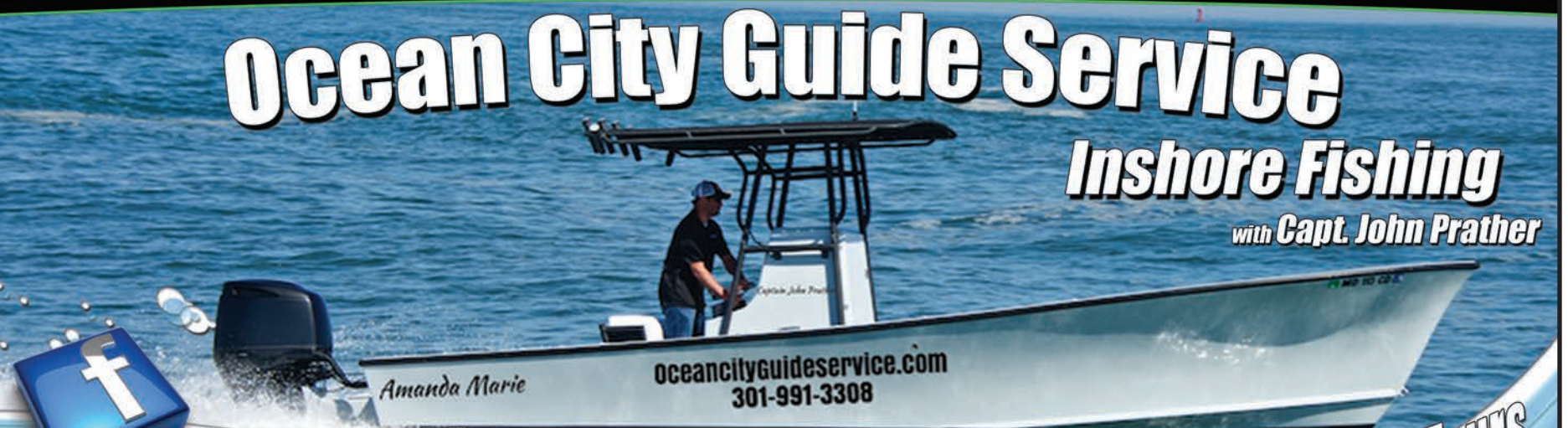
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## Grilled Tuna Steaks with Asian Sesame Crust

4 tuna steaks  
 1/2 cup soy sauce  
 1/4 cup scallions, chopped, white and light green parts only  
 2 TBSP fresh lemon juice  
 1 tsp. sesame oil  
 1 tsp. fresh ginger, grated  
 1/2 cup sesame seeds, white and black combined  
 1/2 tsp. cornstarch  
 Non-stick spray

In a large ziplock bag, combine the soy sauce, chopped scallions, lemon juice, sesame oil and fresh ginger.

Swish everything around in the bag until it's well combined.

Add the tuna steaks,

turning within the bag to coat them completely with the marinade.

Press the excess air out of the bag, seal and marinate in the refrigerator for about 20 minutes.

Preheat a countertop contact grill to "Sear" or the highest temperature setting.

Place the sesame seeds on a plate or a shallow dish.

Remove the tuna steaks from marinade bag, brushing the scallions off the steaks and reserving the marinade.

One at a time, coat the steaks in sesame seeds on all sides, pressing the seeds into the steak so they'll stick.

Spray the grill plates lightly with nonstick spray and place the steaks on the grill, closing the cover so the top grill rests evenly on the steaks.

Do not press down.

Grill for about 3 minutes (longer if you prefer your tuna cooked through).

Remove from grill and keep warm.

If you are using an open grilling surface, carefully flip the tuna steaks with a pair of tongs after 3 minutes and cook for 3 minutes on the other side.

While the tuna cooks, pour the marinade into a small saucepan and bring to a boil.

Add the cornstarch, stirring with a whisk.

Cook for about 3 to 4 minutes, until the sauce thickens.

To serve, slice the tuna steaks on the diagonal into thin slices.

Fan the slices on a plate and drizzle with the sauce.

Enjoy!

## Cajun Butter Shrimp and Sausage Skewers

1 lb. shrimp, peeled and deveined

4 Andouille sausages, sliced into 1/2-inch thick rounds

1/4 cup melted butter

1 TBSP lemon zest

Juice of 1 lemon

1 TBSP fresh thyme, chopped

1 tsp. smoked paprika

1 tsp. garlic powder

1/4 tsp. cayenne

Kosher salt

Freshly ground black pepper

[www.coastalfisherman.net](http://www.coastalfisherman.net)

2 TBSP fresh parsley, chopped for garnish

Soak wooden skewers in water for 15 minutes.

When ready to cook, drain and dry skewers.

Thread top of shrimp, then sausage, then tail of shrimp onto skewers.

Repeat until all shrimp and sausage is used.

In a medium bowl, whisk to combine butter, lemon zest, lemon juice, thyme and spices.

Season with salt and pepper, then brush all over skewers.

Heat grill or grill pan to medium.

Add skewers and cook until shrimp is opaque and sausage is warmed through, about 3 minutes per side.

Garnish with parsley and serve.

## Crab Fried Rice with Pineapple

3 TBSP peanut oil or other vegetable oil, divided

2 to 3 eggs, lightly beaten

3 to 4 green onions, chopped

1 TBSP fresh ginger, minced

1 TBSP lemongrass (optional), minced

1 tsp. Sichuan peppercorns

3 to 5 dried hot chiles, broken up and partially seeded

1/2 lb. crabmeat

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Paul Daisey and Eric Mooney jumped on the early December striped bite along the coast just south of Bethany Beach and caught their limit of linesiders, including a pair of 45-inchers. All were hooked on trolled mojos.

1/2 lb. pineapple, cut into chunks  
3 cups cooked, cooled rice  
2 to 3 TBSP fish sauce or soy sauce  
1/3 cup cilantro, chopped

Heat 1 TBSP of the peanut oil in a wok or large, non-stick saute pan over high heat.

Immediately after the oil begins to smoke, pour in the beaten eggs and swirl them around in the pan to coat it in a thin layer.

Let this cook for a couple seconds, then use a spatula or wooden spoon to break it up into pieces.

Tip it out of the pan and into a bowl. Set aside.

Wipe the inside of the wok with a paper towel and add the remaining peanut oil.

Heat the oil for a minute or so, but don't let it smoke.

Add the chopped green onions, ginger, lemongrass and Sichuan peppercorns and stir-fry for 30 seconds to 1 minute over high heat.

Add the rice, crabmeat, pineapple, cooked eggs and

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fish sauce and stir-fry for 2 minutes.

Let the mixture cook undisturbed for 1 minute to give it a little color.

Toss well and repeat the process for 1 more minute.

Turn off heat and mix in the cilantro.

Serve and enjoy.

### Grilled Sea Bass with Tropical Salsa

1 cup pineapple, diced  
3/4 cup mango, pitted and dice  
2/3 cup red bell pepper, diced  
1/2 cup tomato, seeded and diced  
1/3 cup cucumber, seeded and diced  
1/3 cup red onion, diced  
3 TBSP fresh cilantro, minced  
2 TBSP fresh mint, minced  
6 sea bass fillets  
2 TBSP jalapeno chili, seeded and minced  
2 TBSP fresh lime juice  
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Combine first 10 ingredients in medium bowl; toss to blend.

Season salsa with salt.

Chill to blend flavors, at least 1 hour and up to 4 hours, tossing occasionally.

Heat the grill to medium-high heat.

Brush fish with oil; sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Grill until just opaque in center, about 5 minutes per side.

Transfer to plates and top with salsa. Serve.

### Easy Cheesy Shrimp and Grits

Grits:

- 2 cups low fat milk
- 2 cups water
- 1 tsp. Kosher salt
- 1 cup yellow cornmeal grits
- 2 TBSP salted butter
- 1 cup shredded white cheddar cheese

Shrimp and Sauce:

- 4 slices bacon chopped
- 1 1/2 lbs. shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 1/2 cups onion, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 TBSP cornstarch
- 1 1/2 cups low sodium chicken broth
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 TBSP butter
- 1 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1 tsp. hot sauce
- 1/2 tsp. Kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup green onions, chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped

In a large pot over medium heat, add the milk, water and salt. Bring to a simmer.

Whisk in the grits and continue whisking until they begin to thicken.

Continue to cook the grits for 10 to 15 minutes, stirring occasionally, until thickened.

Stir in the butter and cheese.

Cover and set aside.

In a large skillet, cook the bacon over medium-high heat until crisp.

Transfer to a paper towel lined platter using a slotted



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In late October, local angler Mike Glyphis (right) caught a 5.6 lb. triggerfish to set a new Maryland state record, beating the old record of 5 lbs. 2 oz. set back on October 31, 2014 by Wayne Gower. Mike was fishing with Tom Vaughan when he hooked the record setting fish on a strip of squid at the "Washingtonian" wreck located 20 miles off the coast of Fenwick Island. When the "Washingtonian" was launched in 1913 by the Maryland Steel Company of Sparrows Point, MD, she was America's largest cargo ship and part of the fleet owned by the American-Hawaiian Steamship Company. In January 1915, she collided with the schooner, "Elizabeth Palmer" and sank in 10 minutes, losing \$1,000,000 worth of raw Hawaiian sugar.



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spoon to drain.

Return the skillet to the heat and add the shrimp to the pan.

Cook for 1 to 2 minutes on each side.

Transfer the shrimp to a platter and keep warm.

Add the onions to the skillet and cook until softened.

Stir in the garlic and cook for 1 minute.

Sprinkle the cornstarch over the onions and garlic, cook for an additional minute.

Whisk in the chicken stock and cook until the sauce begins to thicken.

Whisk in the cream, butter, cayenne pepper, hot sauce, salt and pepper.

Continue cooking until the sauce starts to thicken more.

Return the shrimp to the pan and cook for 3 to 4 minutes, making sure not to overcook the shrimp.

Stir in the bacon, green onions and parsley.

Spoon about 1 cup grits onto a plate and top with 4 to 5 shrimp. Pour about 1 cup gravy over the shrimp.

Repeat with remaining grits

and shrimp.

Serve immediately.

### Seared Bluefish with Charred Corn Dressed with Warm Tomato Salad

- 4 bluefish fillets, skin on
- 1/4 tsp. kosher salt, divided
- 1 tsp. freshly ground black pepper, divided
- 4 TBSP canola oil, divided
- 1 TBSP butter
- 3 ears corn, shucked
- 1 leek white, split, thinly sliced
- 1 tsp. garlic, minced
- 1 cup sweet cherry tomatoes, cut in half
- 2 TBSP extra virgin olive oil
- 12 basil leaves, torn
- 1 TBSP sherry vinegar
- 2 radishes, thinly sliced
- 1 lemon, halved

Preheat oven to 350-degrees.

Season the bluefish with 1/2 tsp. each of salt and pepper.



Jay Way was trolling mojo rigs 2 1/2-miles outside the Indian River Inlet in early December when he hooked this 33-inch striper. Jay's linesider weighed 16 lbs. 8 oz. on the scale at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.

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Emma Prince caught her very first flounder while drifting cut minnows in the West Channel. Emma's flattie measured 17-inches.

In a large, oven-safe skillet over medium-high heat, warm 2 TBSP canola oil until hot and shimmering.

Place the bluefish fillets skin side down in oil and do not move once in skillet.

Allow the skin to become crispy. This should take about 90 seconds.

Without moving the fillets, place the pan in the preheated oven for 5 to 7 minutes, until cooked through.

Remove the skillet from the oven and drop the butter into the pan. As the butter begins to melt, baste the bluefish fillets.

Remove fillets from pan and set aside.

To prepare the charred corn, preheat a grill or grill pan over high heat.

Brush the corn with 1 TBSP canola oil and season with 1/2 tsp. each of salt and pepper.

Grill corn, giving a quarter turn about every 20 seconds, allowing the kernels to become slightly charred.

Once charred, remove from heat.

When cool enough to

handle, slice the kernels off the cob.

In a medium pan over medium-high heat, warm the remaining 1 TBSP canola oil.

Add the leek and garlic to the pan, cook until the leek begins to become transparent, about 45 seconds.

Add the corn to the pan and heat through.

Remove from heat and season with 1/4 tsp. salt and 1/8 tsp. pepper.

To prepare the warm tomato salad, in a medium pan over medium-low heat, warm the tomatoes in the olive oil just until they begin to release their juices.

Remove from heat.

Fold in the torn basil, season with sherry vinegar, 1/4 tsp. salt and 1/8 tsp. pepper.

Just before serving fold in the sliced radishes.

Place 3/4 cup of charred corn in the center of a plate.

Top with seared bluefish and a generous squeeze of lemon juice over each fillet.

Finish with tomato salad around the plate.

## Spaghetti with Crab Sauce

Sauce Base:

- 3 TBSP olive oil
- 1 cup onion, chopped
- Shells from 8-10 blue claw crabs
- 3 garlic cloves, crushed
- Tops from 1 fennel bulb, chopped
- 4 bay leaves

Finished Sauce:

- 2 TBSP olive oil
- 1/2 cup onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup fennel bulb, chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 heaping TBSP tomato paste
- A 28 oz. can of crushed tomatoes
- 2 cups of the crab sauce base
- Tabasco garlic-pepper sauce to taste, or other hot sauce
- 1 cup cooked crabmeat
- 1 lb. dried spaghetti
- Chives, green onions or parsley to garnish

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To prepare the sauce base, put the onions and olive oil in a stockpot and cook, stirring occasionally, over medium heat until the onions are soft and translucent, about 6 to 8 minutes.

Add the crab shells and the garlic. Stir to combine.

Use a potato masher to smash the crab shells into small pieces.

Cook, stirring often, for 5 minutes.

Add the bay leaves, the tops from the fennel bulb, and a healthy pinch of salt.

Add enough water to cover everything by 1 inch.

Bring to a simmer and cook for 1 hour.

Turn off the heat and pick out as much of the solids as possible, making sure you save the liquid.

Strain the liquid through a paper towel set in a colander.

Reserve.

To finish the sauce, heat the olive oil in a Dutch oven or other large, wide pot over medium-high heat.

Saute the onions and chopped fennel until they are soft and translucent, about 6-8 minutes.

Add the garlic and cook another minute.

Mix in the tomato paste and cook for 3-4 minutes, stirring often, until it darkens and turns the color of brick.

Add the tomatoes and 2 cups of the crab sauce base.

Stir well and bring to a simmer.

Taste for salt and add the Tabasco to taste.

Simmer uncovered for 30 minutes, stirring from time to time.

Boil your pasta.


Once the pasta is ready, add the crabmeat to the sauce and stir gently.



Mix the pasta with a little of the sauce, then portion it out.

Top with more sauce and garnish with chives or parsley.

Share your favorite recipes by emailing them to [coastalfisherman@comcast.net](mailto:coastalfisherman@comcast.net).

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Joey Marowski caught this 5 lb. triggerfish while fishing on the charter boat, "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford. Joey hooked the triggerfish on a sand flea by the South Jetty.



Michael Cole from Smyrna, DE muscled in this 12 lb. 6 oz. sheephead after hooking it on ocean structure while using sand fleas for bait. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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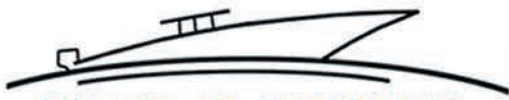
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Pat Strine of York, PA jumped on the good flounder bite in late September, catching this 22-incher at high tide on a live spot in the Ocean City Inlet.



Paul Andrews (orange hat) set a personal best when he muscled in this 55 lb. yellowfin tuna in the Baltimore Canyon during a trip aboard the "Hot Spot". Paul was fishing with Robert Beard, Dan Criger, Rob Beard, Tommy Zapf, Vinnie Legambi, Mike Runkles and Capt. Ken Antkowiak.

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# Maryland State Records



<u>Species</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Angler</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Atlantic Cod	24 lbs.	Fred Brungart	05/31/13	38 miles S.E. of OC Inlet
Bluefish	23 lbs. 8 oz.	Lillian Morris	1974	Assateague Island
	23 lbs. 8 oz.	Kevin Weber	10/07/13	Rt. 50 Bridge
Cobia	94.6 lbs.	Emma Zajdel	06/30/16	Little Gull Shoal
<b>Dolphin</b> 	<b>74.5 lbs.</b>	<b>Kristy Frashure</b>	<b>08/16/19</b>	<b>Poor Man's Canyon</b>
Drum, Black	79 lbs.	Stanley Ilyes	1985	Bass Grounds
Drum, Red	70 lbs.	Robert Light	1977	Assateague Island
Flounder, Summer	17.0 lbs.	Anthony Vacari	1974	Assateague Island
Flounder, Winter	5 lbs. 2 oz.	Kevin Twilley	06/23/15	26 miles off Ocean City
Kingfish, Roundhead	2 lbs. 8 oz.	Grace Walker	1975	Assateague Island
Mackerel, King	47 lbs.	Gerald Kauffman	1985	Great Gull Shoal
Marlin, Blue	1,062 lbs.	Robert Farris	08/05/09	Baltimore Canyon
Marlin, White	135 lbs.	George Pierson	1980	Poor Man's Canyon
Porgy	6 lbs. 3 oz.	Pearl Hoppie	1966	Fenwick Shoal
Sea Bass	8 lbs.	Hayward Madison	1978	Jackspot
Sheepshead	18 lbs.	Robert Martin	09/22/17	South Jetty
Snowy Grouper	66 lbs.	Gregory Benn	07/30/12	Norfolk Canyon
Spadefish	11 lbs. 6.5 oz.	Noel Lohr	2004	Triple Wrecks
Striped Bass	57.2 lbs.	Gary Smith	2006	Assateague Island
Tautog	28.8 lbs.	Kenneth Westerfeld	01/02/15	Wreck off Ocean City
Tilefish, Blueline	20 lbs.	Bob Purcell	09/12/12	Norfolk Canyon
Tilefish, Golden	62 lbs.	Steve Doctor	2009	Baltimore Canyon
<b>Triggerfish, Gray</b> 	<b>5.6 lbs.</b>	<b>Mike Glyphis</b>	<b>10/30/19</b>	<b>Washingtonian Wreck</b>
Trout, Gray (Weakfish)	16 lbs.	Donald Cannon	1976	Ocean City Inlet
Trout, Speckled	13 lbs.	Jack Miller	1973	Sinepuxent Bay
Tuna, Bigeye	375 lbs. 8 oz.	Cecil Browne	1977	Ocean City
Tuna, Blackfin	32 lbs.	Bob Zang	1998	30 fathom line
Tuna, Bluefin	625 lbs.	James Daniels, IV	1975	45 miles off Ocean City
Tuna, False Albacore	22 lbs. 8 oz.	Kevin Sheckells	1995	Third Lump
Tuna, Longfin Albacore	74 lbs.	Victor Gardner II	2004	Baltimore Canyon
Tuna, Yellowfin	236 lbs. 8 oz.	Mark Bennett	2002	Washington Canyon
Wahoo	131 lbs.	John Schaar	07/01/14	Rockpile
White Perch	1.65 lbs.	Ryan Timmons	07/30/16	Ayres Creek
Sharks				
Black Tip	193 lbs.	Brian Zysk	1991	Ocean City
Blue	280 lbs.	Martin Waltman	1997	Ocean City
Hammerhead, Scalloped	266 lbs. 8 oz.	Scott Cusick	08/08/12	Washington Canyon
Hammerhead, Smooth	375 lbs.	George Ford V	2004	Parking Lot
Mako	876 lbs.	Jim Hughes	2009	Poor Man's Canyon
Thresher	642 lbs.	Brent Applegit	2009	Fingers
Tiger	1,210 lbs.	Grace Czerniak	1983	Ocean City

Note: all Atlantic Coast records recognized as of December 11, 2019



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In late October, anglers on "Gret's Three J's" jumped on the good bigeye and swordfish bite deep in the Poor Man's Canyon and returned with a yellowfin tuna, 2 bigeye tuna and a swordfish. They trolled a couple of spreader bars while looking for a spot to drop and caught the yellowfin. After that they hooked 2 bigeyes on their first 3 drops and caught several swordfish, but only killed one. The bigeyes were fooled with squid and the swordfish ate a rubber worm. Pictured are Chris Martin, John Conrad, Ryan Freese and mates John Griffith and Alex Beane. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



Payton Bailey was fishing in the Lewes Canal near the drawbridge when he caught this 24-inch flounder on a white Gulp artificial bait. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.



Tony Gargurevich was fishing on the charter boat, "Katydid" with Capt. Brent Wiest when he caught a 4 lb. 12 oz. triggerfish on an ocean wreck. Capt. Brent added a 5 pounder to the box after hooking it on a sand flea. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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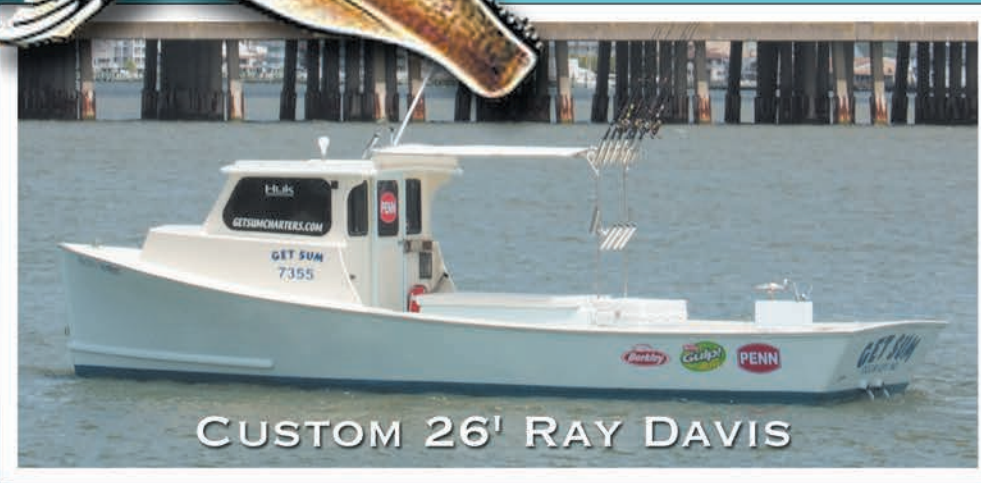




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Flounder and bluefish dominated the action in the bay last week as shown by this group of anglers who ventured down to Amish Country to fish with Capt. Nick Clemente and mate Marshall Freng on the charter boat 'GET SUN'. They hooked 5 keeper flounder and over 20 throwbacks in 69-degree water in the bay. They also hooked a 19" snapper bluefish by the Rt. 50 Bridge. The largest flattie measured 21-inches. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center are Kevin Hess, Rick Hess and Randy Garner from Manheim, PA and Kevin Garner from Manheim, PA and Kevin Garner from Manheim, PA.



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# After success of “Vanishing Ocean City”, author releases “Ghosts in the Surf” with many memories of fishing in OC.

Local author, Hunter “Bunk” Mann released his second book of Ocean City memories, “Ghosts in the Surf”. The book is outstanding and contains memories and pictures of Ocean City from the Post War Years through today and includes many related to fishing in Ocean City. Following is the chapter on the White Marlin Open. Enjoy!



## GHOSTS IN THE SURF

More Memories From Ocean City, Maryland

BY HUNTER “BUNK” MANN

The White Marlin Open is the world’s largest and richest billfish tournament. Now in its 45th year, it brings anglers from all over the world to participate for prize money; in 2018, over five million dollars were awarded in several different classifications. In addition to the namesake white marlin, anglers can compete in categories such as blue marlin, tuna, wahoo, shark, and mahi-mahi

(dolphin fish).

The tournament began in 1974 with 20,000 dollars in prize money and a top award of 5,000 dollars. That year 57 boats with 150 anglers took the challenge. Founded and still overseen by local resident Jim Motsko and his family, the White Marlin Open has grown to become one of the premier

events of the summer season. It definitely contributes to Ocean City’s title as “The White Marlin Capital of the World.” Held the first week of August each year, the tournament brings thousands of visitors to town. Many of them gather at the Inlet in the pre-dawn darkness to watch the boats head out to sea. Hundreds of others assemble at the weigh-in area on Harbour Island to watch each afternoon as potential trophy fish are hauled up on the scales. The anticipation of seeing a potential million-dollar winner can leave memories that few are unlikely ever to forget.

The White Marlin Open is truly an “Open;” there are no age, sex, or skill level restrictions. In 1993 the first-place white marlin was caught by a 14-year-old boy, and in 2016 the winning angler won over \$1.5 million for his catch; the first white marlin that he had ever caught. Records are kept and have become part of the mystique of the competition. The largest white marlin weighed was caught by Steve Bass in 1980 and weighed 99 pounds; the biggest fish ever caught during the tournament was a 1062-pound blue marlin caught in 2009 by angler Robert Farris. The most money awarded for a single

fish was \$2,584,260 dollars which was won in 2018 for the 83-pound white marlin caught by Pascual Jimenez of Puerto Aventuras, Mexico.

The White Marlin Open has become one of Ocean City’s most famous and popular events. Thousands of people look forward to it each year, and many even plan their vacation around it. With the continued growth of the tournament and the national publicity it brings to Maryland’s seaside resort there is little doubt that Ocean City will retain the title of “The White Marlin Capital of the World” for many years to come.

*“The White Marlin Open began in 1974 with 57 boats entered in the tournament and a top prize of \$20,000 dollars. In 2018 we had 382 boats entered and paid out over \$5,450,000 dollars in prize money. It’s grown a lot since the beginning.”*

- Jim Motsko

*“The White Marlin Open is the biggest game fishing tournament in the world and brings people from all over to Ocean City, MD. It’s worth a lot to the town and is the biggest single event in Ocean City every year.”*

- Steve Pappas

*“Each boat chooses which day they plan to fish. The tournament runs five days, and they can fish any three of the five days. A lot of time and effort goes into checking weather conditions because it might be beautiful in Ocean City but 75 miles of offshore where the fishing actually takes place it can be four to six-foot seas and raining.”*

- Mike Hannon

*“The biggest year at the White Marlin Open we had 449 boats entered. We were going crazy as we had prepared for 400 boats at the most and it looked like we were going to run out of*

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everything including entry forms. I had to quickly run down to my dad's house and make photocopies. It was an experience!"

- Madelyn Motsko Rowan

"The unsung heroes of the White Marlin Open are the tournament's volunteers. All the folks at the scale are volunteers, and they've been doing it for years. They take their vacations and leave their jobs for a week to work at the weigh-ins. They all have regular jobs. Mike Hannon works for the post office, and Alex Davis is a pharmacist at Walmart, but they come back year after year to be part of the event."

- Larry Jock

"The rules of the White Marlin Open say that a fish must be weighed in by a certain time on the day it is caught. In 2017 a man fishing out of Virginia Beach caught a wahoo that would possibly put him with a chance to win a potential two thousand dollars. He stuck the fish in a cooler and with his wife and infant twins drove up from Virginia to attempt to make it to Ocean City in time to make the weigh-in. With worries about traffic, crossing the Bay Bridge Tunnel, and red lights along the way, he made it with about a minute to spare. When he learned that the fish was a prize winner, he said, 'I'm double parked, could I go get my wife and twins so they can be in the picture?' The WMO is not just about winning money; it's also about the pride of being part of something very special."

- Madelyn Motsko Rowan

"It's always held the first full week in August because the water is warm. Marlins follow the warm Gulf Stream, and it fits into a good spot with the other big tournaments. The White Marlin Open is the largest billfish tournament in the world."

- Mike Hannon

"One year we weighed fish from the minute the scales opened until after 10 pm because so many boats were lined up to weigh their

catch. The scales usually close at 9:15 pm, but if you are in line, then you are still able to weigh-in. The guys at the scales were exhausted when that day was over."

- Larry Jock

"I've fished the White Marlin Open every year. In 2017 we pulled into the scales at Harbour Island with a white marlin that weighed in at 79 and a half pounds that was good for second place and a potential \$1,200,000 in prize money. Unfortunately for us, the boat right behind us bumped us into third place; we were in second place for only ten minutes!"

- Lloyd Lewis

"One year a boat broke down on their way out to where they had planned to fish. They were nowhere close to where they had wanted to go, but the captain decided that they might as well fish there rather than give up and call it a day. It turned out they caught the heaviest white marlin in the tournament."

- Jim Motsko

"A ton of spectators go to the Inlet early in the morning to watch all the boats go out. It must be exciting for the participants to ride through the Inlet with all those people cheering and waving. We have a very loyal group of fans and followers, and that's one of the things that sets us apart from the other fishing tournaments."

- Sasha Motsko

"It's a two and a half hour or more trip to get to the Gulf Stream from the Inlet, and most of the boats go fast. The Gulf Stream used to flow closer to Ocean City back in the 1940s, and '50s and boats didn't have to go as far. It was a good thing because they were slower and smaller and couldn't carry as much gas. A lot of the fishing at the White Marlin Open is done 69 miles or more offshore today."

"One year a small tornado ripped through Harbour Island during the White Marlin Open.



It came out of nowhere and sounded like a freight train roaring through. The stakes holding the tents were lifted out of the ground, and one of the portapotties was lifted 50 feet up in the air. Fortunately, nobody was in it at the time!"


- Larry Jock

"We lost money on the tournament the first couple years, and I had to go to the bank to borrow enough to pay the expenses. I always believed that it

would be successful, and fortunately, I was right. I remember that Mayor Harry Kelley was there the night of the first award ceremony and presented the check to the winner."


- Jim Motsko

"It's the leading marlin tournament in the world. I've fished it many times in the past and have always enjoyed being part of it. They hold their Annual Awards Banquet at the Clarion



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– Lenny Berger

“The best thing about the White Marlin Open is that anybody can win; you don’t have to be rich or a professional fisherman to win. If God is blessing you that day, you could get lucky. A 13-year-old boy caught the biggest white marlin one year.”

– Jim Motsko



“I’ve worked the scales every year since 1990 and have seen a lot of fish come in. It’s exciting because you can never anticipate what’s going to come in on any given day. One day it could be smaller fish such as dolphin or tuna, and the next you could see a huge blue marlin. I was there the day we hoisted the first ‘grandeur’ (a fish weighing over 1,000 pounds) up on the scales. The crowd went absolutely wild. That was in 2009, and we had another one the very next year. Those have been the only two ‘grandeurs’ as of 2018.”

– Mike Hannon

“When they weighed the 1062-pound blue marlin in 2009, it actually bent the scale. You could hear it squeaking as the fish was going up and I remember wondering if we were going to have to make a run for it. It was so crowded there that there were not many places to run.”

– Larry Jock

“The controversy from the 2016 White Marlin Open was very hard on us, but we did what we had to do. It was a contract issue and ended in Federal Court. We were in a no-win situation, and if we had paid that one person, we would no longer have

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had a tournament. The court (US Court of Special Appeals) ruled in our favor, and the money was distributed to the winners in several other categories. It ended up the way it should have.”

– Jim Motsko

“Some people think we get to keep the money if there is no winner in one or more categories, but that’s not true. If there’s no winner in a category, the money is spread among the winners of other categories. For example, if there is no blue marlin brought in, then the heaviest tuna would receive the prize money and so on. All the prize money is always distributed.”

– Sasha Motsko

“The heaviest white marlin caught was 99 pounds (the state record is 135 lbs) by an angler named Steve Bass in 1980 on a boat from Florida called ‘Top Hat.’ The heaviest blue marlin was caught by Robert Farris on the ‘No Problem’ out of South Carolina in 2009. It was a big one weighing 1062 pounds.”

– Jim Motsko

“I was fishing in the White Marlin Open one year in the late ‘70s on my 46-foot Hatteras with Sonny Esslinger as my captain. I was the only angler on board, and I hooked into a big white about 80 miles offshore at the Norfolk Canyon. Sonny radioed that there were fish in the canyon, and the ‘Seven Days’ showed up to fish. They hooked into a fish about five minutes before the closing time. If you had a fish on before 3 pm, you were allowed to keep fishing, and it turned out to be the tournament winner. It was an exciting time.”

– Lenny Berger

“The White Marlin Open is one of Ocean City’s top events, and I’ve finished in it every year since 1989. In 1996 I caught the first white marlin in the tournament, it weighed 72 pounds, and I got beat for the top prize by just half a pound by the only other qualifying fish boated that year. I was fishing 50 miles out on a cigarette boat; just me, the mate, and the captain. When



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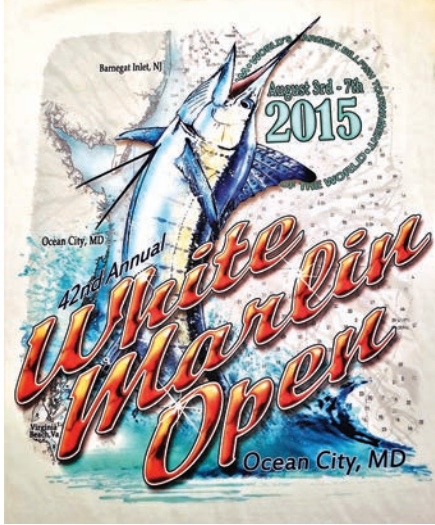
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we pulled it in, there was not enough room in the boat to put it in, so I rode all the way back in straddling that fish and hitting it with a pair of pliers trying to knock it out. That was a helluva ride!"

- Buddy Trala



"One year, we had what I believe would have been the winning fish on the line. My son Stephen had fought it for over an hour and had brought it right up to the boat when it got loose and swam away. If the gaff handle had been three feet longer, we would have boated that fish. I'd guess it weighed 90 pounds. It was really thick. Everybody just

shook their heads because that's fishing."

- Lloyd Lewis

"I don't ever remember a time in my life that didn't include the White Marlin Open. I remember stuffing envelopes to mail to contestants when I was six or seven years old. I grew up with the event and have watched it grow into the premier marlin fishing tournament it has become today."

- Madelyn Motsko Rowan

"I grew up on 6th Street in Ocean City, and everything has revolved around the family business, the White Marlin Open, as long as I can remember. Our family vacations were always places we'd go, such as the Florida Keys and the Outer Banks to promote the event. My sister Madelyne and I began stuffing envelopes when we were about six years old."

- Sasha Motsko

"I couldn't run this tournament without the help of

my family. My daughters Sasha and Madelyne have slowly been taking over some of the things I used to do, and my grandchildren have begun working with us in the warehouse and with the online store. The kids take a lot of pride in their work; they are learning to become entrepreneurs. Someday it will all pass on to them."

- Jim Motsko

"I take a lot of pride in the White Marlin Open. I'm very fortunate to have an opportunity to work with my family and see the event come together each year. It's just the three of us; it's not a Town of Ocean City run tournament. I work with the sponsors, my sister Madelyn handles the bookkeeping and website, and Dad (Jim Motsko) know all about the fishing. It seems like every single boat that comes up to register; he knows at least one person on that boat. That means a lot to people who fish the tournament every year."

- Sasha Motsko

"I have run a contest at the

Sunset Grill for several years now called the 'Teaser Cup.' It goes to the crew of the boat entered in the White Marlin Open that runs the biggest bar tab of the week. We post the standings each day, and at the end of the week, the winner gets a big trophy and a suit covered with 100-dollar bills. In 2017 the contest went viral when the winning tab was posted to Facebook."

- Buddy Trala

"The t-shirts for the White Marlin Open have become very popular, and we sell tens of thousands each year. People collect them, and you can find them on Ebay from past years. The first one was made in 1977 because my dad thought they would be a form of advertising; a kind of walking billboard. He never expected such a response."

- Madelyn Motsko Rowan

Copies of "Ghosts in the Surf" can be purchased online at [vanishingoc.com](http://vanishingoc.com) or at Wockenfuss Candies in West Ocean City.

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Darica Ward from Lewes, DE was soaking green crabs at the Outer Wall when she hooked into this 6 lb. 8 oz. tautog. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



During a trip aboard the charter boat, "Grizzly" with Capt. Carey Evans, angler Bob Murphy of Lewes, DE was using sand fleas for bait over Delaware Bay structure when he thought he had a big tautog on the line, but much to his surprise it was an 11 lb. 8 oz. sheepshead. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Keri Shields took advantage of the good striper bite off the Delaware coast in early December, catching and releasing a 42-incher during a trip aboard the "Pryme Time". Keri hooked the big striper while trolling mojos and umbrella rigs.

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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	11/16/15	Del-Jersey-Land Reef
Cobia	82 lbs.	Joe Costello	07/07/12	Russell's Reef
Croaker	5 lbs. 3.5 oz.	Catherine Simpson	1980	Indian River
Dolphin	56 lbs. 9 oz.	Butch Emmert	07/06/14	Baltimore Canyon
Drum, Black	115 lbs.	Kenneth Smith	1978	Delaware Bay
Drum, Red	75 lbs.	James Vandetti	06/15/76	Unknown
Flounder, Summer	17 lbs. 15 oz.	William Kendall	1974	Indian River Inlet
Flounder, Winter	No classification			
Kingfish, Roundhead	4 lbs.	Billy Hastings	1973	Bethany Beach
Mackerel, King	48 lbs. 9 oz.	Gordon Harris	1992	"B" Buoy
Mackerel, Spanish	6 lbs. 4 oz.	Eric Ludwig	2000	Light Ship
Marlin, Blue	820 lbs.	Bruce King	1986	Poor Man's Canyon
Marlin, White	120 lbs.	William Garner, Jr.	1972	Baltimore Canyon
Porgy	5 lbs. 5 oz.	Herman Schmidt	1979	Not recorded
Sea Bass	7 lbs. 6 oz.	Steve Samluk	1988	Fenwick Shoal
Sheepshead	17.1 lbs.	Dave Walker	09/30/14	Delaware Bay reefsite
Spadefish	No classification			
Striped Bass	52 lbs.	Ben Smith	12/08/12	Surf @ 3R's Road
Swordfish	358 lbs.	Kurt Lorenz	1978	Poor Man's Canyon
Tarpon	No classification			
Tautog	21 lbs. 4 oz.	Glen Cave	2005	Delaware Bay
Tilefish, Blueline	22.2 lbs.	Andy Orr	08/19/15	Baltimore Canyon
Tilefish, Golden	46 lbs. 8 oz.	Tom Schanno	08/25/17	Baltimore Canyon
Triggerfish, Grey	6.34 lbs.	Buddy Masten	09/30/12	Ice Breakers
Trout, Gray (Weakfish)	19 lbs. 2 oz.	William Thomas	1989	Delaware Bay
Trout, Speckled	No classification			
Tuna, Bigeye	No classification			
Tuna, Blackfin	No classification			
Tuna, Bluefin	873 lbs.	Dan Dillon	2005	Atlantic Ocean
<b>Tuna, False Albacore</b>	<b>22 lbs. 9.6 oz.</b>	<b>Jason Conrad</b>	<b>07/13/19</b>	<b>19 Fathom Lump</b>
Tuna, Longfin Albacore	80 lbs.	David Francella	1987	Atlantic Ocean
Tuna, Yellowfin	No classification			
Wahoo	106 lbs.	Will Stahlgren	2007	Atlantic Ocean
<b>Sharks</b>				
Black Tip	No classification			
Blue	No classification			
Hammerhead, Scalloped	No classification			
Hammerhead, Smooth	No classification			
Mako	975 lbs.	Thomas Barnes	2000	Poor Man's Canyon
Thresher	No classification			
Tiger	No classification			

Note: all Atlantic Coast records recognized as of December 19, 2019



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## Weakfish Assessment Update Indicates Stock is Depleted

The 2019 Weakfish Assessment Update indicates the weakfish stock continues to be depleted and has been since 2003. Under the reference points, the stock is considered depleted when the stock is below a spawning stock biomass (SSB) threshold of 30% (13.6 million pounds). In 2017, SSB was 4.24 million pounds. While the assessment indicates some positive signs in the weakfish stock in the most recent years, with a slight increase in SSB and total abundance, the stock is still well below the SSB threshold. Given the weakfish management program is already highly restrictive with a one fish recreational creel limit, 100 pound commercial trip limit, and 100 pound commercial bycatch limit, the Board took no management action at this time.

The assessment indicates natural mortality (e.g., the rate

at which fish die because of natural causes such as predation, disease, and starvation) has been increasing since the early 2000s. Fishing mortality was also high during the mid- to late 2000s. Therefore, even though harvest have been at low levels in recent years, the weakfish population has been experiencing very high levels of total mortality (which includes fishing mortality and natural mortality), preventing the stock from recovering.

To better address the issues impacting the weakfish resource, the Technical Committee recommends the use of total mortality (Z) benchmarks to prevent an increase in fishing pressure when natural mortality is high. The assessment proposes a total mortality target of 1.03 and threshold of 1.43. Total mortality in 2017 was 1.45, which is above both the threshold and target, indicating that total mortality is too high. Fishing mortality has increased in recent years, but was below the threshold in 2017.

Weakfish commercial

landings have dramatically declined since the early 1980s, dropping from over 19 million pounds landed in 1982 to roughly 180,560 pounds landed in 2017. The majority of landings occur in North Carolina and Virginia and since the early 1990s the primary gear used has been gillnets. Discarding of weakfish by commercial fishermen is known to occur, especially in the northern trawl fishery, and the discard mortality is assumed to be 100%. Discards peaked in the 1990s but have since declined as the result of management measures and a decline in stock abundance.

Like the commercial fishery, recreational landings and live releases have declined over time. It is assumed that 10% of weakfish released alive die, so that total recreational removals are equal to the number of weakfish landed plus 10% of the weakfish released alive. The assessment update used the new time-series of calibrated estimates of landings and live releases from the Marine Recreational Information

[www.coastalfisherman.net](http://www.coastalfisherman.net) Program. These estimates were higher than the values used in the 2016 benchmark assessment, but showed the same overall trend. Total recreational removals peaked in 1987 at 20.4 million pounds and have declined since then to slightly less than 500,000 pounds in 2017. The proportion of fish released alive has increased over time; over the past 10 years, 88% of weakfish were released alive. Most of the recreational catch occurs in the Mid-Atlantic between North Carolina and New Jersey.

The Assessment Update and a stock assessment overview will be available on the Commission's website, [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org), on the Weakfish page under Stock Assessment Reports. For more information on the stock assessment, please contact Katie Drew, Stock Assessment Team Leader, at [kdrew@asmfc.org](mailto:kdrew@asmfc.org); and for more information on weakfish management, please contact Dr. Mike Schmidtke, FMP Coordinator, at [mschmidtke@asmfc.org](mailto:mschmidtke@asmfc.org).



Anglers on "Gret's Three J's" have really caught the swordfishing bug and on this day in mid-October they boated several fish including this 169 pounder while dropping a rubber worm in 1,200 feet of water in the Poor Man's Canyon. Grant Clubb was the angler during a trip with Ross Clubb, Neil Messick, John Conrad and mates John Griffith and Parker Marshall.



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Ralph Jones of Dover, DE looks absolutely thrilled with the 11-inch porgy that he caught during a trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" in mid-November. This is a good size porgy for our area. On this day, Capt. Monty Hawkins took his anglers farther offshore in search of black sea bass and found them in good numbers, but they were very finicky. Still, half the anglers caught their limit of 15 fish led by a 21-incher that won the pool.



Dave Houck hooked this 30-inch striped bass with a red and white Stretch 25 while trolling along the beach off Indian River. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.



The father and son team of Chris and Alex Theodorellis from Hauppauge, NY ended their day with a good catch of sheepshead, weakfish and triggerfish, all caught on sand fleas. They also released a number of tautog and striped bass during their trip. All of the action took place while fishing around the South Jetty on the charter boat, "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford.

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In early December, Darin Cathel, Andrew Rogers, Dillon Baker, Chuck Sharp, Paul Daisey and Capt. Del Baker caught their limit of striped bass while trolling a few miles off the Bethany Beach coast.



In November, local anglers, Brendan Hanley of Pure Lure Reel Fishing Gear, Kevin McCabe and Zeb Zebley ventured down to the Casa Vieja Lodge in Escuintla, Quatamala and experienced outstanding sailfishing on the "Rum Line", "Release" and "Makaira". During their 3 days of fishing, the anglers raised 78 sailfish with 72 bites and 46 releases..



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## ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Board Approves Addendum IV

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board approved Addendum VI to Amendment 6 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. The Addendum reduces all state commercial quotas by 18% and implements a 1-fish bag limit and a 28" to 35" recreational slot limit for ocean fisheries and a 1 fish bag limit and an 18" minimum size limit for Chesapeake Bay recreational fisheries.

### *Why is Maryland changing management for striped bass in 2020?*

The 2018 benchmark stock assessment for striped bass indicated declines, so the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has determined that conservation measures are needed for the 2020 fishing season. ASMFC is a management entity comprising 15 member states on the East Coast, including Maryland and Delaware.

Through Addendum VI to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Striped Bass, the ASMFC set a target to reduce the coastwide total removals of striped bass by 18% from 2017 levels. Action must be taken by each state for the 2020 fishing season.

### *What does it mean to reduce total removals - isn't that the same thing as harvest?*

The goal is to reduce the total number of striped bass that are killed by fishing activities. This means reducing the number of fish that are harvested AND the number of fish that die after being caught and returned to the water, known as dead discards. According to ASMFC, the bulk of the coastwide striped bass fishing mortality comes from discards by recreational anglers.

Maryland sees the required management change as an opportunity to reduce discard mortality and to expand protection for large migratory fish as they pass through the Maryland portion of the Bay to the spawning grounds.

DNR also sees this as an opportunity to improve reporting and collect more

accurate data so we can better understand the status of our population in the Bay and along the coast. In the future, additional studies may be needed on striped bass spawning, mortality and migration.

### *How has Maryland started addressing this?*

In 2018, DNR raised concerns about the problem of discard mortality with ASMFC. This resulted in the adoption of a decreased minimum size from 20 to 19-inches. In addition, Maryland took unilateral action to require the use of circle hooks when chumming and live lining (the methods by which most recreational anglers catch striped bass.) Circle hooks are an effective conservation measure because they significantly reduce "gut hooking" that leads to discard mortality. The department also launched and is continuing to expand a statewide educational outreach program to assure compliance with these regulations.

### *How does Maryland plan to reduce total removals?*

Maryland explored a number of options to reduce total removals that were modeled, shared with stakeholders, and submitted to ASMFC's technical committee for review.

One option that has emerged through stakeholder engagement, which DNR is considering, is to proceed with the ASMFC recommended one-fish bag limit, take additional conservation measures and apply those savings to a bonus program (2-fish creel) for the Chesapeake Bay charter fleet. Under this proposed plan, the Chesapeake Bay regulations for the spring trophy fishery would remain the same with a one-fish bag limit and a 35-inch minimum size.

To protect spawning females in the Chesapeake Bay, the trophy season would be delayed to May 1 (rather than beginning on the third Saturday of April) and continue through May 15. Starting on May 16 and continuing through December 15, the recreational fishery would have a one-fish bag limit and an 18-inch minimum size limit.

DNR is exploring the extent of additional conservation measures that would be necessary to support a bonus program for charter boats. Those



**In early November, anglers on the headboat, "Morning Star" had to hit numerous spots in search of black sea bass heading to offshore wintering grounds and on one drop, Tre Jones of Cape Charles, VA muscled in this 21-incher to win largest fish of the trip honors. As always, Capt. Monty Hawkins was at the helm.**

measures could include partial seasonal closures to reduce dead discards and potential 19-inch minimum size. Participation in this program would be contingent upon mandatory electronic reporting by charter boat captains which will allow the department to get more accurate and real-time data.

To fully consider this plan, DNR will model these options and discuss them with stakeholders. Then a detailed plan will be submitted to ASMFC and must be vetted by their technical committee before implementation.

### *Did the department already decide on management actions for the spring? When can the public weigh in on any of this?*

DNR's plan will include conservation measures throughout the 2020 season. Due to the regulatory calendar, the department had to submit part of our proposed regulations to the Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review Committee

by November 15, 2019 in order for them to be in effect by spring 2020. The public comment period for the spring proposed regulations opened on December 20, 2019 and closes on January 21, 2020. The department will have at least one public hearing in early January to take public comment on the spring proposal and discuss options for summer and fall. A summary of the spring proposals is available on our website at [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries).

ASMFC will give final approval to state's plans in February. At that point, DNR will submit a separate package of proposed regulatory changes for the summer and winter 2020 season. Once the regulations are submitted, a public comment period on the proposed changes for the summer and winter 2020 season will begin. The department will have at least one public hearing to take public comment on these proposed measures.





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Rich Daiker took advantage of a good late season flounder bite while fishing with live bunker around the Rt. 50 Bridge. On this day, Rich took Stacey Phillips and Ronnie Bessling out for a trip on the "Delicious" and they ended their day with 6 flatties and a bluefish in the box. Three of their flounder were over 20-inches and the largest measured 24-inches.



Anglers on the "Judith M" headed to the Great Eastern Reef in the early fall where they caught over 100 keeper sea bass, 5 flounder and a bluefish. Tim Brown from Thurmont, MD won the fish pool with this 19-inch knothead caught while using squid and shiners for bait. The "Judith M" is docked at Bahia Marina in Ocean City, MD.

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Amanda Morris (right) took some time off from running Lewes Harbour Marina to do some fishing with Julie Stevenson (pictured), Ronnie Baker and Capt. Art Lodge at the DelJerseyLand reef site. The lady anglers caught triggerfish and black sea bass while using clams and squid for bait. Their largest knothead measured 19-inches.



During a trip aboard the charter boat, "Katydid" with Capt. Brent Wiest, angler Rich Snyder muscled in this 10 lb. 8 oz. sheepshead.



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At the end of October, Thomas Veith from Dagsboro, DE was fishing in the marsh near his home when he caught his first speckled trout on a sand flea flavored Fishbite and bloodworm combination. The speckled trout measured 15-inches.



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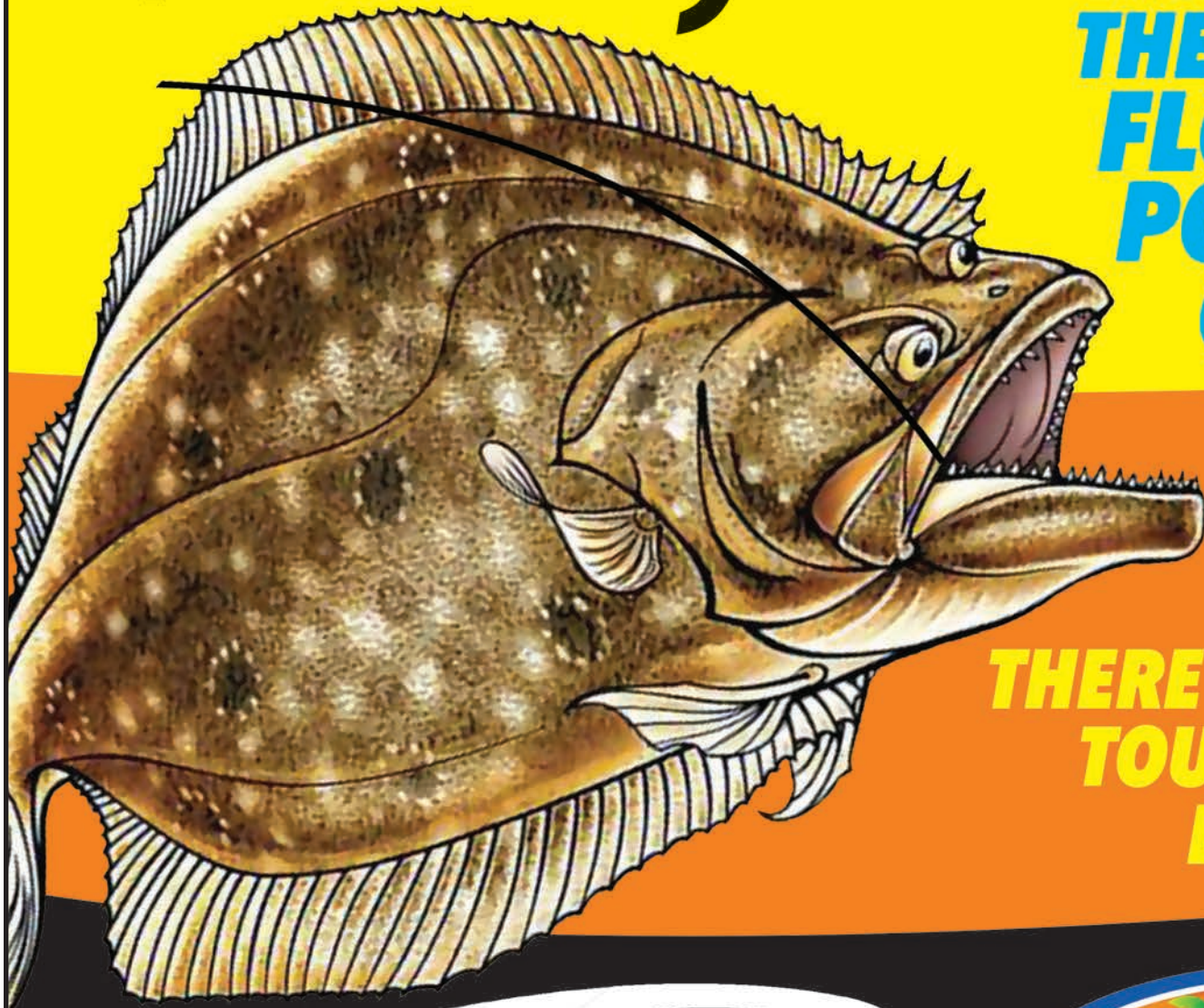
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Jack Power was planning on having black sea bass for dinner, but a chopper bluefish beat him to the punch while he was fishing on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins on offshore structure.

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In late November, Chan Park from Fairfax, VA caught and released this 11 lb. tautog after hooking it on a green crab at an inshore wreck. Chan was fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley.



Anglers on "Gret's Three J's" were on a tear this fall when targeting swordfish and on this day in early November they caught one and released one deep in the Poor Man's Canyon. The released swordfish ate a rubber worm and the keeper was fooled with a natural squid. Fishing on "Gret's Three J's" were Jillian Gasque and Grant Clubb (both pictured), John Conrad and mate John Griffith.

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John O'Reilly caught his limit of flounder including this 7 lb. 8 oz. flattie during a trip aboard the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Joey Marowski and Rich Fouts. John hooked the flounder on cut bait while fishing on an ocean wreck.





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# SHIP TO SHORE

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*Steve's Marine Service*



## New and upcoming products and technology for 2020

### Foulfree

Designed by industry-leading engineers at Prospeed and designated by Airmar as a certified transducer coating, Foulfree releases marine growth, reducing the maintenance needed to keep transducers clean and streamlining water flow.

Up until now, the only solution to keep marine growth from fouling a transducer face was regular cleaning and or the application of a water-based bottom paint. Neither of these solutions were great, but we learned to live with it. Based on the generally acceptable performance of the popular Prospeed product, this new Foulfree coating, available in Spring 2020, should eliminate the need for constant maintenance of the transducer faces.

Fouling on the face of transducers can reduce their sensitivity, bottom-echo returns and positive fish targets. Transducers also perform best with minimal turbulence over their surface

during operation. Foulfree is a specialized foul-release coating that is biocide-free and does not poison marine growth. Once cured, Foulfree forms a super-slippery surface over the transducer, preventing marine growth from attaching the face of the transducer. Foulfree offers a long service life, lasting a minimum of 12 months, with an even longer life span in cooler climates.

"Foulfree is an exciting new coating specifically made to enhance the performance of transducers," said Chris Baird, CEO, Prospeed. "Bringing together our revolutionary product design and working with the experts in transducer functionality from Airmar, we are able to offer boaters around the world a new solution to an age-old problem and improve sonar performance for anglers and cruisers alike."

### Detailed Bathymetry charts

There is a new push by cartography companies to work with highly detailed Bathymetric sources and repurpose the information into meaningful data that can be used on modern chart plotters. CMOR is one of the first companies to aggregate this

data into a user-friendly product that was first introduced on Simrad multifunction displays, but now works well with many brands of chartplotters. Other chartplotter manufacturers and cartography companies have been feverishly working to provide similar bathymetric data within their cartography offerings.

Much of the USA coastal bathy data is acquired using aerial LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging). LIDAR bathy systems use pulsed blue-green lasers in aircraft to measure ranges to the sea floor below the water's surface. The range measurements are combined with position and orientation data to obtain accurate, 3D spatial coordinates of points on the earth's surface.

Most marine charts incorporating LIDAR data information display the seafloor in "shaded relief" views, often with different colors for varying depths. This makes it easy for the captain to "see" the edges, drop-offs, walls and other distinctive features of the seabed below the boat. This helps to provide the 3D look to these modern charts.

LIDAR has been used for land surveying for years, so why has it taken so long for the Bathy data to end up on marine charts? First off, it's expensive compared to land LIDAR. The lasers are much more

powerful, operate on different wavelengths and the water needs to be clear to get a good bottom reading. Aircraft have to wait for the right conditions and fly low and slow to get the laser beam to penetrate deep enough to the sea floor and extract meaningful data.

Bathymetric LIDAR has a maximum depth of about 25 fathoms (150 feet). For deeper water, seafloor data is gathered using Multibeam Bathymetry. Instead of just one transducer pointing down, multibeam bathymetry systems have arrays of transducers, sending out fan shaped sonar energy to cover a large swath of bottom, usually covering a distance on either side of the ship that is equal to about two times the water depth.

Here in the USA, NOAA's department of National Center for Environmental information (NCEI) is the national archive for multibeam bathymetric data and holds more than 9 million nautical miles of ship track line data recorded from over 2,400 cruises and received from sources worldwide. In addition to deep water data, the Multibeam Bathymetry Database (MBBDB) includes hydrographic multibeam survey data from NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS). Some of the information has been used in marine cartography for years, but more recently additional more detailed data has been





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included in marine charts used with popular sportfish marine electronics.

### CLEARLINE™ System

How often do you need to clean the seawater cooling systems on your boat? Seawater is the most popular way to cool refrigeration systems, air conditioning systems, stabilizing systems and other on-board heat generating equipment. Even the newest cooling systems using a freshwater loop have a seawater heat exchanger that needs to be cleaned. Microorganisms living in seawater can attach themselves to the seawater plumbing systems, causing a build-up of marine growth and eventual restriction or stoppage of water flow. This is very dependent on the location and use of your boat, but most sportfish boats suffer this issue no matter how they are used and maintained.

Over the years many ideas and techniques have been tried to reduce or eliminate the growth, but most sportfish crew simply schedule regular cleanings to keep their systems at maximum efficiency. These regular cleanings are time consuming, expensive and there is always a chance of damage when removing and reassembling manifolds, piping, valves, etc.

The CLEARLINE™ System by Electrosea is an "ingenious solution to the barnacle problem where the strategy is not to remove them, but to prevent them from growing in your raw water lines in the first place". The system incorporates a specialized sea strainer that uses a small amount of electricity, regulated by a computerized control unit with external sensors to monitor the seawater system. This control system can even integrate with sophisticated boat systems such as OcotPlex, used on Viking Sportfish boats. The specialized strainer is an electrochlorinator, producing controlled amounts of chlorine from the seawater itself. This low level of chlorine is

compatible with copper nickel, titanium and other marine alloys at the same time eliminating barnacles, biofilm, and marine scale from growing inside the seawater piping systems. The chlorine level is similar to that found in tap water. Customers starting with a descaled or new seawater system have reported little or no growth during regular scheduled maintenance.

### New Class B+ AIS systems

AIS (Automatic Identification System) is a widely used maritime identification system that is one of the best navigation and safety systems since the invention of maritime radar. Initially, there was a powerful and expensive Class A AIS system for the largest regulated commercial vessels and a less powerful and less expensive Class B AIS for smaller less regulated vessels. Voluntary installations were often found on sportfish boats. Note that both of these systems are Transceiver - meaning they transmit AND receive information. There are many receive-only systems that are very beneficial, but not discussed here.

A new regulation a few years ago allowed for a third AIS system, fitting in-between the two current offerings. This is sometimes referred to as Class B+ or Class B SOTDMA or Class B 5W. Why is this new offering important? The Class B+ has over twice the transmit power and range of the original Class B, 5 watts which doubles the transmit range to 10-15 miles. Most important for sportfish vessels, the Class B+ uses the same technology of the Class A AIS for sending messages. It has the same top priority when it comes to reserving a transmission time slot in the AIS airwaves, guaranteeing that it will always be able to transmit, even in busy AIS congested waters. For fast moving boats this is important as a missed Class B transmission can result in a vessel moving a long distance before it is able to



Capt. Carey Evans on the charter boat, "Grizzly" took his anglers out to the Wall on this day last fall and Brian Carneiro used a sand flea to fool this whopper 12 lb. 12 oz. sheephead.

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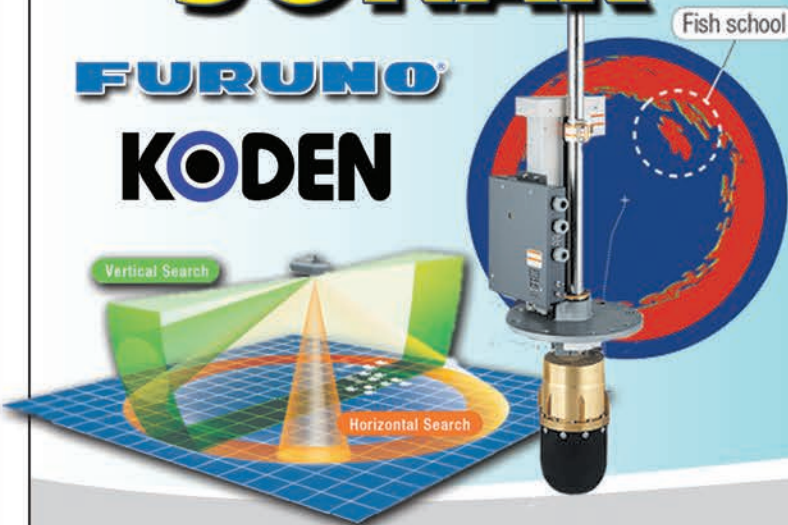
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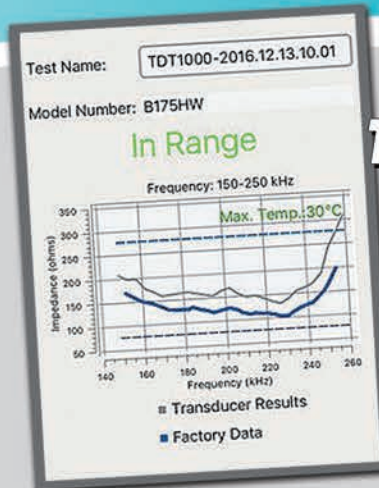
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send its next transmission.

If you are wondering if your vessel is required by the USCG to have an AIS system, you can review the regulations at [www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=AISRequirementsRev](http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=AISRequirementsRev)

### Satellite TV

When the action on the water ends, let the big screen entertain the crew. It seems that most tournament sportfish boats and even many center consoles are equipped with the latest and greatest satellite communications systems, TV, phone and internet. In this area, there are solutions for boats of all sizes.

When traveling outside of the US coastal waters, Satellite TV service can become complicated and expensive, no matter what type of antenna your vessel is equipped with. In the past, many sportfish boats have had two sets of Satellite TV receivers, one Direct TV set for coastal USA and one set for Latin America Direct TV. A few years ago, Latin America DirecTV changed its coverage area and the English language programming diminished to only a few channels, making the complications and expense of this service less than in the past.

The DISH TV network has some great coverage in the Caribbean and Latin America using a single satellite. While not a duplicate of what's available on the traditional three DISH satellites in the USA, it still has a very good offering when away from home. DISH service has not been very popular with boaters in the USA due to the need to switch between three satellites while changing HDTV channels as compared to specialized antenna systems from KVH and Intellian that can easily track the three DirecTV HDTV satellites at the same time.

So why is Satellite TV on this list? It is now much easier and less expensive to receive American TV service when traveling away from the USA

with a standard marine satellite TV antenna that you may already own. You can eliminate the expensive LNB change-out needed when outside the coverage of the coastal USA. The DISH network offers a month-to-month service for subscribers, making it easy to change service to DISH while out of the USA.

Most Marine satellite TV antennas can be easily re-programmed to track a single DISH satellite covering the area where you are traveling. The need to re-configure the coax cables to the receivers is nothing in comparison to the antics that were necessary in years past to switch to DirecTV Latin America.

You should check with your local marine electronics company to confirm compatibility. Most 18" and larger Satellite TV antennas can receive DISH throughout the Caribbean and Central America. Heading farther east towards the Dominican Republic will require a larger 24" antenna.

After switching to DISH, many boaters decide to keep the service, since it has continuous coverage in the coastal USA and therefore does not require changing of service or equipment when traveling. (recently a boat equipped with a basic KVH TV6 24" satellite antenna was able to travel from the Mid-Atlantic area to Florida and the Dominican Republic, watching DISH along the way, without changing antenna settings, receivers, etc.)

If your boating keeps you closer to shore, both Intellian and KVH make small Satellite TV antennas beginning at 13" in diameter and weighing 10 lbs. This entry level antenna can be fitted to most any size boat and can be combined with a month-to-month DISH service account, allowing you to easily turn off the service in the off-season and keep your costs low. These systems work great for coastal boaters and even cover much of the offshore fishing grounds. A



**Tommy Hinkle and Ryan Cowder, teachers at Stephen Decatur High School and Berlin Intermediate School, caught a pair of nice size flounder while drifting in the East Channel. The professorial duo hooked the 17 1/2 and 20 1/2-inch flatties on a Gulp and minnow combination and live shrimp during the incoming tide. They also released a toad fish and some small sea bass during their trip.**

larger antenna always provides a better signal strength and a better signal in bad weather such as rain, heavy fog, etc.

In this column we often review the newest electronics products from the major marine electronics companies such as Furuno, Garmin, Raymarine and Simrad. The product lifecycle is geared toward the fall and winter boat shows for new product introductions. By the end of winter, most of the new products we could review quickly become old news. There are definitely some new products on the way so keep an eye out for manufacturers' press releases and Facebook posts timed with upcoming boat shows.

One electronic fishing product that is not new, but gaining popularity exponentially is sonar. Not the traditional fish finder, but commercial sonar, using a large retractable transducer that can look all around the boat, like

underwater radar for fish! These systems were designed for commercial fishing applications and have quickly made their way onto sportfishing boats once people realized their capabilities after seeing captains locate, track and catch tournament winning fish. The Furuno and Koden products are the most popular. The hardware cost for these sonar systems range in price from \$17,000 to \$80,000, but one tournament winning fish can easily cover the cost of a Sonar.

These maintenance, safety, fishing and entertainment ideas will help keep your boat in good condition and help to provide an enjoyable experience for all those aboard.

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





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During a black sea bass trip on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins, angler Wayne Fawley of Garnett Valley, PA had a pleasant surprise when he hooked into this 28 1/2-inch, 15 1/4 lb. tautog while dropping clams on offshore structure.



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If you wear Philadelphia Flyers apparel, it definitely helps to get your picture in the Coastal Fisherman, but Richard Thompson of Millsboro, DE didn't need the assistance for this shot with his 3 lb. 10 oz. black sea bass he caught during a trip on the charter boat, "Katydid" with Capt. Brent Wiest. The knothead was caught on ocean structure while using clams and squid for bait.



Nathan DiFrancesca can't take his eyes off the 22-inch speckled trout he caught on a Bass Assassin in the Tangier Sound. Nathan was fishing on the charter boat, "Sea Hawk Sport Fishing" with Capt. Matt Abell.

*Capt. Matt Abell & Capt. Alan Ring*

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Ethan Abell took a trip with his dad, Capt. Matt Abell on the charter boat, "Sea Hawk Sport Fishing" and was rewarded with this 22-inch speckled trout. Ethan hooked it on a Bass Assassin in the Chincoteague Bay.



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Site 10 off the coast of Delaware was a good place for Ryan Kieban to drop a sand flea and he ended up catching this 22-inch, 8 lb. sheephead. Weighed at Rick's Bait & Tackle.



Joe and Mason Roditis, Ed and Adam Taylor and Brayden Kuhn jumped on a great bite at the South Jetty and hooked into some triggerfish, tautog, weakfish, sheepshead and short stripers while using sand fleas for bait. All of the action came during a trip aboard the charter boat, "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford.

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Species	2019	2018	Species	2019	2018
 <b>Bluefish</b>	April 17, 2019 Big Bird Cropper South Jetty	May 1, 2018 Big Bird Cropper South Jetty	 <b>Mako Shark</b>	May 18, 2019 Brandon Malamphy "FINATIC" Wilmington Canyon	May 23, 2018 Fred Weinhold "Marli" Marine Electric
 <b>Black Drum</b>	April 9, 2019 Allen Sklar Assateague Surf	April 19, 2018 Allen Sklar Assateague Surf	 <b>Thresher Shark</b>	May 18, 2019 All Anglers "Over-Board" Jackspot	May 26, 2018 Don King "Shallow End" Fingers
 <b>Cobia</b>	June 2, 2019 Tony Lane Fenwick Surf	July 10, 2018 Mitchell Clark "Judith M"	 <b>Bigeye Tuna</b>	May 27, 2019 Pat Petrera "Priceless" Poor Man's Canyon	May 26, 2018 Tanya Devine "Wrecker" Poor Man's Canyon
 <b>Flounder</b>	April 4, 2019 Kristin Lenox Sinepuxent Bay	April 14, 2018 Mike Tuel Thorofare	 <b>Bluefin Tuna</b>	May 7, 2019 Scot Wells "Restless Lady II" Wilmington Canyon	May 24, 2018 Donna Gutridge "Marli" Poor Man's Canyon
 <b>Sea Bass</b>	May 15, 2019 Tom Lane "Morning Star" Artificial Reef	May 15, 2018 Wayne Diaz "Morning Star" Artificial Reef	 <b>Longfin Tuna</b>	June 1, 2019 Ed Luhrman Baltimore Canyon	June 9, 2018 Mike Lloyd Wilmington Canyon
 <b>Sheepshead</b>	May 26, 2019 Mark Shwetz "On the Run" South Jetty	June 4, 2018 Hanna Bartell "On the Run" South Jetty	 <b>Yellowfin Tuna</b>	May 25, 2019 Ryan Young "Brenda Lou" Poor Man's Canyon	May 24, 2018 Mike Curran "Marli" Poor Man's Canyon
 <b>Striped Bass</b>	April 12, 2019 Kern Ducote Rt. 90 Bridge	January 2, 2018 Jon Pulsifer Little Gull Shoal	 <b>Dolphin</b>	May 19, 2019 Bill Johnson "Bubblehead" Wilmington Canyon	May 24, 2018 Steve Cumor "Marli" Poor Man's Canyon
 <b>Tautog</b>	January 4, 2019 Dan Iacangelo "Morning Star" Ocean Wreck	January 3, 2018 Dennis Muhlenforth "Morning Star" Artificial Reef	 <b>Wahoo</b>	June 23, 2019 Vince Cusimano "My Time" Washington Canyon	July 12, 2018 Jon Gross "Restless Lady" Washington Canyon
 <b>Weakfish</b>	May 19, 2019 Jackson Chin Indian River Inlet	June 2, 2018 Matt Boyer Indian River Inlet	 <b>White Marlin</b>	June 1, 2019 "Uncle Keith" Poor Man's Canyon	June 13, 2018 Ron Bennett "Stalker" Poor Man's Canyon

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The sheephead were really chewing on this day when Michael Lynch from Millsboro, DE caught an 11 lb. 5 oz. sheephead while using sand fleas for bait. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



After the Marlin Club White Marlin Party ended, the crew on the "Primary Search" got ready for an early morning departure to the Baltimore Canyon and ended up having a great day. Kelly Kappus and Kelsie Howes each caught their first wahoo, weighing 70 and 58 lbs. respectively. They then picked up and headed further offshore where they caught a yellowfin and a mahi in addition to hooking an 88 lb. swordfish on their second drop. Also fishing on the "Primary Search" were Tommy Clark, Brian Sushke and Capt. Austin Ensor. Pictured at Sunsert Marina.

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Local angler, Budd Heim was soaking sand fleas around the South Jetty with Kevin Welkner when he hooked into this whopper triggerfish that he to weigh 5 lbs. The fish was released.



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ANGLER Tom Distefano  
BOAT Marli  
DATE 7/31/16 HUK

The first to arrive at the scale on the final day of the 3rd Annual Huk Big Fish Classic was the charter boat, "Marli" with a 407 lb. blue marlin caught by Tom Distefano of New Castle, DE. Tom picked a good time to land his first blue marlin, hooking the tournament winning 112-incher on a skirted rubber ballyhoo in the Washington Canyon where they also picked up a 46 lb. yellowfin. Tom was fishing with Joe Stein, Keith Heckathorn and Keith Nizer from Baltimore, MD, Robert DiGiacomo from Rehoboth Beach, DE, Capt. Mark Hoos and mates Mark Stephens and Joel Fryberger. The big blue marlin was the heaviest fish caught in the tournament and won the "Marli" team \$105,270 in award money. Pictured at the Talbot Street



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Bill and Jules Mister caught a pair of tautog measuring 18 and 19-inches while fishing with green crabs and sand fleas at the Outer Wall in the Delaware Bay.



David Konick had a great day fishing on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins, returning to the dock with his limit of 15 black sea bass, including this doubleheader. All were caught on clams on offshore structure. This was a day that Capt. Monty reported the best porgy bite he has had in 40 years with over 100 caught during their trip. Capt. Monty feels that they are also moving further inshore than he has seen in the past.

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January 17 - 19, 2020
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Javits Center  
January 22 - 26, 2020
- Baltimore Boat Show  
Baltimore Convention Center  
January 23 - 26, 2020
- NRA Great American Hunting & Outdoor Show  
Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex - Harrisburg, PA  
January 23 - 26, 2020
- Kent Island Fisherman's Flea Market  
Kent Island American Legion Post #278  
January 25 - 26, 2020
- Ocean City Seaside Boat Show  
Convention Center  
February 14th, 2020 - 11am to 7pm  
February 15th, 2020 - 10am to 7pm  
February 16th, 2020 - 10am to 5pm
- Philadelphia Fishing Show  
Greater Philadelphia Expo Center - Oaks, PA  
February 21 - 23, 2020
- Atlantic City Boat Show  
Atlantic City Convention Center  
February 26 - March 1, 2020
- Annapolis Saltwater Fishing Expo  
Annapolis Elks Lodge #622  
February 29, 2020
- Greater Philadelphia Boat Show  
Greater Philadelphia Expo Center  
March 6 - 8, 2020
- New Jersey Saltwater Fishing Expo  
New Jersey Convention & Expo Center  
March 13-15, 2020





In October, Nick Foxcroft, Sam Dinally and Daniel Favato made the 11 hour trip from Ontario, Canada to go fishing with Kelly Kappus and Capt. Austin Ensor on the "Primary Search". They ventured out to the Poor Man's Canyon and fished for 20 hours before returning to Sunset Marina. They caught 2 swordfish at night, released a small swordfish and caught another keeper the next day. All were fooled with rigged squid.

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Lisa Henry caught her first keeper flounder of the year while drifting a white Gulp Swimming Mullet in the East Channel, north of the Rt. 50 Bridge. Lisa's falltie measured 17-inches.



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Ken Yeun muscled in this 8 lb. flounder while fishing on the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Rich Fouts and Joey Marowski. The fish was caught on cut bait at an ocean wreck.



Dave Allen hoists a 62-inch bigeye tuna caught on the "Primary Search" in late November while deep dropping in the Baltimore Canyon. Dave was fishing with Nick Warren, Anthony Clark, Joe Tull and Capt. Austin Ensor. The bigeye turned into a major contributor to Sushi Night at Capt. Austin's house.

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# FISH

## STORIES

by Capt. Franky Pettolina



The outgoing tide was just beginning. Still waters of the bay were awakening. I was standing on the southern pier at the White Marlin Marina, my cast net in a bucket and my favorite rod soaking a shiner under a cork near the old broken piling by the Blue Bayou restaurant. It was late August and soon my summer at the beach would be over and I would be returning to Saint Matthew's Regional School in Verga, New Jersey, for the start of 6th grade. Summers were going by too quickly even back then.

My favorite fish to catch from the pier, snapper blues, just weren't cooperating. My friend Robby was working as the mate on the "Last Call" that summer (I was still in training then, if you could call it that. I wasn't any good with a chamois and I definitely was not what you would call "coachable" yet.) He had just finished cleaning the boat from the day of charter fishing and was walking down the pier to see what his "helper" was up to. Robby was, and still is, a few years older than me so our friendship was a little forced by circumstance, but no matter

how you sliced it we both loved to fish. He took my rod from my hand and went through an overly dramatized skit of hooking a white marlin, complete with an exaggerated hook set and yelling of "Got Him On!!!" All this accomplished was snatching my float up in to the pier and my shiner falling off of the hook. I was not amused.

While I was trying to untangle my rig from the boards on the pier, Robby went over to the bucket and took my cast net out. As he was doing this our other friends, Blaine and Skipper, arrived, both wondering what kind of trouble we were getting into. Skipper was my age. Blaine a few years younger. I guess he was probably seven or so. The end of August at the start of the outgoing tide, four boys between the ages of seven and thirteen, a cast net and a bucket. How much trouble could we get into?

Skipper saw the birds first. Gulls and Sooty Terns starting to bunch up by the Kelly Drawbridge. He pointed them out to all of us. Over the next few minutes the birds seemed to multiply to Hitchcock-esque

proportions. In addition to the gulls and terns, cormorants were joining in and the whole scene was moving in our direction. The closer the diving birds came to our pier the easier it was for our young eyes (even mine that had already started on the path to the powerful prescription contacts I wear now) to pick out the bait fish splashing under them. Robby figured out they were bunker and proceeded to prepare my cast net for when the school was close enough to attempt to throw on.

My cast net experience at that time was limited to catching spot from the pier and mullet and shiners at the sandbar on the north side of the Kelly Drawbridge. Filling a five-gallon bucket with bait had never crossed my mind. I had never caught more than I was able to use. That was all about to change.

On his first throw Robby started yelling, "Look at this! Look at this! They are swimming the net up!" And sure enough my little four-foot net wasn't sinking like I was used to. It had hit the water and was actually rising. When Skipper and Robby hauled the net up on to the pier and called for me to bring the bucket I was dumbfounded. The net had never been so full. One toss almost filled the five-gallon bucket. We were all ecstatic!

Robby appointed himself leader and started giving us orders. Blaine and I were sent to get the cooler off of the "Last Call" and Skipper was to round up as many five-gallon pails as he could. We were going to make a fortune selling these bunker to the local tackle shops for shark chum. Ecstatic then became an understatement. The idea that we could make money selling fish we caught had never occurred to us before.

Over the next hour we took turns throwing the net and sorting our catch. The school of bunker seemed endless. By the time the sun was setting

and Robby's Dad showed up to get him we had amassed a mountain of menhaden. I think the final tally was a full 120 quart Igloo cooler, five trash bags and three five-gallon buckets. Robby had to leave. Blaine was late for supper. Skipper and I were pretty sure that our parents would be sending out a search party soon as well, so we decided to store our catch under the steps at the base of the pier. We all agreed to meet back in the morning to figure out how to market our shark chum to the tackle shops.

Sunday morning came and went. Robby and Skipper never came back. Blaine came by on his bike and wanted me to go to the boardwalk with him. I thought that was a good idea. We could deal with the fish after lunch.

I am not sure how closely you have been paying attention to the details of this Fish Story up until now, but I will point out that in all of our youthful enthusiasm for this newfound fishing fortune one item was never mentioned. Ice. Even though it was the end of August, it was still rather warm. Bunkers are kind of smelly and slimy when they are kept under proper conditions. Well, after eighteen or so hours of improper care, smelly and slimy are not adequate adjectives. Foul and funky. Rank and rotten. Yup. Those are much more suitable.

By the time that Blaine and I returned from the boardwalk the rest of the marina had taken to investigating the source of the stench that was ruining their Sunday. Blaine's Dad and my Dad were able to piece together at least some of the culprits by looking at our clothes from the night before and the lack of buckets and a cooler in the cockpit of the "Last Call". For the next couple of hours, Blaine and I were tasked with dumping our no longer prized catch off of the pier, cleaning the mess we left on the pier and cleaning the mess we made in

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our buckets and cooler. The ironic thing was that the tide was moving out when we dumped our catch back into the bay and the birds didn't seem to mind the lack of ice. But Blaine and I learned an early life lesson.

We had never seen fishing like we had the night before. There were so many bunker and we were able to catch them so easily. We were so excited that we COULD catch that many of them that we never really stopped to think if we SHOULD catch that many of them. Older me will give younger me and the rest of the crew a little bit of a pass because we really thought we had a use for that much menhaden. Our intentions were good. Then again, what is it they say about the road to hell? What is it paved with?

I am not one to get on a conservation soapbox very often. Sure I advocate the good stewardship of a resource and the responsible harvest of any fish, but I do not

blast the guy that boats a billfish that was not caught during a tournament. I don't mind when a big fish of any species is weighed in or when someone brings their first white marlin back to the dock for a picture and a trip to the smoker. Over the course of my career Lord knows I have killed my share of sea creatures. Right now though I am going to take a small trip up to the top of the soapbox.

A group of guys boating a limit of yellowfin tuna and a couple of bigeyes will probably never wipe out an entire population. Bailing a limit of mahi will probably never wipe out an entire population. Harvesting a swordfish or two every trip out will probably never wipe out an entire population. Limits of sea bass and tilefish will probably never wipe out a population. Four kids throwing a cast net at a school of bunker will probably never wipe out an entire population.

I call BULL. We as

recreational fishermen need to take a long look in the mirror. There are more of us than there ever have been in history. When the weather is good the fishing grounds are crowded. I don't care if it is the first Saturday of July or the last Thursday of November, it is crowded. Our techniques and technology are far superior to anything in fishing history. We have satellites telling us where to go and electronic aids that will darn near tell us how many scales are on a fish in six hundred feet of water. With a few exceptions (mako sharks and bluefin tuna come to mind) the limits set forth by NMFS/NOAA are too relaxed in my opinion. We are killing too many yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, mahi, bottom critters and swords. We need to be more responsible. We are all guilty of it at one time or another. We have all sent our friends running down the dock to get another bucket to put the bunker in, so to speak.

OK. I will exit the soapbox

January 1, 2020 Coastal Fisherman Page 113

now. My words above are not directed at any one boat or captain. Note that I said "We". I have been guilty of it plenty of times myself. But if you stopped for even a second and thought, "is that tubby goof talking about me?" Maybe you need to think about what goes into your kill box. Years from now you will feel better for it. Believe me.

Enjoy the winter months my friends. Hopefully you go somewhere cool and catch some neat stuff. I would love to hear about it! Be safe and be nice to one another. See ya in the spring!

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



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Steve Robinson, Pete Antonelli and Bob Fitzwater (all pictured) ventured out on the "Bottom Line" with John Hazzard, Lee Abel and John Mancuso to do some striper fishing in early December. The guys were rewarded with 4 keepers, weighing between 14 lbs. 6 oz. and 22 lbs. The 4 keepers and 2 releases were all caught on the trolled mojos and Stretch lures off Indian River. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

## ASMFC Recommends New Bluefish Regulations

In mid-December, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) recommended and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) approved new recreational fishing regulations for the 2020 Atlantic bluefish fishery from Florida to Maine. These measures, which include a 3-fish bag limit for private anglers and shore-based fishermen and a 5-fish bag limit for for-hire fishermen, represent a substantial reduction compared to the federal 15-fish bag limit that has been in place since 2000. The Commission's actions are final and apply to state waters (0-3 miles from shore), while the Council will forward its recommendation for federal waters (3 - 200 miles from shore) to the NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Administrator for final approval.

The most recent operational assessment of the Atlantic bluefish stock concluded that the stock is overfished, but not experiencing overfishing. During their joint meeting in October, the Council and Commission adopted a recreational harvest limit (RHL) of 9.48 million pounds for 2020 and 2021, which is an 18% decrease compared to the 2019 RHL. Using the current regulations, the recreational sector is projected to land 13.27 million pounds, which will exceed the RHL by 28.56%. Therefore, the Council and Commission met last week to approve new recreational management measures to constrain harvest to the reduced RHL.

The Council and Commission considered several combinations of bag limits and minimum size limits, including options to set a single set of regulations for all fishing modes or different regulations for shore/private modes and

[www.coastalfisherman.net](http://www.coastalfisherman.net) the for-hire mode. Although the Council's Bluefish Monitoring Committee recommended a coastwide 3-fish bag limit, the majority of comments from the public and Bluefish Advisory Panel (AP) members expressed opposition to this option, noting that it would have severe economic consequences for the for-hire sector, which was only responsible for 3.6% of coastwide landings from 2016 to 2018. Additionally, Advisory Panel members and the public emphasized that these proposed reductions come at a challenging time for for-hire stakeholders as they are also facing new restrictions on striped bass, black sea bass, summer flounder, and scup.

After an extensive discussion and thorough consideration of public comments, the Council recommended and the Commission approved a 3-fish bag limit for private and shore modes and a 5-fish bag limit for the for-hire mode. No restrictions were made to minimum fish size or seasons.

"For many years, bluefish has been one of our most abundant recreational fisheries," said Council Chairman and ASMFC Board member Mike Luisi. "The Council and Commission are fully committed to the effective conservation and management of this stock, but we also recognize that a sudden change in regulations could have severe socioeconomic consequences for some stakeholders. After evaluating a wide range of options and considering numerous comments from the public, we feel that this approach is the most fair and effective way to achieve the necessary reduction in harvest next year."

The Council and Commission are continuing to work on development of a rebuilding plan as part of the Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment. Additional information and updates on this action are available at <http://www.mafmc.org/actions/bluefish-allocation-amendment>.

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Local angler, Bill Pino of Squidnation.com caught a 577 lb. blue marlin on the final day to win the 2019 Bisbee's Black and Blue in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico at the end of October. Bill was fishing on the "Tranquilo" with Ken and Amanda Cofer, Kim Hermanowski, Robbie Hood, Capt. Victor Julio Pizzaro and mates Daniel Arriete and Coco. Bill fought the fish for 44 minutes after hooking it on a lure and earned the "Tranquilo" team \$1,411,375 in award money.



In early October, Capt. Monty Hawkins on the headboat, "Morning Star" ran to an offshore hotspot and stopped the boat when his sounder showed sea bass stacked 35-feet from the bottom. The bite was so good that "Hurricane Murray" Adams and Courtney Thompson both caught multiple keeper doubleheaders of knoheads on bare hooks. Limits were caught all around the rail.



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Anglers on "Gret's Three J's" continued their great fall season of swordfishing by capturing this 144 pounder on November 23rd while deep dropping in the Washington Canyon. In addition to the fish pictured, they also released a smaller swordfish during the trip. Fishing on "Gret's Three J's" were Victor Jackson, Mark Robinson, Mark Benzing, John Conrad and mates John Griffith and Alex Beane. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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In the early fall, Budd Heim (pictured) and Kevin Welkner had a good time catching sheephead around the South Jetty while using sand fleas for bait. The anglers caught a pair of 22 3/4-inches, a 16-incher and a 14-incher, but released 2 during their trip.



# Jay Phillips

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**Capt. Mike Burt 410.726.8804**

In the 5th Annual Big Fish Classic, Dan Burt on the "Pumpin' Hard" caught a 112.5-inch, 455 lb. blue marlin to win the Heaviest Stringer Division, earning them \$199,771 in award money. The blue marlin was placed in the Heaviest Stringer Division, earning them \$199,771 in award money. The blue marlin was hooked while trolling a plug back to the spot where Kevin had already captured the swordfish on a Hony artificial bait in 250 fathoms in the Poor Man's Canyon. The guys also released a white marlin during the trip. Rounding out the team was Adam Glushakow, Capt. Mike Burt and mate David Burt.

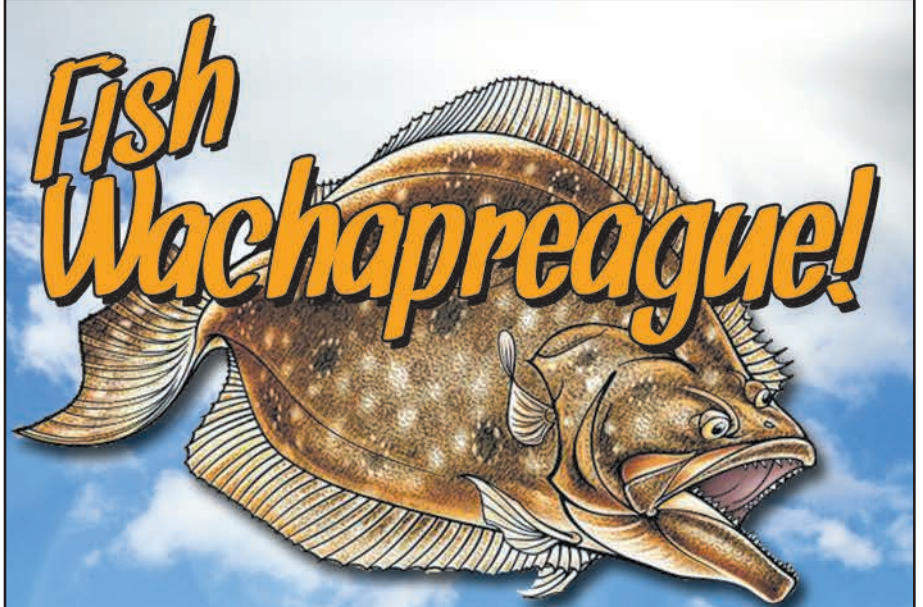




Anglers fishing on the "Lit Up" had an incredible day at the end of September, catching a billfish slam with a white marlin, a blue marlin (est. 350 lbs.) and a 300 lb. swordfish in the Baltimore Canyon. If that wasn't enough, the anglers also caught a wahoo and 8 mahi. Fishing with Capt. Tommy Baldwin and mates Brian Riley and Billy Chapman were Nick Neary, Rob Burns, Matt Wroten, Travis Isaac, John Ortel and Jay Zwirline.



Donald Bounds from Berlin, MD caught this 6 lb. flounder while fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. Donald hooked the big flattie on a Gulp and teaser combination at an artificial reef site.



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The daytime swordfishing bug has been caught by many Ocean City offshore boats, including the "Fish On" with Capt. Andrew Dotterweich and mate Jake Emche. Anglers Todd Willard, Andy Strine and John Centrella caught this 164 pounder while fishing in over 1,000 feet of water in the Wilmington Canyon back at the end of September.

## CATCH A POACHER

"Poaching" deprives the public of the opportunity to use and enjoy Maryland's natural resources. Preserving our natural resources for our present and future enjoyment is everyone's responsibility.

### It's Illegal

Taking sportfish or game out of season • Taking of banned sportfish or non-game wildlife • Exceeding creel or bag limits (legal quantity in possession) • Taking game or sportfish with illegal methods or equipment • Taking fish outside of established hours

### Reward

Citizens who supply the Natural Resources Police with information leading to the arrest and conviction of a violator will receive cash rewards. Be specific in the description of individuals. When possible, give name, addresses and vehicle descriptions. The anonymity of the information/caller is guaranteed.

### Report a Poacher

**Call Toll-Free:  
800-635-6124**

**The Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Catch-A-Poacher Program  
Tawes State Office Building, Annapolis, MD**



Robbie Baxley caught this 5 lb. 2 oz. tautog while using green crabs and box crabs for bait. On this day, he caught his limit of tog while fishing at the Ice Breakers on the charter boat, "Katydid" with Capt. Brent Wiest. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.





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10<sup>th</sup> Annual

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# 2019 Heaviest Fish of the Year

# COASTAL FISHERMAN



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

Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
 Bluefish	July 7, 2019 John O'Donnell Massey's Canyon 15 lbs.	June 13, 2019 Ray Mast Delaware Bay 17 lbs.	 Mako Shark	June 23, 2019 John Dudley Washington Canyon 486 lbs.	June 2, 2019 Mike Baumgartner Poor Man's Canyon 159 lbs.
 Black Drum	<b>NEW</b> October 5, 2019 Jim Wagner "Lucky Break" 14 lbs.	May 22, 2019 A.J. Marta Delaware Bay 64 lbs.	 Thresher Shark	June 1, 2019 Marc Troch Fingers 553 lbs.	June 15, 2019 Dave Twardowski Old Grounds 528 lbs.
 Cobia	July 21, 2019 Wyatt Melocik Great Gull Shoal 60 lbs.	August 17, 2019 Nicky Ferrara Bethany Coast 72 lbs.	 Bigeye Tuna	June 19, 2019 Bill Pino & Bill Keller Poor Man's Canyon 237 lbs.	August 9, 2019 Ostrowski Family Wilmington Canyon 225 lbs.
 Flounder	<b>NEW</b> November 9, 2019 Charles Wright "Angler" 8 lbs. 8 oz.	July 3, 2019 Sunny Crowell Site 10 10 lbs. 10 oz.	 Bluefin Tuna	May 27, 2019 Steve Brokenshire Poor Man's Canyon 155 lbs.	June 2, 2019 John Klerlien Baltimore Canyon 157.4 lbs.
 Sea Bass	May 15, 2019 Bobby Eberhard Ocean Wreck 5 lbs.	<b>NEW</b> October 29, 2019 Richard Thompson "Katydid" 3 lbs. 10 oz.	 Longfin Tuna	June 25, 2019 Mike Shekletski Baltimore Canyon 57 lbs.	June 1, 2019 Ed Luhrman Baltimore Canyon 54 lbs.
 Sheepshead	<b>NEW</b> November 6, 2019 Alex Cortizo "Fish Bound" 14 lbs.	<b>NEW</b> September 25, 2019 Mark Brown "Grizzly" 13 lbs. 4 oz.	 Yellowfin Tuna	August 9, 2019 Andrew Semprevivo Baltimore Canyon 150.5 lbs.	June 19, 2019 Kyle Bartley Baltimore Canyon 79.7 lbs.
 Striped Bass	May 9, 2019 Dan Rivera Ocean City Inlet 37.5 lbs.	<b>NEW</b> December 8, 2019 Bill Vernon Indian River Coast 19 lbs. 11 oz.	 Dolphin	August 16, 2019 Kristy Frashure Poor Man's Canyon 74.5 lbs.	July 20, 2019 Mary Gessler Baltimore Canyon 29.9 lbs.
 Tautog	May 7, 2019 Eddie Santiago "Fish Bound" 20 lbs.	January 7, 2019 Steve Kiibler Site 11 19 lbs. 13 oz.	 Wahoo	July 12, 2019 Andrew Koontz Poor Man's Canyon 109 lbs.	<b>NEW</b> September 28, 2019 Ralph Short Baltimore Canyon 94 lbs.
 Weakfish	June 6, 2019 Rich Daiker South Jetty 6 lbs. 8 oz.	June 5, 2019 Ryan Lewis Indian River Inlet 5 lbs. 6 oz.	 White Marlin	<b>Most Releases in 1 Day (trolling only)</b>	
				August 1, 2019 "Let It Ride" 13 releases	July 28, 2019 "Seaflame" 9 releases

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





Andrea Wood went on her first offshore fishing trip and caught a 40-inch, 26 lb. mahi while fishing on the "Fabricator" with light tackle in the Baltimore Canyon.



Dae Kim caught his limit of black sea bass, including this 19-incher, while fishing on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. All 15 of his knotheads were hooked on a gold diamond jig over ocean structure. Rick Auello of Seaford, DE took the fish pool this trip with a 20-inch, 4 lb. 12 oz. sea bass.



John Wittmyer of "Crabs to Go" fame ventured out on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley and was rewarded with this 6 lb. 8 oz. flounder that he hooked on a teaser and strip bait combo on an offshore wreck. The "Fish Bound" is docked at the Talbot Street Pier in Ocean City, MD.

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In late September the flounder bite was good in the bay behind Ocean City and local anglers Danny Cox of Ocean City, MD and Greg Volpitta from Monkton, MD caught 4 beauties while drifting around the Rt. 50 Bridge. The fish measured between 17 1/2 and 19-inches with their largest tipping the scale at 2 lbs. 8 oz.



Christopher Curlett of New Castle, DE is all smiles after weighing a sheephead that he caught while using sand fleas for bait on Delaware Bay structure. The sheephead weighed 8 lbs. 7 oz. on the scale at Lewes Harbour Marina.



The striped bass bite really didn't heat up until early December when Tommy Clendaniel of Lincoln, DE caught this 41 pounder off the Delaware coast. Tommy hooked the 46-inch linesider on a Magic Tail Mojo and weighed his catch at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Capt. Jim Bugg on the "Magic Moment" must have slept like a baby the night after returning from a trip where he handcranked this 150 lb. swordfish for 3 1/2 hours after hooking it in 1,200 feet of water in the Poor Man's Canyon. Jim fooled the swordie with a strip of mahi belly while fishing with Tony Freiji, Jim Barbey, Brendan Barbey, Chris Daugherty, Keith Hutchison and mate Richard Hutchison. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



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# OCEAN CITY MARLIN CLUB

## 2020 TOURNAMENT SERIES



### 11th ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY TOURNAMENT

*To benefit the Catherine & Charles Kratz Memorial Foundation and Scholarship Fund*

Chairmen: Franky Pettolina, Chris Evans  
 Registration: May 22, 6:30pm  
 Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 23 & 24  
 Weigh-Ins: May 23 & 24, 4:30-7:00pm at Sunset Marina  
 Awards Banquet: May 24, 6:30-9:00pm

### 41st ANNUAL SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT

Chairmen: Boz Jefferson, & Bill Regan  
 Registration: June 19, 6:30pm  
 Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 20 & 21  
 Weigh-Ins: June 20 & 21, 3:00-6:30pm at Sunset Marina  
 Eastern Shore Style Crab Feast: June 21, 6:30 - 9:00pm

### 38th ANNUAL CANYON KICK OFF

Chairmen: Al Rittmeyer & Bob Althausen  
 Registration: July 2, 6:30pm  
**FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS**  
 Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 3, 4, 5  
 Weigh-Ins: July 3-5, 5:00-7:30pm at Sunset Marina  
 Awards Banquet: July 5, 6:30 - 9:00pm

### 16th ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC

*To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation*

Chairmen: Dale Withers & Gerard Ott  
 Registration: July 17, 6:30pm  
 Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 18 & 19  
 Weigh-Ins: July 18, 3:00-6:30pm, July 19, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina  
 Sunday Carnival & Awards: July 19, 5:00-8:00pm

### 12th ANNUAL OCMC LADIES' TOURNAMENT "HEELS & REELS"

*Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund*

Chairmen: Franky Pettolina, Ryan Freese & Amanda Shick  
 Registration: July 30, 6:00pm  
 Fishing Days: (1 of 2) July 31 & August 1  
 Weigh-Ins: July 31 & August 1, 5:30-7:30pm, at Atlantic Tackle  
 Awards Banquet: August 1, 6:30-9:00pm

### 62nd ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT

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

Chairmen: Jim Giles & Gary Stamm  
 Registration: September 3, 6:30pm  
 Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 4, 5, 6  
 Weigh-Ins: September 4, 5, 6, 5:30 - 7:30pm at Sunset Marina  
 Awards Banquet: September 6, 6:30-9:00pm

### 5th ANNUAL OCMC vs OCLTC SHOOT-OUT

Chairmen: Pat Svehla & Frank Goodhart III  
 Angler Meeting: September 10, 7:00pm  
 Fishing Days: ( 2 of 3) September 11, 12, 13  
 No Weigh-Ins  
 Awards Banquet: September 13, 6:30-9:00pm

### 42nd ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP

Chairmen: Jon Duffie & Andy Helms  
 Registration: September 16, 7:00pm  
 Fishing Days: ( 2 of 3) September 17, 18, 19  
 No Weigh-Ins  
 Italian Night: September 18, 6:30-9:00pm  
 Awards Banquet: September 19, 6:30-9:00pm

### Important Dates:

Last Day of Fishing  
 October 4 @ 5:00pm

Last Day for Catch Reports  
 October 5 @ 12:00pm

### Invite Only:

11th Annual White Marlin Party  
 October 23 @ 6:30-10:30pm

2020 OCMC Seasonal Awards  
 October 24 @ 6:30-10:00pm

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# COASTAL FISHERMAN

# Congratulates all 2019 OC Marlin Club AWARD WINNERS

**Top Junior Angler**

Rylan Dilodovico - 13 releases  
 Nick Keller - 10 releases  
 Emma Helwig - 7 releases

**Top Lady Angler**

Judy Duffie - 36 releases  
 Karen Mitchell - 7 releases  
 Robin Ritter - 7 releases

**Top Gentleman Angler**

Ed Dunn - 55 releases  
 Jonathan Duffie - 37 releases  
 Mike Peet - 30 releases

**Charles Kratz Award for 1st White Marlin Caught by a Junior Angler (member)**

Logan Wesley - "Boss Hogg"  
 July 2, 2019 @ 8:45 AM

**1st White Marlin Caught on a Member Boat**

Steve Selander - "Hot Rod"  
 June 2, 2019 @ 9:10 AM

**Jimmy Jackson Memorial Award for Top Mate on a Charter Boat**

Michael Butler & Erik Mateer  
 "No Quarter"

**Jimmy Jackson Memorial Award for Top Mate on a Private Boat**

Noah McVicker & Jon Henry  
 "Billfisher"

**Recreational Angler Award**

Tina Boykin - 9 releases  
 "Lucky Duck II"

**Heaviest Tuna**

"Blood Money"  
 237 lbs.

**Heaviest Dolphin**

"Haulin n Ballin"  
 74.5 lbs.

**Heaviest Wahoo**

"Fish Whistle"  
 94 lbs.

**Heaviest Striped Bass**

"Black Magic"  
 28.5 lbs.

**Most Sharks Released by Any Boat**

"Primary Search" - 18

**1st White Marlin of the Season**

"Uncle Keith"  
 June 1, 2019 @ 10:30 AM

**Last Billfish of the Season**

Brent Lounge - "Roncito"  
 October 2, 2019 @ 2:20 PM

**Most 1st Billfish Caught by a Charter Boat**

"Fish On" - 48

**Most 1st Billfish Caught by a Private Boat**

"Lucky Duck II" - 20

**Most Blue Marlin Caught by a Private Boat**

"Billfisher" - 10

**Most Blue Marlin Caught by a Charter Boat**

"No Quarter" - 14

**1st Blue Marlin of the Season**

"Pumpin Hard"  
 June 15, 2019 @ 11:55 AM

**Most Tuna Caught by a Charter Boat**

"Marli" - 273  
 "Wrecker" - 182  
 "Talkin Trash" - 151

**Most Tuna Caught by a Private Boat**

"Killin' Time" - 97  
 "Reel Tight" - 75  
 "Lucky Duck II" - 66

**Most Tuna Caught by a Boat - 39' to 48'**

"Fish On" - 80

**Most Tuna Caught by a Boat - 29' to 38'**

"Game Changer" - 70

**Most Tuna Caught by a Boat - 28' and Under**

"Carol's Teakettle" - 18

**Most Billfish Caught Private Boat - 28' and Under**

"Hollywood" - 13

**Most Billfish Caught Private Boat - 29' to 38'**

"Prime Hook" - 50  
 "Lucky Duck II" - 49  
 "Dawg Haus" - 27

**Most Billfish Caught Private Boat - 39' to 48'**

"Fish On" - 83  
 "First Light" - 46  
 "Last Call" - 31

**Most Billfish Caught by a Private Boat**

"Billfisher" - 165  
 "Gret's Three J's" - 107  
 "D.A. Sea" - 98

**Most Billfish Caught by a Charter Boat**

"No Quarter" - 126  
 "Buckshot" - 93  
 "Roll Groove" - 89

**Most Billfish Caught by Any Boat**

"Billfisher" - 165

**Most Billfish Caught in 1 Day by a Private Boat**

"Billfisher" - 21

**Most Billfish Caught in 1 Day by a Charter Boat**

"Fish On" - 11

## Billfish Release Clubs

### ~~ BILLFISH RELEASE CLUBS ~~

#### 100 Club

"Billfisher" - 165

"No Quarter" - 126

"Gret's Three J's" - 107

#### 50 Club

"D.A. Sea" - 98

"Buckshot" - 93

"Reel Chaos" - 89

"Roll Groove" - 89

"Fish On" - 83

"Tighten Up" - 74

"C-Boys" - 67

"Marli" - 63

"Pumpin Hard" - 57

"Blood Money" - 53

"Prime Hook" - 50

#### 25 Club

"Lucky Duck II" - 49

"First Light" - 46

"Electric Bill" - 45

"Cabana" - 43

"Boss Hogg" - 42

"Stalker" - 36

"Fishbone" - 34

"Talkin' Trash" - 33

"Seaflame" - 33

"Lit Up" - 32

"Whiskey Kilo" - 31

"Reel Joy" - 31

"Griffin" - 31

"Grande Pez" - 31

"Last Call" - 31

"Bar South" - 30

"Par Five" - 30

"The Chaser" - 30

"FFMD" - 28

"Dawg Haus" - 27

"A Salt Weapon III" - 27

"Spring Mix II" - 27

"Killin' Time" - 27

"Wrecker" - 26

"Primary Search" - 26

"Canyon Hunter" - 26

"Reel Estate" - 26

"The Zipper" - 26







At the 2019 Ocean City Marlin Club Seasonal Awards Banquet, three boats were recognized for making it into the elite "100 Club" for the 2019 season. The "Billfisher" took the top spot with 165 releases, followed by the "No Quarter with 126 releases and "Gret's Three J's" with 107 releases. Pictured are John Conrad from "Gret's Three J's" and Noah McVicker and Jon Henry, mates on the "Billfisher".



At the Ocean City Marlin Club Seasonal Awards Banquet, the team on the "Primary Search" took top honors for "Most Sharks Released by Any Boat" with 18 released between the beginning of the year and October 6th. The "Primary Search" was also in the "25 Club" with 26 billfish releases during the season. Pictured with family and friends are Capt. Austin Ensor, mate Brian Suschke and angler Tommy Clark.



The Brinker family was happy to take the top award for "Most Tuna Caught by a 28' and Under Boat" with 18 caught on "Carol's Teakettle" during the season. Pictured at the 2019 Ocean City Marlin Club Seasonal Awards Banquet are Christine Drummond, Tim Brinker, Carol Brinker and Tom Brinker.



The crew on the charter boat, "Fish On" had a very good year and picked up a few trophies at the Ocean City Marlin Club Seasonal Awards Banquet in October. In addition to being a member of the "50 Club" for their 83 billfish releases they took top honors for "Most Tuna Caught by a 39' - 48' Boat" (80), "Most Billfish Caught by a Charter Boat in 1 Day" (11), "Most Billfish Caught by a 39" - 48' Boat" (83) and "Most First Billfish Caught by a Charter Boat" (48). Pictured are John Stachowski, Todd Willard, Jake Emche, Capt. Andrew Dotterweich and Josh Jasper





The crew on the "Billfisher" cleaned up at the 2019 Ocean City Marlin Club Seasonal Awards Banquet in October, taking home top honors in the "Most Blue Marlin Caught by a Private Boat" (10), "Most Billfish Caught by a Private Boat in 1 Day" (21), "Most Billfish Caught by a Private Boat" (165) and "Most Billfish Caught by Any Boat" (165). Mates Noah McVicker and Jon Henry also won the "Jimmy Jackson Memorial Award for Top Mates on a Private Boat". Judy Duffie was recognized as the "Top Lady Angler" for her 36 billfish releases and Jonathan Duffie took 2nd place in the "Top Gentleman Angler" category with 37 releases. Also pictured at the Ocean City Marlin Club are Capt. Billy Gerlach, angler Danny Gough and his wife, Amy.



At the 2019 Ocean City Marlin Club Seasonal Awards Banquet, Rylan Dilodovico was recognized as the "Top Junior Angler" for his 13 billfish releases while fishing on the "Roll Groove". Nick Keller on the "Tighten Up" took 2nd place with 10 releases and 3rd place was won by Emma Helwig on the "Roll Groove" with 7 releases.



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At the 2019 Ocean City Marlin Club Seasonal Awards Banquet, the following boats finished the season in the "50 Club", recognized for releasing between 50 and 99 billfish during the season - "Prime Hook" (50), "Blood Money" (53), "Pumpin Hard" (57), "Marli" (63), "C-Boys" (67), "Tighten Up" (74), "Fish On" (83), "Roll Groove" (89), "Reel Chaos" (89), "Buckshot" (93) and "D.A. Sea" (98).

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The crew on the "Marli" made it 16 straight wins for "Most Tuna Caught by a Charter Boat" at the 2019 Ocean City Marlin Club Seasonal Awards Banquet in October. They caught 273 tuna during the season beating out the "Wrecker" (182) and "Talkin Trash" (151).



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At the 2019 Ocean City Marlin Club Seasonal Awards Banquet, the following boats finished the season in the "25 Club", recognized for releasing between 25 and 49 billfish during the season - "The Zipper" (26), "Reel Estate" (26), "Canyon Hunter" (26), "Primary Search" (26), "Wrecker" (26), "Killin' Time" (27), "Spring Mix II" (27), "A Salt Weapon" (27), "Dawg Haus" (27), "FFMD" (28), "The Chaser" (30), "Par Five" (30), "Bar South" (30), "Last Call" (31), "Grande Pez" (31), "Griffin" (31), "Reel Joy" (31), "Whiskey Kilo" (31), "Lit Up" (32), "Seaflame" (33), "Talkin' Trash" (33), "Fishbone" (34), "Stalker" (36), "Boss Hogg" (42), "Cabana" (43), "Electric Bill" (45), "First Light" (46) and "Lucky Duck II" (49). Pictured at the Ocean City Marlin Club.



The team on the "Lucky Duck II" are all smiles after winning the award for "Most 1st Billfish Caught on a Private Boat" with 20 releases during the season. Pictured at the Ocean City Marlin Club Seasonal Awards Banquet are Capt. Corey Kennington, mate Bill Menguson and anglers Art and Tina Boykin. Tina also won the "Recreational Angler Award" for her 9 releases.



On behalf of the crew on the "Killin' Time", Capt. Jason Norton accepted the award for "Most Tuna Caught on a Private Boat" (97) at the 2019 Ocean City Marlin Club Seasonal Awards Banquet.





Redell Thompson shows off a couple of sea bass and a flounder that he caught during a trip aboard the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mate Rich Fouts. Redell's heaviest knothead weighed 3 lbs. and his flounder tipped the scale at an even 4 lbs. All were caught on strips of squid on an ocean wreck.



Nick Ager was using sand fleas for bait while fishing off the Rt. 50 Bridge when he captured this 28-inch black drum. Nick was fishing with Jessica Ager who caught herself a 16-inch sheephead during the trip.

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Anglers on the "Magic Moment" had an epic day of swordfishing in the Washington Canyon, going 5 for 5 with fish ranging in weight between 88 lbs. and 162 lbs. All were caught handcranking. They also released 2 others in the 150 lb. range. Fishing on the "Magic Moment" were Chris Daugherty, Brandan Barbey, Jim Barbey, Todd Sauerwald and Capt. Jim Bugg.



Doug Krile from Altoona, PA was fishing on the "Pirate King" when he caught this 4 lb. 3 oz. triggerfish on a piece of clam. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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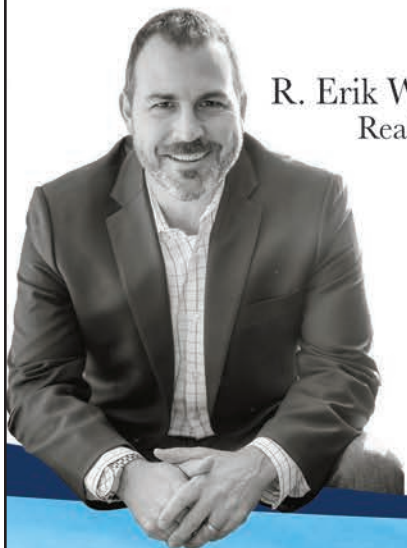
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# 2020 TOURNAMENTS

## APRIL

**30th Annual Capt. Zed's Spring Flounder Tournament**  
April 24 - May 3 • Wachapreague, VA • 757-789-3222

## MAY

**Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament**  
May 15 • Lewes Harbour Marina • 302-645-6227

**11th Marlin Club Memorial Day Tournament**  
May 23 - 24 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

## JUNE

**39th Annual South Jersey Shark Tournament**  
June 4 - 6 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

**24th Annual Mako Mania**  
June 5 - 7 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

**MidAtlantic Tuna Tournament**  
June 18 - 21 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

**6th Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament**  
June 19 - 21 • Indian River Marina • 302-227-3071

**41st Annual Marlin Club Small Boat Tournament**  
June 20 - 21 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

**CBSFA Tuna-Fortuna Tournament**  
June 26 - 28 • Ocean City, MD • 410-868-5488

## JULY

**38th Annual Marlin Club Canyon Kick-Off**  
July 3 - 5 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

**MidAtlantic Cup**  
July 4 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

**South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown**  
July 9 - 11 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

**33rd Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament**  
July 10 - 12 • O.C. Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

**16th Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic**  
July 18 - 19 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

**Paradise Bay Flounder Tournament**  
July 18 - 19 • Long Neck, De • 302-945-4500

**Yacht Club of Stone Harbor Marlin Tournament**  
July 24 - 25 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

**6th Annual Big Fish Classic**  
July 24 - 26 • Talbot Street Pier • 410-213-0325

**12th Annual Marlin Club Ladies Tournament**  
July 31 - August 1 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

## AUGUST

**11th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament**  
August 1 • Pines Point Marina • 410-641-5306

**47th Annual White Marlin Open**  
August 3 - 7 • Harbour Island Marina • 410-289-9229

**Ocean City (NJ) Marlin & Tuna Club Overnight Tournament**  
August 10 - 15 • Cape May, NJ • (609) 827-0820

**Paradise Grill Flounder Pounder**  
August 12 - 16 • Long Neck, DE • 302-945-4500

**27th Annual Capt. Steve Harman Poor Girl's Open**  
August 13 - 15 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

**The MidAtlantic**  
August 17 - 21 • Cape May, NJ & Ocean City, MD

## SEPTEMBER

**62nd Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament**  
September 4 - 6 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

**14th Annual Flounder Pounder**  
September 6 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

**5th Annual OC Marlin Club vs Light Tackle Club Shoot-Out**  
September 11 - 13 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

**20th Annual Ocean City Fishing Center Spot Tournament**  
September 12 • O.C. Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

**White Marlin Tagging Tournament**  
September 12 - 27 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

**42nd Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Challenge Cup**  
September 17 - 19 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

## OCTOBER

**39th Annual Mid-Atlantic Surf Fishing Tournament**  
October 1 - 3 • Ocean City, MD • 410-251-2203

**Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament**  
October 17 - November 21 • Lewes, DE • 302-645-6227

**16th Annual A.M.S.A. Ronald Bounds Fishing Tournament**  
October 17 - 18

## NOVEMBER

**Lewes Harbour Marina Striper Tournament**  
November 22 - December 20 • Lewes, DE • 302-645-6227

For complete tournament coverage results, pick up the *Coastal Fisherman* every week from May 1st to September 18th or log on to [www.coastalfisherman.net](http://www.coastalfisherman.net)





During a late October trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins, angler Bob Houser took largest fish honors with this 19 1/4-inch knothead caught while using clams for bait. Amazingly, Bob caught 2 keeper sea bass and a throwback on two hooks, all part of his 15-fish day.



The flounder were still snapping at the end of September and Gordy Spangler of Ocean City, MD took advantage of it, catching this 20-incher during a trip aboard the bay headboat, "Tortuga" with Capt. Drew Zerbe. Gordy hooked the flattie on a squid and shiner combination in the West Channel and weighed his catch at Bahia Marina on 21st Street in Ocean City, MD.



In advance of the US Wind offshore wind farm project, a 330-foot meteorological tower is being constructed 18-miles off the coast of Ocean City. The tower, sunk in 88-feet of water, will be used to collect wind resource data in advance of the controversial installation of offshore wind turbines.

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The ocean flounder bite was hit-or-miss this year and definitely not as good as what we have seen in the past, but when the bite turned on it did so with a vengeance. On this day, anglers on the headboat, "Angler" not only had a good day of flounder fishing but they also caught a boat limit of black sea bass. Ken Yuen led the way with a 7 lb. 8 oz. flattie with Tom Adkins right behind with a 7 pounder. Redell Thompson caught a 4 lb. 8 oz. flounder and Bob Gunkel shows off his nice pair of flatties. Most of the fish were caught on jigs over a natural ocean reef with Capt. Chris Mizurak at the helm. The "Angler" is docked at Capt. Bill Bunting's Angler Dock in downtown Ocean City.



The Ocean City Reef Foundation, under the leadership of Capt. Monty Hawkins, has significantly changed the face of recreational fishing off the Ocean City coast with the deployment of various types of structure that have created an outstanding system of artificial reefs. On this day, mates on the headboat, "Morning Star" drop reef block #28,000 while building up the Doug Ake Memorial Reef where they now have 3,906 blocks and 6 reef units. If you are interested in supporting the Ocean City Reef Foundation, see their ad on page 16 for details.



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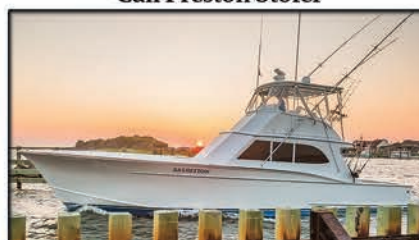
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