

Sportsfishermen Catch Variety of Game Fish

Many 'Tropical' Species Are Landed Off Shore

By BOB SIMPSON

There was a time when sportsfishermen around Morehead City caught little but spanish and king mackerel and bluefish while trolling; and hogfish, spots, sea mullet and trout still fishing. Gradually new species were discovered in the inshore and offshore waters, many of them long associated with tropical waters.

As anglers began picking up amberjack, wahoo, dolphin and—some 20 years ago—the first sailfish, a rich treasure of tropical fishes came to light.

Capt. Joe Rose tells of catching sailfish in his nets around Cape Lookout years ago and not knowing what they were. Taxidermist Waldron Bailey remembers his astonishment at seeing the first amberjack.

About seven years ago Ottis Purfoy's sportsfishing fleet came in with the first red snappers that many coastal Carolinians had ever seen and large crowds gathered to look at the brilliant red-gold fish.

Doubting Thomases all, they couldn't believe that the snappers were good eating. Today just try to buy or scrounge a snapper from a fisherman.

Pompano Discovered

In the fall a plump, but streamlined, fish, pale blue with a touch of yellow, appeared in limited numbers, along with crabs and trout, in the hauls of mullet nets in the surf. The native fishermen preferred mullet himself, and still does, but the handsome pompano represented a top price on the market.

"It's that Florida fish." Probably the ocean piers have had most to do with making the pompano popular locally, and it's no longer regarded as a strictly Florida fish. When the little ones appear in late summer in the surf, a mild hysteria spreads among the pier fishermen, who begin a daily check to see how soon they'll be eating size.

As for sailfish, they're abundant and they're close: three years ago one was seen in a dramatic leap only a few hundred feet off the Port Terminal, and last year Joe Rose's Edna brought back a sail caught a scant three miles from Morehead City. One thing is sure, they aren't caught bottom fishing, though many a fisherman has been caught napping, which explains the frequent fishing report, "Two sails hung—and lost."

Tuna Trophy Offered

The tackle-busting bluefin tuna, in his northward migration of May and June, has torn up many a rod and reel as he passed by. So far, no one has stopped him, but there's a trophy being offered this year for the largest battling bluefin or

any of his equally scrappy, but smaller, cousins. The little blackfin is in the 10 to 20-pound class, the bluefin up to 1,000 pounds.

The dolphin, caught for sport but not for food here for many years, is beginning to establish his reputation as a delicious food fish. Dolphin roe is considered the choicest of all roe. Still one of the most spectacular fighters, the dolphin is giving fishermen new thrills on light spinning tackle.

About four years ago the first cobia was caught in the sound, and has since become a favorite in May and June as one whopper that is by no means confined to deep-sea fishing.

Biggest recorded here inshore is 58 pounds; biggest offshore, 80 pounds. Two or three years ago surf and ocean pier fishermen began to hook tarpon, but none have been landed yet on Bogue Banks.

Growing List

The past two years have seen a 70-pound wahoo, a near-record, and this port's first white marlin and first blue marlin. The blue marlin hunt was stimulated by the offer of a large cash prize. And so the list grows till there's hardly a "Florida fish" that hasn't been hooked or landed from these waters.

Because of the growing confidence in the fishing potential of the waters inshore and offshore from Morehead City, the Fabulous Fishermen organized in 1956 to publicize every phase of sportsfishing, through newspapers, magazines, radio and television, and to draw sportsmen from a wider area.

In the first year the organization offered seven trophies for prize fish; last year 10 more classifications were added; this year the total is 20, with tuna, tarpon and channel bass added.

Trophies Listed

The species for which trophies are offered are sailfish, any other billfish, amberjack, false albacore, dolphin, king mackerel, spanish mackerel, bluefish, red snapper, grouper, wahoo, cobia, sea mullet, flounder, sheepshead, pompano, trout, and the three new additions, tuna, tarpon and channel bass.

Further inducements to the fisherman are a cash prize for the captain whose party brings in the largest blue marlin, another for the

This is Fashionable



This "sack" is fashionable in North Carolina. It's the increasingly popular litterbug that is helping Keep North Carolina Beautiful by keeping it clean. The litterbags are handy receptacles for trash until it can be disposed of, and are potent weapons in the state's continuing war on litterbugs. — (State of North Carolina Photo)

fisherman who lands the largest tarpon from an ocean pier and, for the armchair fisherman, prizes for the best fish story of the season.

Not restricting itself to fishing, the Fabulous Fishermen organization is vitally concerned with boating, so closely related to fishing, with every aspect of resort activity and with the promotion of the Morehead City-Bogue Banks community as a whole.

(Editor's Note: Writer of the above is executive secretary of the Fabulous Fishermen.)

Morehead City Pays Tax To Finance Recreation

Interested in recreational facilities, the citizens of Morehead City pay an annual tax to finance a recreation program.

Summer visitors are invited to join in recreation at the building on Shepard Street, between 15th and 16th Streets. Children participate in tennis, ping pong, carpet golf, receive band instruction and adults square dance and engage in amateur dramatics.

Lovely Morehead Biltmore Invites You



The traveler along the inland waterway gets this alluring glimpse of the Morehead Biltmore Hotel. The waterway traverses Bogue Sound. Persons looking from a window on this side of the hotel get a full view of Bogue Sound, Bogue Banks and the Atlantic Ocean. The

Morehead Biltmore was built in the 1920's and has been operated at various times as a hotel, apartment house and sometimes it was merely empty. Thousands of dollars have been invested in it to make it now the most modern luxury hotel in coastal Carolina.

Morehead Biltmore Hotel Invitingly Beckons Guests

Very few luxury hotels can offer two types of cooling—nature's and man-made. The Morehead Biltmore, a couple miles west of Morehead City on Bogue Sound, is one of the few. Guests have the choice of cooling southwest breezes off the water, or air-conditioning in each room.

The hundred rooms, newly-furnished, will all be filled on several occasions this summer as convention groups meet at the hotel.

Inviting Vista

The heart of everyone approaching the hotel beats in excited anticipation as the aqua and white-trimmed structure seems to beckon at the end of a sweeping boulevard.

At the back of the hotel, lawn rolls down to the water. In the patio, centered with fountain, are tables and umbrellas for lounging. By the new free-form 55-foot pool are chairs for sunbathing. A rustic wooden fence on the north helps provide privacy, while the bathers have a breathtaking view of the sound on the south.

The pool's depth ranges from 3 to 9 feet. Guests can use a special pool entrance which allows them to go directly from their rooms to the pool, and return, without going through the main lobby.

For the first time this season, the hotel will serve three meals. Heretofore, only breakfast and snacks were available in the Coffee Shop. The new kitchen has just been completed. The dining room is in the east wing, next to the kitchen.

In the west wing, near the Coffee Shop, is the ballroom, named the Sea Level Room in honor of the four Taylor brothers, Dan, William, Alfred and Leslie, who, with V. E. Fountain, Tarboro, own the hotel. The Taylor brothers were born at Sea Level, a community in eastern Carteret County.

Two more innovations available to guests this season will be a small-boat launching ramp and a nine-hole putting green. The hotel will have fishing gear available for its guests, archery equipment, a croquet set and shuffleboard.

When operating at peak capacity, the hotel has a staff of 30 or more. The manager is Michael L. Taft, formerly resident manager of the Battery Park Hotel, and former manager of The Manor, both at Asheville, N. C. For a year and a half Mr. Taft managed the Sea Breeze Manor at Daytona Beach, Fla. He came to the Morehead Biltmore in November 1957.

A large and attractive electric sign on Highway 70 directs visitors to the hotel.

For travelers going east, it's a right turn on to the boulevard (Mansfield Parkway) which leads to the hotel; for visitors travelling west, it's a left turn.

The front of the hotel is beautifully lighted at night, affording the tourist an excellent view of it. To the east of the hotel is a parking lot that will accommodate 80 cars.

The Morehead Biltmore is a lovely hotel in a lovely setting for persons who enjoy pleasant and friendly surroundings.

Many Areas Offer Retired Folks Chances to Build

Numerous subdivisions in the county offer an opportunity to couples who want to retire in a beach area.

At Newport, in the western part of the county are two areas under development. In the Broad and Gales Creek sections new homes are going up. Along Highway 24, which parallels Bogue Sound are building lots. There is ocean front property available as well as other waterfront land "down east".

Beach Offers Best Vacation

In a few days school will be out and the place to head with the family is Atlantic Beach.

Lovers of the seaside will find everything they enjoy here. For grandmother there are benches in the shade so she can sit and enjoy the ocean view. For the water lovers, there's the surf itself, well-guarded bathing beaches, bright umbrellas, rafts for rent and refreshment stands that will enable you to "wet the insides" too.

Life lines equipped with floats assure the swimmer that he's always within reach of a "handle" to hold him up if a wave catches him unawares. All life-guards are trained in first aid and up-to-date life-saving equipment is available should anyone get an overdose of water.

Along the board walk are games and amusements and across the street in a triangle area are miniature golf courses and rides. The Idle Hour Amusement Center contains bowling alleys and dance floor; indeed, a total of "69 ways to have fun." Next door is the Kiddie Park with merry-go-rounds and a whiz of a little ride called The Little Dipper.

On the site of the former Ocean King Hotel is a miniature golf course. Nearby are places where the teen-agers can rock 'n roll and listen to live to their heart's content.

Atlantic Beach runs east-west, lying within the protective curve of land that swoops inward from Cape Lookout.

In and around the beach are a large hotel and several motels, restaurants, inland and ocean fishing piers, service stations, a post-office, and a marina.

Every year brings improvements to Atlantic Beach. It's a vacationland that is always welcome and familiar to the returning visitor, yet ever new. It's a summer vacation spot just for you.

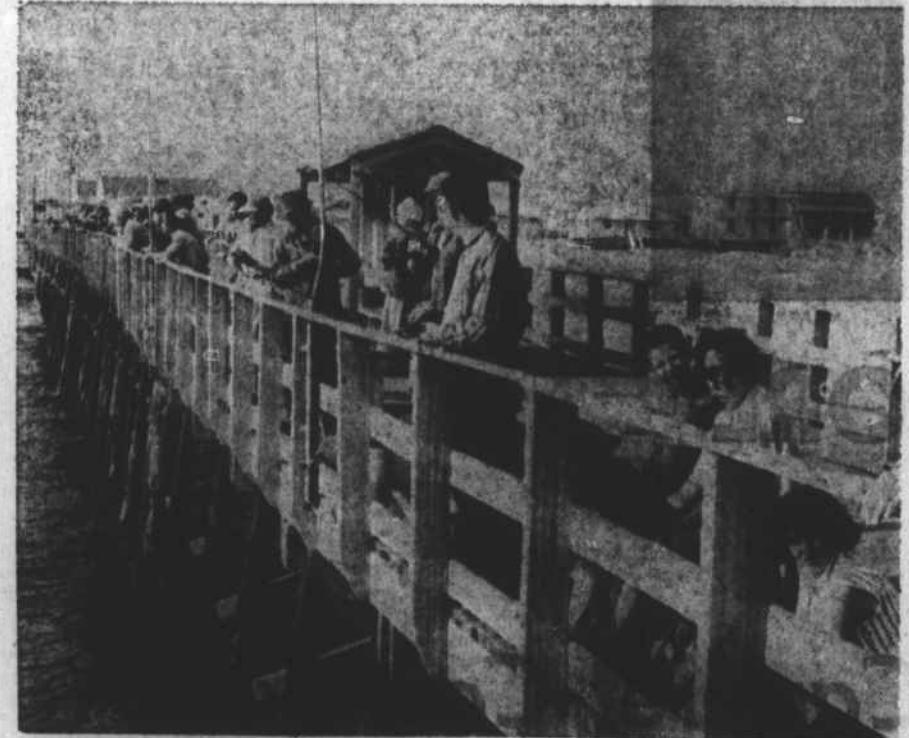


Photo by Bob Seymour

Fishermen crowd the west side of fishing piers early in the spring but switch to the east side later in the year. "It all depends on which way the fish are running," they declare.

Perry Park Motel

Welcomes You to Morehead City for the '58 Season



The Beautiful Perry Park Motel — Showing the Front Entrance

Photo by Jerry Schumacher

At Perry Park you are welcomed with a smile, and with friendly, courteous service catering to your every need. At Perry Park you are welcomed with beautiful, clean rooms and surroundings, and every modern convenience. Your rooms are Air-Conditioned for your summer comfort.

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