

Fishermen Catching Plenty Of Nice Flounder Inshore

BY TERRY POPE

If it wasn't for the flounder, many fishermen would have returned home with empty coolers over the weekend. Flounder are biting better than they have all year, area piers and marinas reported.

At Shallotte Point, more than 200 flounder were caught Saturday and Sunday, reported Joyce Land of Tripp's Fishing Center. Fishermen trolling the Shallotte River, Intracoastal Waterway and inlets were bringing back as many as ten to 15 flounder each, she said.

Two blackfin tuna were also caught offshore over the weekend, a rarity for this area, reported Allison Hughes of Hughes' Marina at Shallotte Point. Here are the reports from area piers and marinas:

Sunset Beach Pier

After a brief slow spell, king mackerel began biting again from the pier Sunday afternoon, reported Johnny Hill.

Gary Grainger of Whiteville caught a 14-pound king Sunday, Hill said. Plenty of flounder were also caught Sunday as the week turned out to be "pretty good," he added.

"That's about the first king that's been caught in a couple of weeks," Hill said. "So maybe they're off and running again."

Holden Beach Pier

Although fishing has been slow this week at the Holden Beach Pier, the Memorial Day weekend crowds have been excellent, reported Gil Bass.

"The spots have picked up a little," Bass said Monday morning. "They're doing fairly well on flounder."

One fisherman caught four flounder from the pier Saturday afternoon, Bass said. The flounder "are getting a little size on them now," he said.

Ocean Isle Marina

Fishing about 28 miles offshore, the



JAMES S. CRUMP JR., left, and H.L. Johns of Charlotte caught these two black fin tuna about 26 miles out from the Shallotte Inlet Saturday. One weighed 26 pounds while the other weighed 24 pounds.

Sea Hawk II charter boat was bringing back plenty of king mackerel last week, reported George Crisp of Ocean Isle Marina.

"The later part of the week, the inshore fishing was kind of slow," Crisp said. "It wasn't on account of the people though. There were plenty of boats out there."

Inshore, a few spots, blues and flounder were biting, he said. Offshore, amberjack and sharks were also biting.

Inlet View Marina

A couple of boats fishing offshore brought back three or four nice king

mackerel each over the weekend, reported Joe Furr of Inlet View Marina.

"The trout and drum are still biting around the jetties," Furr said. "And plenty of flounder are being caught."

Hughes' Marina

Two blackfin tuna were caught while fishing about 28 miles offshore by James Crump Jr. and H.J. Johns of Charlotte, reported Allison Hughes of Hughes' Marina at Shallotte Point.

The two fish weighed 26 and 24 pounds each, she said. Also offshore, silver snapper, king mackerel and several large sheepshead were caught.

"Everybody caught fish, big fish, little fish," Ms. Hughes said. "Inside, the flounder were in abundance."

Spots, croakers and trout were also biting, she said.

Tripp's Fishing Center

Plenty of flounder were caught over the weekend while fishing the Shallotte River, inlets and waterway, reported Joyce Land of Tripp's Fishing Center at Shallotte Point.

Here is a list of weekend fishermen who enjoyed nice catches: Thomas Earl Hewett, 16 flounder and Ralph Wilson, a 13-pound blue, both from Ash; B.D. Phelps, 16 flounder, Cheraw, S.C.; Ben Morris and Randy Bureson of Albemarle, 11 flounder; Willard and Lonnie Causey of Shallotte Point, seven flounder; Avery and Beth Adams, Cindy and David Williams of Shallotte Point, 13 flounder and George and John Giles and Tommy Norris of Whiteville, eight flounder.

Other fishermen who enjoyed nice catches were: Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lefler of Albemarle, 33 flounder; Ricky Lefler and party, 40 flounder; Billy Lefler Jr. and party, three flounder; Tina Goodman and Rebecca Carter, 22 flounder; Gene Stirewald, 18 flounder; Smoky Goodman, 34 flounder; R.D. Capps and Sue Adams, four flounder and Amy Williams, two large flounder.

Liani Thaghan of Fayetteville caught a 45-pound cobia while float fishing near the Shallotte Inlet sea bouy Sunday, Ms. Land reported.

Capt. Pete's

A 26-pound cobia was also caught aboard the El Toro charter boat at Holden Beach over the weekend, reported Travis Elliot of Capt. Pete's Marina.

Both the El Toro and the Fishing Rod II were bringing back king mackerel and snapper, he said.



BRUCE MATTHEWS, left, and Boyd McKeithan of Holden Beach landed this 40-pound cobia off of Holden Beach last week.



THIS GROUP from Hillsville, Va., caught plenty of king mackerel offshore. They are, from left, Roscoe Burcham, Dennis Arrington, Roger Mabe, Michel Deskins and Westley Burcham.

Local Fisherman Leads With Spanish Mackerel

A Myrtle Beach man who weighed a seven-pound, 12-ounce Spanish mackerel at the Southport Marina and Tackle Shop has become a local leader in the 1985 N.C. Salt Water Fishing Tournament.

Howard Oliver of Myrtle Beach, S.C., caught the large Spanish mackerel while fishing off of Southport on May 20. He joins a list of other anglers hoping to win plaques or certificates in the 11th annual contest sponsored by the N.C. Division of Travel and Tourism.

Fishermen catching the largest fish in each of 24 categories will be awarded plaques at the end of the tournament that began March 11 and will conclude in the fall. As of May 21, leading catches include a 291-pound shark, a 76-pound tuna caught off Nags Head and a 51-pound cobia

caught by Paul Fulgham at Carolina Beach.

Other leaders include Beverly Hughes' 57-pound amberjack caught off of Morehead City, Omar Higgins' 31-pound king mackerel caught off of Cape Hatteras and John Bullington's 32-pound red snapper caught off of Morehead City.

Other leading entries are: black sea bass, five pounds, four ounces; channel bass, 70 pounds; bluefish, 19 pounds; dolphin, 50 pounds; grouper, 51 pounds; sea mullet, two pounds, two ounces; silver snapper, seven pounds, four ounces and wahoo, 115 pounds, 12 ounces.

Rules brochures for entering the tournament are free from the N.C. Travel and Tourism Division, 430 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh, N.C., 27611, or call toll-free, 1-800-VISIT-NC.

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Harvest Of Pink Shrimp Closed

As of one hour after sunset Saturday, shrimping and shrimp trawling was closed in several areas off the local coastline by order of the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

The step was taken to protect the small brown shrimp in those areas. The areas had been opened temporarily to allow the harvest of pink shrimp, which overwinter in the area. Brown shrimp are migratory and make up the bulk—about 60 percent to 70 percent—of the local shrimp harvest.

The area from Marker No. 1 in the Intracoastal Waterway near Southport to the Ocean Isle Bridge has closed, along with, in New Hanover County, a section from Marker No. 136 at Whiskey Creek to Marker No. 136 at Snow's Cut.

The area of New River upstream of the N.C. 172 bridge is closed in Onslow County.

This Week's Tide Table

Date/Day	MAY		JUNE	
	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
Thursday 30	5:00	5:48	11:22	—
Friday 31	6:01	6:44	12:07	12:17
Saturday 1	6:57	7:29	1:03	1:08
Sunday 2	7:53	8:33	1:58	2:01
Monday 3	8:49	9:27	2:52	2:51
Tuesday 4	9:42	10:19	3:42	3:42
Wednesday 5	10:36	11:10	4:33	4:33

ADJUSTMENTS
 SHALLOTTE INLET (Bowen Point)—add 10 min. high tide, add 28 min. low tide.
 TUBS INLET—subtract 19 min. high tide, subtract 12 min. low tide.
 LOCKWOOD FOLLY—subtract 29 min. high tide, subtract 12 min. low tide.
 LITTLE RIVER—add 3 min. low tide.
 BALD HEAD ISLAND—subtract 17 min. high tide, subtract 11 min. low tide.

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