

HOLY MACKEREL!

Spanish Storm South Brunswick Coastline

Intense summer heat and evening thunderstorms may be responsible for the inside-and-out variation in South Brunswick fishing trends last week.

But the biggest story is that the spanish have arrived.

While area pier owners bemoaned "fair" weeks in the surf, charter boat and marina operators happily relayed news of an onslaught of spanish mackerel in deeper water just offshore. Several boats were said to have docked with over 100 of the seasonal fish on board.

Evidence that king mackerel are still taking the bait outside also was revealed during the weekend, as three Brunswick County anglers won one of the daily weight prizes during the Got 'Em On King Mackerel Classic at Wrightsville Beach.

Ocean Isle Marina
The arrival of spanish mackerel in Brunswick County waters seems to have taken everyone by surprise. But no one was more excited than George Crisp at Ocean Isle Beach Marina.

"There's been a lot of activity this week for sure," Crisp said Monday morning. "The spanish is thick everywhere, all the way from the beach plumb out to 20 miles. The last two days have been terrific."

According to Crisp, Captain Buster Gillis put 146 Spanish on ice aboard the Sea Hawk II Sunday. The Shooting Star, piloted by Sammy Session, also had considerable luck with spanish over the weekend, he said.

And when he wasn't aboard the Shooting Star, Session was busy fighting king mackerel aboard the

Sandbar with Captain Ralph Sikes and Lane Tucker. The three county men caught 96 pounds of kings to win first place in the total weight category on the second day of the Got 'Em On Classic at Wrightsville Beach.

Also fishing out of Ocean Isle Beach Marina, Amos Baucom of Charlotte continued to prove his fishing abilities. Reported last week by Crisp as having caught six kings and a large cobia, Baucom landed a 61-pound Amberjack Monday to further impress local fishing enthusiasts.

Tripp's Fishing Center
Just down the road at Shallotte Point, Joyce Land of Tripp's Fishing Center offered the same type of fishing report Monday morning. "Everybody's catching spanish," she said. "It was a beautiful weekend, but the spanish—why there's two or three acres out there!"

Aberdeen's Tubby and Buddy Pigg were among the luckiest, Land reported. Fishing "almost on Sea Buoy, almost on the shoals," the couple hooked some 130 spanish aboard The Dingbat, Land said. The fish averaged between two and three pounds.

Rickey Lefler of Albermarle also had luck fishing "right across the inlet." He caught two coolers full of spanish, Land said.

Barry Frink of Shallotte and Clyde Watts of Shallotte Point also had a successful fishing weekend. The pair caught nine flounders Sunday in the Shallotte River, according to Land's report.

Capt. Pete's Marina
Further east along the South Brunswick coast, Pete Singletary of Capt. Pete's Marina at Holden Beach noted he was prepared Monday morning to deliver his most favorable fishing report in recent weeks.

"Better," Singletary said. "All of the boats did well on spanish, with some catching as high as 100."

Party boats The El Toro and Fishing Rod did well on the spanish, kings and bottom fish, Singletary said. Both boats were fishing close to shore, he said, "a mile or two off the beach." The larger kings still require a trip farther outside.

Singletary said boats out of Capt. Pete's "have been doing good because they go out where the fish are."

"But the biggest change for individual fishing has been the spanish showing up."

Hughes' Marina
Fishing was also better than the norm of recent weeks for boats out of Hughes Marina at Shallotte Point.

Marina employee John R. Watkins Jr. reported "things are looking up. Everyone came in with something over the weekend. But the biggest thing is the spanish caught over the weekend."

Most boats docked with at least eight to 10 fish, with at least two boats bringing in 50 to 60 spanish, he said. Two kings also were caught during the weekend.

Inside, flounder fishing was only fair, because of the opening of the shrimping season in local waters,

Watkins said. In addition, spots and spottailed drum are being caught in the waterway and river.

Inlet View Marina
The fishing news was not as bountiful nor as positive throughout the South Brunswick Islands. Hot weather and rain left crowds at area piers, as well as many boating enthusiasts, with only a few fish stories. "A few kings and spanish were taken over the weekend", according to Joe Furr at Ocean Isle Beach's Inlet View Marina.

But, in general Furr said, last week's heat slowed fishing down.

"I believe it (the heat) affected the fishermen as much as it did the fish," Furr said Monday morning. "There just wasn't anybody out there fishing it was so hot."

Ocean Isle Beach Pier
Perhaps the most favorable report of inside fishing activity for the week came from Curtis Williamson at Ocean Isle Beach Fishing Pier.

Williamson said eight to 10-pound drum were biting bloodworms and redworms most of the weekend.

"It's been slow on flounder and spots, though," he said.

No kings were reported to have been taken at the pier during the week.

Holden Beach Fishing Pier
"Not too much" and "been a little slow" are phrases Gill Bass of Holden Beach Fishing Pier used to describe the week.

Bass said only a few spots and flounders were taken from his pier during the week. He blamed the hot weather and said he hoped recent evening rain storms would cool the water enough to improve fishing inside.

"It's about regular for this time of year, though," Bass added. "Things should pick up by September."

Sunset Beach Fishing Pier
Slow times inside were also discussed by Johnny Hill of Sunset Beach Fishing Pier.

"It's been a fair week, son," he said. "It weren't the best in the world. We caught some spots and a few flounders."

Hill reported that fishermen caught no kings from the pier during the past week. "There haven't been no kings caught since then, no big fish."



BRUCE MOORE of Holden Beach caught these nice sheepshead from the Holden Beach Fishing Pier last week. They weighed 10.14 pounds, 9 1/4 pounds and 8 1/4 pounds.

Waterway Vote Due This Week

The U.S. House of Representatives was to vote this week—possibly Tuesday—on an appropriations package that includes \$466,000 for maintenance of Lockwood's Folly Inlet in Brunswick County.

The funds are part of a proposed \$15.13 billion Energy and Water Development appropriations bill, indicated a spokesman for Rep. Charles G. Rose III.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains the inlet.

Tarpon Grabs Lead In State Tourney

A 165-pound tarpon hooked on June 24 by an Indiana man fishing on the Holden Beach Pier joins another fish caught in Brunswick County as a leader in the North Carolina Salt Water Fishing Tournament this

week. David Bowser and his son, Richard, from Fort Wayne, Ind., caught the 73-inch specimen while fishing for king mackerel from the end of the pier.

Pier operator Gil Bass said he believes the tarpon stands a good chance of holding the record this year, following the example of the last tarpon caught from the pier.

In 1982, a 115-lb., 72-inch tarpon caught from the pier claimed the state title.

A 43-lb. king mackerel weighed in by angler Stacy Gregory of Wadesboro at Tripp's Fishing Center at Shallotte Point remains the leader in that competition.

The Holden Beach Fishing Pier, Tripp's Fishing Center, Southport Marine Tackle Shop and Long Beach Pier are the official weigh stations in

Brunswick County for the North Carolina Salt Water Fishing Tournament. Applications for citation must be made through the official weigh stations.

Sponsored by the state Department of Commerce, Travel and Tourism Division, the tournament offers citations to anglers who catch eligible species at or over listed minimum weights. At year's end, special awards go to citation winners who have caught the largest fish of each of 27 eligible species.

It's not too late to enter. The tournament began March 15 and ends at midnight December 31.

For more information about the tournament, including regulations, write: North Carolina Saltwater Fishing Tournament; Joel Arrington, Director; 430 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

This Week's Tide Table

Day/Date	JULY		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Thursday 18	9:01	9:24	3:06	3:05
Friday 19	9:47	10:05	3:48	3:48
Saturday 20	10:30	10:48	4:30	4:30
Sunday 21	11:19	11:33	5:13	5:24
Monday 22	—	12:10	5:57	6:18
Tuesday 23	12:33	1:06	6:43	7:14
Wednesday 24	1:14	2:05	7:30	8:15

ADJUSTMENTS
SHALLOTTE INLET (Bowen Point)—add 18 min. high tide, add 28 min. low tide.
TUBBS 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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