

Spanish Continue Biting Outside; Hot Water Stifles Inside Action

BY BILL MCGOWAN
Seasonally high water temperatures have stifled surf fishing throughout the South Brunswick Islands.

But for serious anglers willing to travel to deeper, cooler waters outside, the action remains hot this week.

Spanish mackerel, which were taken in large numbers last week for the first time this summer, continued biting through the weekend. Many boats, private and charter alike, returned to shore with over 100 Spanish aboard. According to various reports, the fish have been averaging between a pound and a half and four pounds.

Other action outside during the past week included catches of king mackerel, one of which topped the scales at 18 pounds. Marina operators and boat owners agree, however, that it's still too early for the best king fishing, which usually begins in early fall.

Blackfish also gave some area anglers additional incentive to make extra space in their freezers.

Reports of sporadic catches inside of spots, flounders, whiting, blues and trout rounded out fishing activity for the third week in July.

Tripp's Fishing Center
Joyce Land at Tripp's Fishing Center at Shalotte Point couldn't have been more pleased with activity at her marina during the past week.

Saturday provided the best results for boaters. Land said, with bountiful catches of Spanish outside, as well as flounders taken inside in the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and the Shalotte River.

According to Land's report Monday morning, Jeff Floyd of Fairmont and Jim Lieber caught the most Spanish. The two men landed 90 of the fish Saturday.

Also Saturday, Jack Parker and party of Lumberton hit the Spanish jackpot. Some 62 mackerel were taken aboard Parker's boat, Land said.

Becky Snider of Lexington teamed up with the Pigg family (Tubby, Buddy and T.B.) of Aberdeen to bring in 52 Spanish Saturday.

Another lucky party, consisting of Tommy Norris of Whiteville, Jim Gules of Ocean Isle Beach and John Giles of Sunset Beach, brought 30 Spanish to dock. Land said the fish averaged two pounds.

Bill Lelfer of Albermarle also had a successful fishing trip Saturday. Land said he brought in 20 Spanish.

The flounder are also biting again after an apparent week-long lull some anglers have attributed to shrimping in the rivers.

Land said B.D. Phelps of Cheraw and Frank Norris caught 16 flounders

during a weekend of fishing in the Shalotte River.

Curt Hacker of Shalotte Point also showed his flounder fishing skill, she said, catching seven flounders Sunday alone.

Inlet View Marina
Boats out of Inlet View Marina at Ocean Isle Beach had luck with mackerel, according to Joe Furr.

"There was a lot of Spanish mackerel caught this weekend," he said.

Most boats were averaging 15 to 25 Spanish each, with the fish weighing in from two and a half to four pounds.

In addition, one boat brought in two kings which weighed in the eight-to-12-pound range, Furr said. The fish were caught close to shore, he added, about two or three miles out.

"The small stuff has been biting around the jetties," Furr said. "spots, flounder and a few trout. The croakers have been biting inside, too."

Hughes Marina
John Watkins at Hughes Marina at Shalotte Point said the Spanish continued biting well through Saturday with many boats bringing in 25 to 40 fish. Action tapered off Sunday, however.

Watkins also noted the catch of "several nice sharks" as the marina

moves towards its annual Poor Boys Shark Tournament Aug. 13. Among the sharks caught this past weekend was a 60-pound hammerhead.

Flounders taken this week are larger than they have been in recent weeks, Watkins said. Six flounders weighing from two to four pounds each were taken from the Shalotte River.

Watkins also reported three stingrays taken from the Shalotte River during the past week which weighed from 25 to 40 pounds.

Blues also have been biting off the seawall, he said.

"The fishing is going on pretty well. People are catching a little bit of everything."

Capt. Pete's Marina
Over at Capt. Pete's Marina at Holden Beach, Pete Singletary said each of the charter boats, El Toro and Fishing Rod, "did real well on Spanish and better on kings." Each boat brought over 100 fish to dock.

The kings, Singletary said, were mostly small. One party caught 12 kings. Most weighed between 12 and 14 pounds. One king weighed in at 18 pounds, he said. Most of the kings were caught some 18 miles beyond the breakers, while several were taken close in.

Fishermen traveling outside over the weekend also had luck with blackfish.

Ocean Isle Marina
George Crisp at Ocean Isle Marina said everyone "seemed to get all they wanted" outside for much of the week.

"The Spanish ran until the end of the week and then slacked off Saturday and Sunday," Crisp said. He added, however, that the "kings have started moving in closer."

Crisp termed inshore action "weak" and called offshore fishing "good."

Holden Beach Fishing Pier
Gil Bass at Holden Beach Fishing Pier held onto an optimistic spirit despite a slow week for the hook and line.

The luckiest angler during the week, he said, was Granny Burke, who "caught a very nice mess of spots."

Ocean Isle Beach Fishing Pier
"They've been doing a little something out there, but they ain't been doing much, honey," reported Ethel Williamson of the Ocean Isle

Beach Fishing Pier.

Williamson said small numbers of spots, flounder, whiting and blues were caught during the week.

"Maybe you could say it's fair," she said.

Sunset Beach Fishing Pier
Johnny Hill at Sunset Beach Fishing Pier had much the same report.

"There wasn't any big stuff caught," he said. It's been just a mediocre week."

Hill said the 82-degree water temperature might have made the difference. Only a few spots were caught during the week, he said.

This Week's Tide Table

Day/Date	JULY	
	HIGH	LOW
Thursday 25	6:55 P.M.	4:34 A.M.
Friday 26	7:13 P.M.	4:53 A.M.
Saturday 27	7:31 P.M.	5:12 A.M.
Sunday 28	7:49 P.M.	5:31 A.M.
Monday 29	8:07 P.M.	5:50 A.M.
Tuesday 30	8:25 P.M.	6:09 A.M.
Wednesday 31	8:43 P.M.	6:28 A.M.

ADJUSTMENTS
SHALLOTTE INLET (Bowen Point)—add 10 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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Shark Tourney Opens Next Week

More than \$12,000 in cash prizes will be awarded to lucky fishermen during the three-day Poor Boys Shark Tournament that unfolds next Thursday morning at Hughes' Marina at Shalotte Point.

Fee for entering the tournament is \$125 and will be accepted up until Wednesday night, July 31, when a Captain's Night will be held at 8 p.m. at Hughes' Marina Restaurant. Fishing will begin Thursday, Aug. 1, at 9 a.m. and will continue non-stop until a final weigh-in Saturday at 2 p.m.

Cash prizes to be awarded during the three-day event include \$2,000 for the largest shark caught, \$1,250 for the second-largest shark and \$750 for the third-largest shark. The largest three fish caught each day will also

be worth \$100 each in daily cash prizes.

The fisherman landing the smallest shark during the tournament will win a 14-foot aluminum Jon boat, 4 HP Force motor and trailer. For anyone landing a state record tiger shark, a 14-foot McKee Craft, Evinrude motor and trailer will be awarded. The state record is 1,151 pounds caught off the Yaupon Beach Fishing Pier.

Following Saturday's final weigh-in, a cookout featuring a variety of shark dishes will be served followed by a dance at the marina featuring the Greensboro band, "Midnight." Arts and crafts booths will again be set up at the marina during the three-day event.

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