

Storm Helps, Hinders Local Fishing Activity

BY TERRY POPE

Hurricane Bob never made it to the Brunswick County coast, but its effect on fishing was felt throughout the weekend, area piers and marinas reported.

Although the hurricane came to shore south of Charleston late last Wednesday, the rains and rough seas it brought to the area is believed to

have both helped and hurt local fishing.

Rains and muddy water is believed to have hindered fishing in the Shallotte River and inlets while fishing from the surf improved immediately following the storm, reports indicate. Rains over the weekend and Monday morning also kept many boats inshore and

fishermen seeking shelter.

But between the clouds, there were reports of some of the largest croakers of the season being caught from the surf and large flounder and drum biting in the waterway. Here are the reports from area piers and marinas:

Holden Beach Pier

"After the hurricane, it had picked up a little bit," said Gil Bass of the Holden Beach Fishing Pier Monday morning. "It was still nothing to write home about."

Bass said following the storm, spots, whiting, croakers and pompano picked up for about two days. A few flounder were also caught over the weekend, he added, before the fishing slowed down again. There were no large fish, such as kings, caught from the pier, he said.

Ocean Isle Marina

"There's too much rain, too much wind," said George Crisp of Ocean Isle Marina. "Everything was active but the fish."

Crisp said one boat that ventured offshore during a break in the clouds

Sunday brought back four small kings and one dolphin. He said the inshore fishing "has been stirred up" too much by the weather.

Monday morning, Crisp said there were "people out there though. Maybe it'll pick back up," he added.

Sunset Beach Pier

"It picked up a little bit after the storm," said Johnnie Hill of the Sunset Beach Pier. "We had a fair week overall."

After the storm, fishermen were reeling in croakers, spots, pompano and whiting, Hill said.

"Someone said they were some of the nicest croakers that's been caught in the last four or five years," Hill reported.

Ocean Isle Beach Pier

After the storm, the fish "bit pretty good for about two days," said Curtis Williamson of the Ocean Isle Beach Fishing Pier. "It's been fair," he added.

Spots, a few flounder and a few croakers were caught on into the weekend, Williamson said.

Hughes' Marina

The rains did not stop Charlie Smith from venturing offshore Sunday where he caught three large Spanish mackerel, the largest weighing 5.9 pounds, said Allison Hughes of Hughes' Marina at Shallotte Point.

Hughes' Marina will be the site of the 4th annual Poor Boys Shark Tournament that begins Thursday morning.

Also over the weekend, Betty and Roy Baker of Greensboro caught a string of nice flounder, Ms. Hughes said.

Despite the rains Monday morning, she said there were "people back out there today, so they must have really caught something."

Tripp's Fishing Center

"I think all the rain must have run most of the fish out into deeper water," said Joyce Land of Tripp's Fishing Center at Shallotte Point.

However, Mary and David Johnson of Shallotte Point did manage to catch two large spottail drum from the river Sunday, the largest weighing nine pounds, Ms. Land said.

Ms. Land said they did start catching large croakers and a few spots after the storm and also picked up one or two flounder. It's been too rough to go offshore, she said.

Inlet View Marina

"I don't think it hurt it any," said Joe Furr Jr. of Inlet View Marina of Ocean Isle on the most recent storm.

Furr said a few kings were caught offshore Sunday, but "not that many went outside," he added.

Inshore fishing has remained about the same, he added, with a few small flounder biting as usual.

Capt. Pete's Marina

The Fishing Rod charter boat had to go farther out than usual over the weekend, but it did bring back from 100 to 200 pounds of snapper and grouper, said Travis Elliott of Capt. Pete's Marina at Holden Beach.

Elliott said the storm "hurt fishing a little bit." A couple of nice flounder were brought in for weighing over the weekend, one measuring 3.5 pounds, he said.

"Other than that, it's been slow," he said.

Marine Fisheries Sets Hearing On Amendments

Public comments on a number of proposed regulation changes, including restrictions on menhaden fishing, will be heard by the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Thursday, August 15, at 9 a.m. at the Duke University Marine Lab, Pivers Island, in Beaufort.

Included in the proposed regulation changes is an amendment that would regulate responsibility for cleanup of fish spills to menhaden companies and consider other amendments on menhaden purse seine fishing such as fishing seasons, closed areas, size limits and management by proclamation. The amendment would also prohibit the use of purse seines on weekends during summer months, or in the vicinity of designated king mackerel tournaments.

An amendment that would regulate channel nets, to establish a minimum distance between sets and require attendance at all times, will also be considered by the Marine Fisheries. The amendment would also consider a marking and buoy system and place restrictions on anchors and cables to decrease hazards to navigation.

Another amendment on the opening and closing of seasons would establish proclamation authority for use of channel nets.

An amendment to provide for a system of defining and marking the 750 foot protected area around qualifying ocean fishing piers will also be considered by the commission.

A technical amendment to the use of nets in taking shrimp would define

mesh sizes of nets used for the taking of shrimp. Another amendment is proposed to define the channel net.

All persons interested in the amendments are encouraged to attend the hearing. Comments, both oral and written statements, may be submitted at the hearing or mailed to Marine Fisheries Commission, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, N.C., 28557.

The Marine Fisheries will hold a business session at 9 a.m., Friday, August 16, at the Duke University Marine Lab in Beaufort to consider whether to adopt the proposed rule changes. If adopted, the effective date will be Oct. 1.

For more information, contact the Division of Marine Fisheries, 1-800-682-2632.

This Week's Tide Table

Day/Date	AUGUST HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Thursday 1	9:06	9:40	3:03	3:06
Friday 2	9:52	10:22	3:47	3:51
Saturday 3	10:38	11:01	4:28	4:33
Sunday 4	11:20	11:40	5:07	5:17
Monday 5	—	12:00	5:47	6:00
Tuesday 6	12:18	12:42	6:27	6:45
Wednesday 7	12:56	1:27	7:09	7:35

ADJUSTMENTS

SHALLOTTE INLET (Bowen Point)—add 10 min. high tide, add 28 min. low tide.
 TURBS 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.

Golf Tourney Aids Charities

Two South Carolina charities will benefit when golfers tee off at a Knights of Columbus golf tournament Saturday, Aug. 17, at Carolina Shores Golf Club at Calabash.

Sponsored by the Charles Tilgman Council No. 7122 at North Myrtle Beach, S.C., proceeds of the captain's choice event will benefit the Sea Haven Home for Children and Mercy Hospice of Horry County, said spokesman Richard Post.

Entry fees are \$25 per person and \$100 per team, with players ranked ABCD according to score card or handicap card verification. Included in the fee are awards, cart, green fee and refreshments on the course, souvenirs, door prizes and a picnic lunch before the awards presentation.

The top five teams will receive \$1,000 in gift certificates.

Entry is limited to 128 players, with an Aug. 14 deadline.

Entry fee checks, made payable to R. POST, Council No. 7122, Knights of Columbus, should be sent to Stan

Stawicki, Pro, Carolina Shores Golf Club, Highway 17, North Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29582.

Direct donations to the two charities are also being accepted by the council.

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Kinlaw Finance Company of Lumberton has purchased Confidential Loan and Finance Corporation of Shallotte.

Customers will continue to make payments at the same location. The staff remains the same with Mrs. Eloise Garrell, manager, and Mrs. Pat Clemmons, assistant manager.

Kinlaw Finance Company President Jerry E. Kinlaw, Sr. invites you to call or come by the office to discuss your financial needs.

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