

Fourth Of July Fishing Varied From 'Slower' To 'Better'

BY SUSAN USHER

Either the fish were biting or they weren't last week; it all depended upon where you were fishing.

In some spots, mostly mosquitoes were nibbling; but at Shalotte Point and Ocean Isle Beach in particular, fishing was described as good over the long Fourth of July weekend.

At Captain Pete's Marina at Holden Beach, Jesse Hayes joked, "We had more people than we had fish. The island sank two inches this weekend."

While most observers predicted kings have left local waters until fall, several catches sparked optimism that the king fishing isn't over yet.

Ocean Isle Marina

"They all had pretty good catches of kings, Spanish and dolphin," said Aaron Burr of Ocean Isle Marina, referring to boats that went outside Saturday. Sammy Sessions of Ocean Isle Beach landed one 40-pound king, while the typical catch was in the 15-pound range.

The boats were fishing about eight miles out of Shalotte Inlet, said Burr, and with the water smooth again, were back out Monday morning.

"It's really improved a lot," Burr added. "This pretty weather will

help."

Ocean Isle Pier

"Everybody was trying to fish," said Curtis Williamson, Ocean Isle Beach Pier operator. "They caught right good through Saturday, but they didn't do much Sunday and Monday."

It was a good week for spots, he said, with some croakers and whiting.

Tripp's Fishing Center

"We had a bunch of boats out," reported Joyce Land of Tripp's Fishing Center at Shalotte Point. A few were out black fishing or trolling, others sking. Most, she said, "were trying to cool off."

Those that were fishing did "real good," she said, with catches of flounder, spots and croaker inside.

Tabby and Buddy Digg of Aberdeen and Becky Snyder of Lexington brought back 63 Spanish Saturday, fishing outside waters aboard the Ding Bat.

Hughes Marina

Allison Hughes at Hughes Marina reported the "fishing was better" this past week at Shalotte Point than it was the week before, with more flounder caught than has been in recent weeks. "Everybody caught something," she added, with spots,

croaker and other small fish continuing to show up in the river.

Betty and Roy Baker of Greensboro caught 14 flounder in the Shalotte River Saturday while Vol Edwards of Kamaspolis caught nine in 2 1/2 hours Sunday.

From outside, Steve Edwards and Jeff Rogers of Charlotte and Jim Rogers of Forest City brought in a "big coolerful" of black bass, silver snapper and cobia on Saturday, she said, and Craig and Janet Collins of Hamlet landed a string of nice sheephead weighing one to five pounds each.

The marina will host the Poor Boy Shark Tournament July 17-19.

Captain Pete's

Bloodworms were the sought-after prize this holiday weekend at Captain Pete's Marina at Holden Beach, reported Jesse Hayes.

"The distributor ran out," he said. "No one had bloodworms."

Fishing was a little slow, he said, but those that had bloodworms—or other bait—did catch a few fish in spite of hard winds that kept trips outside at a minimum toward the end of the week.

Charter boats that went out reported good catches of red snapper, grouper and black sea bass fishing 40 to 50 miles out. One party landed 14 Spanish over the weekend.

The winds had scattered the schools of Spanish, Hayes said, predicting that the schools would regroup if the winds stayed down this week, making for larger catches.

Inside in the waterway, inlets and surf, anglers were catching spots, whiting and croaker.

Holden Beach Pier

Monday morning, fishermen at the Holden Beach Pier were catching "a lot of spots," said Cathy Capes, as

well as croakers and some sheephead that weighed as much as 10 pounds.

Inlet View Marina

"It was busy but there was not a whole lot of fish caught," reported operator Joe Furr Sr., other than the spots and croakers available inshore. With the hottest days of summer coming up, he continued, "We're looking forward to fall."

Meanwhile, he reported "nothing fantastic off the beach," with stiff winds keeping most boats in.

Sunset Beach Pier

Fishermen at the Sunset Beach Pier were catching mainly spots, said Sam Grantham, along with a few blues.

On Saturday, Craig Inman of Whiteville landed the only king reported at any pier last week, a 14-pounder. "We're hoping it will pick up again."

This Week's Tide Table

Day/Date	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Thursday 10	9:45	10:07	3:55	3:53
Friday 11	10:29	10:47	4:35	4:38
Saturday 12	11:15	11:24	5:10	5:27
Sunday 13	—	12:00	5:53	6:22
Monday 14	12:14	1:07	6:42	7:24
Tuesday 15	1:10	2:11	7:38	8:31
Wednesday 16	2:13	3:15	8:39	9:39

ADJUSTMENTS

SHALLOTTE INLET—add 12 min. high tide, add 12 min. low tide.
 LOCKWOOD FOLLY—subtract 22 min. high tide, subtract 8 min. low tide.
 HALL'S BEACH ISLANDS—subtract 10 min. high tide, subtract 7 min. low tide.
 TURBS INLET—subtract 12 min. high tide, subtract 8 min. low tide.
 S.O. BEACH—add 7 min. high tide, add 13 min. low tide.



LAWRENCE HAYES of Whiteville casts his line Friday at Holden Beach as part of his Independence Day vacation. He said he had caught a catfish with his bare hands the day before.



MARK HENSEL of Chesawick, Pa., was just getting started at the Sunset Beach Pier Monday afternoon. He's vacationing at the coast with his family.

Fishing License Fee Proposal Eliminated

A proposal to charge salt water fishermen a \$10 federal license fee was eliminated last week from the conference report on the budget resolution that was approved by U.S. House and Senate.

This removes a fee originating with President Ronald Reagan for the purpose of raising \$50 million annually. None of the money would have returned to benefit fishermen.

Rep. Walter Jones (D-NC) has fought the proposal as "an ill-conceived, ill-considered and ill-advised approach to raising taxes." As chairman of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, Jones said a recent hearing on the president's plan showed no support for it from congressmen or from states that would implement, administer and enforce the measure.

Local fishermen were delighted at the outcome. Miles Edge, immediate past president of the Brunswick

County Fishing Club, said, "Our club once voted to support a fee, but since we wouldn't benefit from this one, I'm tickled to hear it was defeated."

Edge said sports fishermen badly need help and have been neglected in this area. A fee that would return some money to them would be supported, he said.

Miriam Spetcher, long-time BCFC member, said she was happy this plan didn't survive. "Just a few years ago they put a 9 percent tax on all fishing equipment and boats, so we're already paying plenty. This license fee was going into a general fund, none of it to us," she said.

Jones pointed out in a letter addressed to the House Budget Committee that, while the administration was proposing to increase sport-fishing taxes by \$50 million a year, "they are proposing a budget cut of \$50 million in the marine fishery programs."



Classy Compacts

Here's the class act in small outboards. The 1986 Evinrude compacts now offer the convenience and precision of AutoBlend™ automatic oil injection. The first system for small outboards. Also new for '86 is a tiller with push-pull throttle cable for smoother, more precise operation. And no one offers more protection from corrosion than Evinrude.

SHALLOTTE MARINE
 MAIN STREET, 754-6962

Gordon's Net Works

SPECIALIZING IN CUSTOM-MADE SHRIMP TRAWLS

- Gill Nets
- Netting Supplies
- Net Repairs & Treating

BRICK LANDING ROAD — 754-9713

Turn left at Jennies Branch Church, 1/4 mile on left. Gordon Winfree, Owner.

Net Making,
 Mending
 To Be Taught

Brunswick Technical College will sponsor a class in net making and mending beginning July 14 at Gordon's Net Works, Shalotte Point.

The class meets from 6-10 each Monday and Wednesday evening. There will be a \$10 registration fee.

Students will learn to construct and repair gill and shrimp nets. More information may be obtained by calling the Continuing Education Department at Brunswick Technical College.

CRUISE INTO SUMMER

with a boat from

Southport Marina Service Center

POWERED BY Dependable Mercury Outboards or "The World's Best Selling Sterndrive"







INSIDE THE FENCE AT THE SMALL BOAT HARBOR SOUTHPORT

OPEN 7 DAYS 8:30-5
 (919)457-9161

Johnson

GET INTO BOATING WEEK



IN STOCK

18 Ft. Ken Craft Fiberglass Work Boats

KenCraft MARINE WILSON, N.C.

— Now Available —

Good selection of 4 to 40 HP Johnson motors for Jon boats. (Larger engines also available.)



All Lowe line aluminum Jon boats 30% OFF list price

Ed's Net Shop

Hwy. 904, 1/4 mile east of Hwy. 17, Grissettown
 Phone: 579-6676 579-7733 579-7734