

## Bonus Offered To Fishing Club Members In Sun Fun Tournament

A member of the Brunswick County Fishing Club competing in the Sun Fun-Grand Strand King Mackerel Tournament at Myrtle Beach, S.C., June 4-7 could be eligible for an additional \$500 prize, club members learned Saturday at their spring meeting.

The 500-plus-member club, based at Sunset Harbor, is one of about 10 in the Carolinas offering a special cash award for the largest fish caught by a club member. Henry O. McKee and Sons Co. of Bolivia is sponsoring the local club prize.

A minimum of five club members must be entered in the tournament for the prize to be awarded, according to Tournament Chairman Donnie Griffin of the Grand Strand Salt Water Anglers Association. This is the third year the group has sponsored the tournament, which has grown from a \$20,000 cash and prizes event to an all-cash \$200,000 event, with 56 ways to win \$500 or more. This year's event will also feature seminars on bait-rigging and slow-trolling.

Profit from the tournament is invested in fishing-related projects such as trolling alleys, artificial reefs, parking and access areas, he said.

Early registration at \$150 per boat ends May 4; all boats entering by that date will be eligible for a \$2,000 early-entry prize. Registration after May 4 is \$175.

So far more than 100 boats are entered in the tournament, with 300 to 350 expected by the close of the captains' meeting on June 4.

Entry forms and more information is available from Griffin, by writing P.O. Box 15861, Surfside Beach, SC 29587, or by calling 1-803-238-0485.

Also Saturday, the fishing club elected 1987 officers and announced plans for a cookbook and for sponsoring

a second fall fishing jamboree. Dale McDowell was recognized for his work as chairman of the Long Bay Artificial Reef Association.

New officers are Herbert Swain Jr., president; Miles Edge, vice president; Sallie Swain, treasurer; Jean Sweat, secretary; board members at large, Mildred Royal and Dale McDowell.

Royal was presented the 1986 plaque for selling the most club memberships for the third consecutive year.

Miriam Speicher is chairman of the cookbook committee, which has begun compiling more than 170 recipes. The plastic spiral bound cookbooks will sell for \$5.50 each; copies can be reserved by contacting her at Route 2, Box 85, Supply, NC 28462.

The club's Labor Day Fishing Tournament will be held Saturday, Sept. 5, from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Details are to be announced later. Last year's tournament was postponed due to bad weather, with only 16 boats participating.

During 1987 the clubhouse will be open only for special event weekends, the July 4th weekend, with a fund-raising fish fry, meeting and game night on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday; an Aug. 15 pig-out for members only; Sept. 5-6 for the Labor Day fish fry, tournament, game night and breakfast; and Oct. 17-18, for a fish fry, awards night, game night and breakfast.

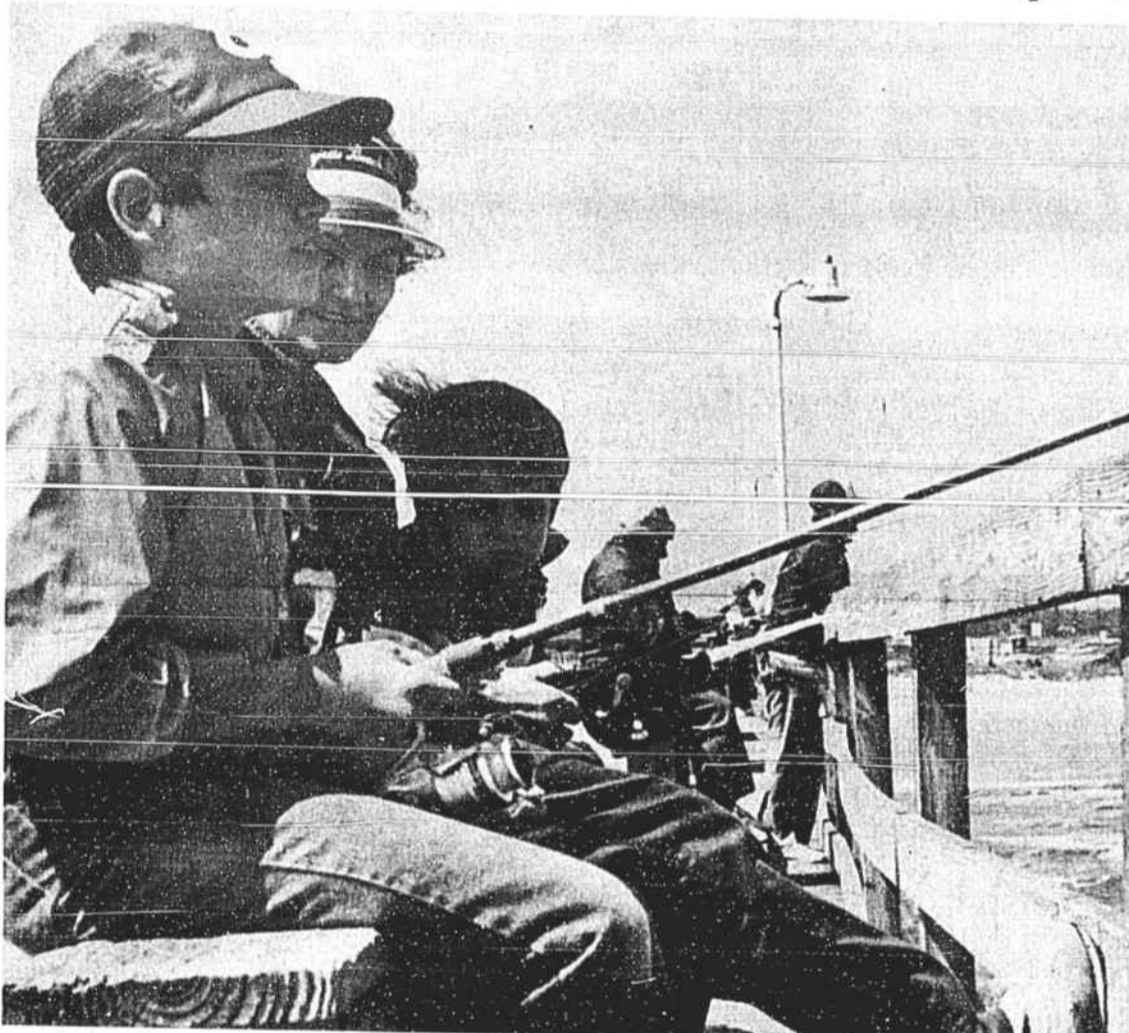
The annual club members' fishing contest ends at midnight Oct. 15, with prizes to be awarded Oct. 17. Entries may be submitted at these official weigh stations: Sportsman's Inn and Long Beach Pier, Long Beach; The Place, Sunset Harbor; Captain Pete's, Holden Beach; Southport Marina Bait & Tackle, Southport; and Hughes Marina, Shallotte Point.



1987 OFFICERS for the Brunswick County Fishing Club were elected Saturday night at the Sunset Harbor clubhouse. Seated are Dale McDowell, director; and

Sallie Swain, treasurer; and standing (from left) are Jean Sweat, secretary; Miles Edge, vice president; Mildred Royal, director; and Herbert Swain, president.

## Weather Doesn't Hamper Crowds Looking For Fish



PAULINE HILKER of Alberta, Canada, and her grandsons, Matthew Howard, 4, and Scott Howard, 10, of Charlotte, were fishing Thursday afternoon in brisk

winds at the Sunset Beach Fishing Pier. Fishermen blamed Wednesday's thunderstorms for driving away fish that were plentiful earlier in the week.

BY ETTA SMITH

Although the crowds that fished along the Brunswick coast faced some rough water and rain over the Easter weekend, it didn't keep them from catching plenty of spoils.

Rough water did keep the charter boats in close to shore, but those aboard came back with some exceptionally good-sized catches.

Captain Pete's

Jesse Hayes, manager of Captain Pete's at Holden Beach, said people fishing on the Salty I and the El Toro did exceptionally well.

"We had a guy that caught a 29-pound mackerel, which is very unusual at this time of year. Usually only small mackerel are available," he said.

Another passenger on the boat caught a 54-pound hammerhead shark, and a 22-pound jewfish, a fish that is uncommon in the area, said Hayes.

Crowds fished on the piers at Ocean Isle, Holden and Sunset beaches, and the spots were plentiful in all three areas.

Holden Beach Pier

Holden Beach Pier Manager Gil Bass said the crowd fishing there all weekend caught lots of spots. He added that the pier had a busy weekend, and there seemed to be plenty of people fishing along the shore.

Tripp's Fishing Center

The spots were also "running" on the Shallotte River near the inlet, according to Tripps Fishing Center Manager Joyce Land.

"One man caught about 200 pounds in a gill net," she said. "He also netted some bluefish and gray trout."

Land said there weren't a lot of people fishing there over the weekend, possibly, she added, because most go to the beach for Easter.

Hughes Marina

But at nearby Hughes Marina it was a different story, according to Owner Allison Hughes. "I don't know where all those people came from," she said, "but we had a lot more than we normally do on Easter."

Ocean Isle Marina

Ocean Isle Beach Marina co-owner Steve Burr said the bluefish are running in the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, but that spots are the dominate fish being caught now.

"The majority of the boats that were out this weekend were recreational boats," he said. "On Sunday things slowed down because of the rain and cool wind."

The Seahawk II charter fishing boat did get about three or four miles offshore, said Burr, but the wind

prevented it from going the 18 to 30 miles necessary to catch the really big fish.

Ocean Isle Pier

Curtis Williamson, manager of Ocean Isle Beach Pier, said about 70 to 75 people fished on the pier each day over the weekend. They were catching plenty of spots between brief thundershowers, he said.

Williamson said the fishing season has started off better than it did in 1986. This time last year, he added, not nearly as many fish were biting, and they weren't as big as the ones being hooked this year.

Sunset Beach Pier

At Sunset Beach there have been a few blues pulled in, but there also the spots are being pulled in by the bucketfuls, according to Walter Smith, pier manager.

"We had a crowd this weekend," he said. "Some of the people fished right on through the rain, and some left."

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