

FISHING REPORT

# Spring Fishing Season Ends With A Bang For Anglers

BY DOUG RUTTER

The spring season officially gave way to summer Monday, but not before leaving local anglers with an outstanding week of fishing.

Some of the best fishing of the year was reported last week across the South Brunswick Islands. The weather was ideal for offshore trips, and spots and flounder continued to

bite inside.

"It's been a good weekend. The weather was pretty offshore. Everybody that went out had great catches," said Jesse Hayes of Captain Pete's Seafood at Holden Beach.

Fishermen caught lots of king mackerel and grouper. "They really caught a lot of dolphin. They're tearing the dolphin up," Hayes reported Monday morning.

One fisherman caught a 40-pound sailfish Saturday that measured 6 1/2 feet long. "That was one of the prettiest ones I've seen. The sail stood up on his back about four feet," Hayes said.

Inshore, anglers caught spots, flounder and a few croaker and bluefish. "Offshore's where the fish are," Hayes said.

**Sea Mist Camping Resort**

Baker Harrell of Sea Mist Camping Resort said last week's nice weather brought a lot of fishermen to the Brick Landing area.

"They are catching some Spanish mackerel and speckled trout and pinfish," Harrell said. J.R. Parton of Cowpens, S.C., landed a 7-pound speckled trout.

"They're catching a few flounder but not very many," Harrell added.

"They're funning small. Most of them are running about 12 inches."

**Ocean Isle Marina**

"I believe the ocean has finally laid down enough where it should be pretty good fishing," Ken Shipley of Ocean Isle Marina said Monday.

Fishermen caught king mackerel, dolphin, cobia, black bass and tuna last week. Anglers also reeled in some Spanish mackerel near the sea buoy at Shallotte Inlet.

"The kings are starting to show up closer. We've had a couple caught within 10 miles of the beach," Shipley said. "Farther offshore, yellowfin tuna and dolphin are plentiful."

**Pier Fishing**

Pier fishing was pretty good last week as anglers pulled in spots, flounder, blues, trout and sheepshead.

"We had a good week," Curtis Williamson of Ocean Isle Beach Fishing Pier said Monday. "There were a lot of people fishing and they caught a lot of fish. We've been pleased with it."

Williamson said fishermen caught mostly spots and a few blues. "The spots have been real good. They've caught some that have weighed over a pound apiece."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED  
**DON WILLINGHAM of Rock Hill, S.C., caught this 14-pound hog snapper while fishing recently on the Sea Wolfe.**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED  
**CAPTAIN JAMIE Milliken with a nice 35-pound yellowfin tuna caught aboard the "Caribbean Soul."**

## Five Yellowfin, Two Dolphin And...One Dinette Table

BY JAMIE MILLIKEN

As the sun broke and began to rise over the mighty Atlantic, the *Caribbean Soul* was bouncing her way offshore. It was Saturday morning, and somehow, some way, the fishing gods had worked it out so that we would have a pretty fishing day that coincided with one of those coveted days off.

In the predawn hours of Saturday morning, my crew and I studied the chart. Four days before, Capt. Paul Willousby and the crew of the *Black Jack* had fished toward the east and absolutely slain the fish. Paul experienced a day of fishing that some people believe would have to cost you a \$700 plane ticket and a \$5,000-a-week lodging and fishing expense. But the *Black Jack* did it right here in our own back yard.

Captain Paul and his crew witnessed one of those days that saltwater anglers dream about. They successfully brought to the boat and removed the hook on one blue marlin, a sailfish, two yellowfin tuna and a couple of nice dolphin. Great catch, *Black Jack*! I must say that the pace you guys have set over the past two months is the envy of many.

We were experiencing a good two-foot chop as we ran offshore—not bad, but not the type sea that my boat runs well in. I noticed at the 40-mile mark that the seas were becoming more organized and farther apart. At the 45-mile mark, the sea was almost a "mercury calm."

The *Caribbean Soul* laid her bow down, and we were off like the shuttle for the last 20 miles—just like I like it!

Our running mates that day were Captain William McRaney, fishing his boat, the *Overdue Binge*, and Captain Skipper Brummett, fishing the *Gator Bait*. Once we reached the 30-fathom break, we fanned out to cover more area. William soon called us on the VHF radio with a good report. He had found a floating object. Floating object usually mean "dolphin," so I wasted no time in moving to that area. Little did I know what my first catch of the day would be.

I made a pass as close as I could to the submerged object, hoping I would draw a striking dolphin from underneath. Suddenly the starboard outrigger clip snapped, and the 6/0 erupted into life. I just knew we were hooked up. It didn't take but a moment before Brent McMullan exclaimed, "Jamie, I think we've hooked the floating object." The crew and I had a hearty laugh as Brent reeled in a dinette table. Don't ask me what a wooden dinette table is doing floating 65 miles offshore, but it was there.

I smiled to myself and thought, "Well, we've caught the table, now let's catch something to put on it!"

After another 30 minutes, the *Overdue Binge* landed a 35-pound yellowfin tuna, but all in all, the fishing was slow. I headed the *Caribbean Soul* west following the 30-fathom break as we went. No one knows except the players what happened during the "tuna wars."

It was without warning that three of our five lines erupted. Men were moving like jackrabbits about the cockpit, as to no doubt to anyone aboard, to try and prevent the tuna from tangling into each of the other lines. One by one we boated the yellowfin. All three were in the 35-pound class.

We were not so lucky as the day pressed on. I quickly reminded myself that you cannot catch every one that hits your bait. I bet that we lost five more due to short strikes before we got back on a strong bite.

A school of dolphin erupted behind the baits, and four of our five reels blasted simultaneously. Three of the fish were hooked and Troy Huddle, Kyle White and Brent McMullan were hard at work once more. Kyle and Troy landed two nice dolphin, and Brent wrenched to the boat another yellowfin. I tell you, "It don't get no better'n this." It was all high-fives when the last fish was slammed into the cooler.

The ride back to Shallotte Inlet seemed a great deal shorter than the ride out. We had our five yellowfin tuna and two dolphin and successfully released (unharmd) the dinette table.

Until next time, good fishin' and good luck, "Jolly Mon."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED  
**BILL KNOWLES of Clanton, Ala., caught this 8-pound triggerfish recently on the Super Salty 1 out of Holden Beach.**

## Coast Guard Auxiliary Offers Courtesy Boat Inspections

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will offer two days of free courtesy boat safety examinations Friday and Saturday, June 25 and 26, at the Holden Beach Marina between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Auxiliary members will check to make sure your vessel is equipped with all the proper equipment required by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Boats that pass the examination will be given an official 1993 safety emblem that can be displayed on the boat.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary does not issue citations or report vessels

that do not pass a courtesy inspection. Boat owners are simply informed of what steps are needed to bring their vessel into compliance.

Among the items required by the U.S. Coast Guard are correct registration numbering, life jackets in good condition, working fire extinguishers, proper ventilation, an engine flame arrester, a horn or bell, navigation lighting, a proper fuel system, visual distress signals and adequate anchoring equipment.

For more information about the courtesy inspection or about equipment requirements, contact Ralph Bigelow at 579-1931.

## Meeting Set On Gill Nets

North Carolina's marine fisheries director will be in Brunswick County next week to gauge public opinion on a sensitive issue involving the use of gill nets along local beaches.

William Hogarth will conduct a public meeting Wednesday, June 30, at the Long Beach Recreation Center at 7 p.m. He will invite comments on a plan to restrict gill nets.

Last month, the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission voted to give the fisheries director authority to issue proclamations regulating commercial fishing gear within one-half mile of the beach.

Starting July 1, Hogarth also will

have the authority to restrict gear within a half mile of fishing piers. Before issuing proclamations, however, the director must hold public meetings in the affected areas.

Hogarth said he has received requests from Long Beach and Caswell Beach to restrict gill nets, particularly around public beach access areas. People from other area beaches are welcome at the meeting.

"It's kind of like a public hearing," Hogarth said Monday. "People have been complaining about nets affecting use of the beach. We're trying to get these problems worked out."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED  
**DOUG O'BRYANT of Peebles, Ohio, caught this 25-pound king mackerel last week on the Alice E. O'Bryant landed a 26-pound, citation barracuda the same day.**

Ron Dalby of Pennsylvania caught a 30-pound king mackerel to highlight last week's action at Sunset Beach Fishing Pier.

"They're catching spots, blues, a few trout and some flounder," Ed Kayler said. "It's been a pretty good fishing week really, particularly for this time of year. It usually dries up around now, but they're hanging in there."

At Holden Beach Fishing Pier, manager Gil Bass said fishing has started slowing down for the summer.

"They're still picking up a few

spots and have caught a couple sheepshead and a couple flounder," Bass said.

"Generally about this time of year it drops off a little bit and picks up in late August or early September," Bass expects the flounder and sheepshead fishing to improve over the next few weeks.

## This Week's Tide Table

		JUNE		LOW	
Day	Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Thursday	24	-----	12:13	5:58	6:16
Friday	25	12:23	1:09	6:48	7:14
Saturday	26	1:20	2:10	7:41	8:16
Sunday	27	2:18	3:11	8:38	9:22
Monday	28	3:19	4:14	9:38	10:27
Tuesday	29	4:21	5:14	10:37	11:30
Wednesday	30	5:24	6:13	11:35	-----

**ADJUSTMENTS**  
SHALLOTTE INLET—add 17 min. high tide, add 32 min. low tide.  
LOCKWOOD FOLLY—subtract 22 min. high tide, subtract 8 min. low tide.  
BALD HEAD ISLAND—subtract 10 min. high tide, subtract 7 min. low tide.  
SOUTHPORT—add 7 min. high tide, add 15 min. low tide.  
LITTLE RIVER—subtract 11 min. high tide, add 18 min. low tide.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER  
**MATTHEW MARKLAND of Charlotte caught these spotted drum last week while visiting his grandfather, Lane Tucker of Ocean Isle Beach. Both fish weighed over 8 pounds.**

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