PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

GARY KERR and son, David, show off the amberjack and bonita they caught recently on the Alice E out of Holden Beach. The fishermen were visiting from Canal Folton, Ohio.

NMB Fishermen Win King Classic

BY DOUG RUTTER

Larry Fowler and Mark Dickson of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., netted the top prize of $15,000 in the South Brunswick Islands King Classic fishing tournament last weekend.

Fishing on the *Heather Renee*, they landed a king mackerel weighing 33.10 pounds Sunday morning to beat out the crews on 137 other boats entered in the sixth annual tournament.

"We sweated it out all afternoon," Dickson said at the awards ceremony Sunday night at Ocean Isle Beach. "That fish wasn't that big for a tournament this size."

Fowler and Dickson figured they would need about a 40-pounder to win the event. They said the winning fish was caught around 11 a.m. Sunday, about 10 miles southwest of Little River.

Fishermen endured rough fishing conditions both days of the tournament, with choppy seas on Saturday and heavy rain on Sunday.

"Yesterday was bad," Fowler said Sunday. "Today there was a lot of big swells that cut our running. But the fishing was real good."

Fowler and Dickson, who have entered the King Classic the last four years, led the tournament after Saturday with a 31.38-pounder. The winning team was sponsored by Captain Poo's Blue Marlin Fishing Club.

The *Heather Renee* fishing team is no stranger to prize money, finishing second in the Myrtle Beach Open a few weeks ago.

STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

LARRY FOWLER (left) and Mark Dickson won $15,000 for finishing first in the South Brunswick Islands King Classic.

Fowler and Dickson also placed seventh in this year's Sun Fun Tournament and second in the 1992 Hardee's Atlantic Beach tournament. They won the first two North Myrtle Beach Rotary tournaments.

Other top finishers in the 1993 King Classic included runner-up John Batis with a 32.12-pound fish. He won the second-place prize of $5,000.

Winning $2,500 for third place was Booty Shelley with a 30.60-pounder. Finishing fourth and winning $1,000 was Todd Matthews with a king weighing 27.84 pounds.

Anglers finishing fifth through 19th won $500 each. They were Jack Wood, 27.18; Jamie Milliken, 25.98; Grace Ann Munroe, 25.82; Jerry Mason, 25.74; Robert Causey, 25.44.

Also Wyndal Vereen, 25.36; Stuart Ballard, 22.82; Everett Cameron, 22.78; Thomas Yager, 22.76; Fred Johnson, 22.74; Will Scott, 20.66; L.A. Denzer, 20.30; Larry Rogers, 20.28; David Franklin, 19.92; and Jimmy Abdalla, 19.10.

Fishermen finishing in 20th through 30th places received $250 each. They were Jeff Scott, 18.42; Warren Plowden, 18.16; Matthew Sobota, 16.16; Tommy Rivers, 15.28; Carl Hatley, 15.06; Jerry Dilsaver, 14.88; Brian Henry, 14.86; J.E. Simmons, 14.76; Ricky Lefler, 14.50; David Yarborough, 14.20; and Scott Taylor, 13.88.

This Week's Tide Table

SEPTEMBER

		HIGH		LOW	
Day	Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Thursday	9	1:33	2:21	8:01	8:52
Friday	10	2:39	3:25	9:06	9:57
Saturday	11	3:49	4:29	10:11	10:58
Sunday	12	4:55	5:27	11:14	11:55
Monday	13	5:57	6:25	------	12:12
Tuesday	14	6:54	7:18	12:46	1:07
Wednesday	15	7:48	8:08	1:36	2:00

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.

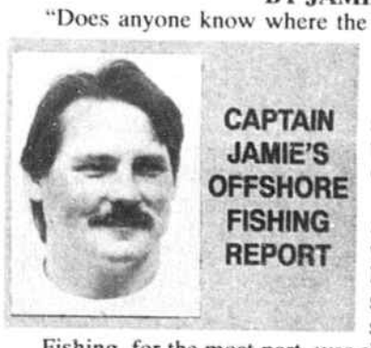
BALD HEAD ISLAND—subtract 10 min. high tide, subtract 7 min. low tide.

SOUTHPORT—add 7 min. high tide, add 15 min. low tide.

LITTLE RIVER—subtract 11 min. high tide, add 18 min. low tide.

Despite Frightful Weather, King Tourney Is A Success

BY JAMIE MILLIKEN



CAPTAIN JAMIE'S OFFSHORE FISHING REPORT

"Does anyone know where the love of God goes when the waves turn the minutes to hours?" as Gordon Lightfoot asked in "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald." That's what I'm sure was on most participants' minds in this year's South Brunswick King Classic.

The line of thunderstorms that raced through area waters on Sunday was beyond a doubt the worst weather I have ever been caught in. "If you're scared, say you're scared." I was scared!

Fishing, for the most part, was slow. I feel the largest factor was the full moon the week of the tournament. I have always contended that king mackerel feed during the night the week of a full moon. Others may contest that, though, but I'll never be convinced otherwise. You can tell a Milliken something—but you can't tell him much!

Brant McMullan and I braved the elements and had an awful start on Saturday. We fished from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. and had only one kingfish run. Notice I said "run"—the king did a masterful job of releasing himself. It's hard to wash that skunk smell off the boat at the end of a fishing day, but we did get it off!

Sunday morning we got off to a later-than-usual start due to the spectacular lightning storm that moved over Ocean Isle in the pre-dawn hours. Brant and I were greeted by a 3-4-foot swell as the *Caribbean Soul* cleared Shallotte Inlet. Our fishing destination was 18 miles offshore, and we could only run 3600 rpm, so that turned into a long trip.

Once we arrived, Capt. Robert Causey, fishing his boat the *Outlaw*, radioed us and reported they were hooked up with a nice fish. All right! Just maybe there are some fish here. It wasn't long until there was radio talk of a king landed by Larry Fowler and Mark Dixon aboard the *Heather-Renee* that was over 30 pounds.

Then Jack Wood, fishing aboard *Team Laguna*, pulls alongside and yells, "Jamie, we've got one in the mid-20s." Man, what's going on here? Brant and I haven't had a nibble! We were convinced that we were in the right spot; there was no move in our plans. I remember telling Brant that all we needed now was a little luck.

I guess it was close to 12:30 p.m. when out of the corner of my eye I saw the port side downrigger rod bow like a rainbow. The clicker on the reel made a two-second blast, but instantly disengaged itself. Brant cleared the other lines while I worked toward the bow. It felt like a good fish to me, and I knew this would probably be our only chance of the tournament. We had to land this one.

This king did all the things that they are known for. She made three or four good runs, and I bet she circled the boat 10 complete times. She was a tough fish!

Finally, she showed herself. I yelled back to Brant at the wheel, "Son, she's a mossy back; she's the one that can put us on the leader board!" Mossy back is the term used by fishermen that refers to the dark brownish-green color of a king mackerel's back.

I have always been blessed with having crew members who are deadly with the gaff. Brant McMullan made a great gaff with the 10-foot gaff fully extended, and dragged her over the bow rail.

Oh, boy, she was pretty. She had the length of a 40-pounder, but she was thin; I guessed her weight in the mid-20s.

It was after we ran through the "storm of the decade" that we arrived at the weigh station. She weighed 25.98 pounds and placed us sixth in the tournament. To say we were tickled would be an understatement.

Larry Fowler's fish held on to win, while Robert Causey and Jack Woods' fish also held in the top 10.

I would like to thank the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce for holding a great tournament. I just wish we could have had chamber of commerce weather, but that's how it goes.

Good fishin' and good luck, "Jolly Mon."

Ma Nature Spoils Summer Finale

BY DOUG RUTTER

Mother Nature was unkind to area fishermen who had hoped for good weather for the last big weekend of the summer.

The ocean was rough on Saturday, and it rained on Sunday. So much for Labor Day weekend.

"I haven't seen a whole lot of fishing because of the weather," said John Sheffield of Sheffield's store at Ocean Isle Beach.

Sheffield said the fishing community is now looking forward to cooler weather. "Everybody's ready for fall. I've seen a lot of people coming in looking for spots."

Despite the poor weekend weather, Sheffield said fishermen did manage to land some king mackerel.

"There is fish out there if you know how to catch them," he said. "I've seen quite a few drum caught here in the surf in the last week."

Ronnie Baucom and Tim Lawson of Robeson County filled a cooler with speckled trout, spottailed drum and flounder over the weekend, Sheffield said.

Tripp's Fishing Center

Fishermen out of Tripp's Fishing Center at Shallotte Point caught spots, flounder, spottailed drum and a few trout last week, according to spokesperson Joyce Land.

"Fishing is fairly good," she said. "They're still catching big spots in the net and a few on the hook and line."

Land said fishermen caught Spanish mackerel and a few kings offshore last week.

Pier Fishing

Pier fishermen have started catching some large spots in the last few weeks, a sure sign that fall is on the way.

"I think it'll get better around the 15th or 20th," Curtis Williamson of Ocean Isle Beach Pier predicted. "As the water gets cooler it'll get better."

The ocean water temperature is still in the 80s, which is too hot for the yellow-bellied spots caught each fall.

FISHING REPORT

"They're catching a few spots," Gil Bass of Holden Beach Fishing Pier reported Monday. "I think as the water cools off it'll get better."

Ed Kayler of Sunset Beach Pier said fishermen caught spots, bluefish, croaker and a few big flounder last week.

"Crowds have been kind of scarce due to the rain this weekend and the hurricane last week," Kayler said. "They've started to pick up a few spots."

Williamson said anglers caught mostly spots and blues last week at Ocean Isle Beach. "We had a good crowd on the weekend, mostly tourists."

At Holden Beach Pier, Bass said fishermen caught spots, flounder and Spanish mackerel. Anglers have been pulling in trout in the mornings.

"Not a whole lot of fish, but some," Bass said. "There's enough to keep it interesting I think."

Safe Boating Course Is Set

Grand Strand Flotilla, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, is offering a 10-week safe boating course to the public beginning Sept. 21.

Classes will be held from 7 to 9:15 p.m. at Myrtle Beach Yacht Club, Coquina Harbor.

The "Boating Skills and Seamanship Course" covers more than a dozen subjects, all important to safe boating. A nominal fee is charged for materials.

For more information, phone (803)249-6014 or (803)272-7839.

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