

**FISHING REPORT**

**Arrival Of Spots Expected Any Day**

**BY DOUG RUTTER**

With fall officially arriving this week, fishing experts across the South Brunswick Islands said Monday they expect large schools of yellow-bellied spots to start running any day.

"The feel of fall is in the air. Everybody's fishing," said John Sheffield of Sheffield's store at Ocean Isle Beach.

"There ain't been a run of spots yet, but they ought to be just around the corner," he predicted. "By the time everybody gets here, sharpens their hooks and gets bait on them, the spots ought to be here."

Even without the spots, Sheffield said fishing was pretty good last week. A South Carolina fisherman pulled two red drum from the waterway over the weekend that weighed 25½ pounds and 22 pounds.

Sheffield said anglers also caught bluefish in the surf, large croaker in the inlets and king mackerel and dolphin offshore.

"Spanish mackerel is starting to pick up a little out here," he pointed out. "They didn't do much this summer but they're picking up now."

**Tripp's Fishing Center**

"They're still catching spots on the hook and line and in the net," Joyce Land of Tripp's Fishing Center at Shallotte Point said Monday.

Land said anglers also caught flounder and spottailed drum inshore, and king and Spanish mack-



**TAMMY COOKE of Ocean Isle Beach caught this 32-pound king mackerel during a recent trip aboard the Job Site.**

erel offshore. "All the boats that went out yesterday caught their limit in Spanish," she said. "Outside is good and inside is fair, so I reckon you'd say it's fairly good."

**Sea Mist Camping Resort**

Fishermen at Sea Mist Camping Resort at Brick Landing caught several nice Spanish mackerel last week, as well as blues, flounder and spots, according to Nellie Harrell.

**Pier Fishing**

With cooler temperatures on the way, pier fishermen expect the large spots to start running soon.

In the meantime, they've been catching Spanish mackerel, pompano, whiting, blues, flounder and trout in the past week.

"They're catching a few fish," Gil Bass of Holden Beach Fishing Pier said Monday. "We haven't had any runs yet, but it has picked up."

Ed Kayler of Sunset Beach Fishing Pier said fishing has been pretty decent considering the weather and number of fishermen.

"They're not jumping on the pier or anything, but they're catching something every day," he said.

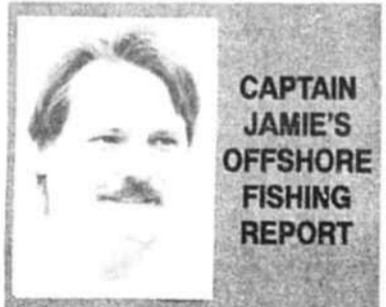
Curtis Williamson of Ocean Isle Beach Fishing Pier said it may be next month before the spots start running.

"The water really ain't cool enough. It's about 81 degrees last I heard," Williamson said. "It's going to push October before you see the big run of spots."

**King Fishing All-Time Slow With Signs Of Fall Arriving**

**BY JAMIE MILLIKEN**

The water temperature along the South Brunswick Islands has begun to drop. With temperatures dropping into the 60's at night for the past week,



**CAPTAIN JAMIE'S OFFSHORE FISHING REPORT**

we have seen a four-degree drop in ocean water temperature. This has also brought along our run of September mullet. This marks our first sure signs that fall is arriving, and I am glad.

Our king mackerel fishery has been at an all-time slow period. Just saying that it is slow is an understatement. The annual Hardee's King Mackerel Tournament was held two weeks ago at Atlantic Beach, and 714 boats participated. With 714 boats fishing an average of five lines, that's 3,570 baits in the water, and that resulted in less than 150 kings being landed. Now, you don't have to be a rocket scientist to see that this is pitiful!

I have been asked lately, "Where are the kings?" I truly do not know. However, there appears to be a pattern in this madness. The year 1991 did not measure up to everyone's expectations, but was followed by a banner year in 1992. I credited the strong year of 1992 with the quota system that the South Atlantic Council enforces to limit the king mackerel catch.

It will be interesting to see what 1994 will be like. If the trend continues and the stock of kings continues to deplete, I would be in favor of closing all forms of king mackerel fishing for a complete calendar year. However, if the 1994 season is a banner one like 1992, we can only assume that the system is working.

The cooler temperatures have brought about increased activity in the Gulf Stream. I spoke with Capt. Pete Nelson, an authority on blue water fishing, last week and he reported the yellowfin tuna, wahoo and white marlin runs have already begun.

David Hooks added proof to this claim Sunday by landing a 41-pound yellowfin. I expect that the next 45 days will be prime time fishing action in the stream. Catching tuna is almost as fun as eating them!

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

**King Season Winds Down With U.S. Open Tourney**

King mackerel fishermen from near and far will be out in full force next weekend when Southport rolls out the red carpet for the U.S. Open King Mackerel Tournament.

Anglers will compete for \$100,000 in cash prizes in the 15th annual tournament, scheduled Sept. 30 through Oct. 2 out of Southport Marina. The Open is the region's last major king tournament of the year.

Captain's meetings will be held Thursday, Sept. 30, at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. at tournament headquarters. All captains should attend one of the meetings to learn of any rule changes.

The fishing competition will run from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 1, and 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2.

Boats will check out each day at the N.C. Baptist Assembly Pier at

Oak Island, Lockwood Folly Inlet or Masonboro Inlet. All fish will be weighed in at Southport Marina.

Awards including \$25,000 for the largest king mackerel will be presented Saturday at 7 p.m. Other top prizes are \$10,000 for second place and \$5,000 for third.

Money will be awarded for the top 50 fish. Daily prizes for the total weight of three fish also will be presented Saturday night, when fish bowl and early bird drawings will be held.

The tournament is sanctioned by the Southern Kingfish Association and King Masters Association. Proceeds benefit the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce. The entry fee is \$240 per boat.

For more information, call the U.S. Open King Mackerel Tournament office at 919-457-5787 or 1-800-457-6964.

**Forum To Seek Fishermen's Opinions On Limited Entry**

Sea Grant researchers are continuing their quest for fishermen's opinions about a management strategy called limited entry.

In a second round of workshops slated for the last week of September and the first week of October, Sea Grant scientists Mike Orbach and Jeff Johnson will ask watermen to pinpoint which type of limited entry management strategy they think would work best for the North Carolina blue crab fishery.

The closest workshop to Brunswick County is scheduled for Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. in the New Hanover County Cooperative Extension Service Office.

Limited entry management calls for assigning specific privileges to specific fishermen, says Orbach, an

anthropologist at Duke University. These privileges can limit the number of fishermen involved in a fishery, the amount of gear used or the total amount of fish or shellfish caught.

Orbach and Johnson, an East Carolina University anthropologist, say they want watermen to determine which type of limitations would work for the blue crab fishery, which many claim is too crowded.

Although the overall catch of blue crabs has not diminished, the catch per crab pot has dropped. Many crabbers say they can no longer make a living harvesting the crustaceans.

To talk about solutions to the problem, Orbach and Johnson decided to use the crab fishery as a basis for the study of limited entry.

**This Week's Tide Table**

**SEPTEMBER**

Day	Date	HIGH		LOW	
		A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Thursday	23	2:30	3:16	8:34	9:25
Friday	24	3:33	4:16	9:38	10:24
Saturday	25	4:33	5:11	10:39	11:16
Sunday	26	5:28	6:02	11:33	—
Monday	27	6:17	6:46	12:07	12:23
Tuesday	28	7:02	7:29	12:49	1:07
Wednesday	29	7:42	8:06	1:29	1:49

**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.

**Dolphin-Watchers Sought To Help**

A group studying bottlenose dolphins along the North Carolina coast since 1989 says it is planning North Carolina's largest dolphin watch to date from Beaufort Inlet at Fort Macon south to Corncake Inlet near Bald Head Island—about 80 miles of coastline.

Cetacean Awareness Programs will use volunteers for its next "Day of the Dolphin," scheduled for Oct. 9. The education and research project is aimed at learning more about dolphins that inhabit areas of the Tar Heel coastline. The organization has conducted 19 dolphin sighting days along the coast in the past four years.

On Oct. 9, volunteer teams will occupy observation posts along the beach at one-mile intervals and simultaneously look for dolphins within the study area.

Volunteers must attend an orientation Friday, Oct. 8, at 7:30 p.m. to learn more about program methodology, to register for sighting location, and to pick up sighting record forms.

Those wishing to sight dolphins from New River Inlet to Corncake Inlet (including Topsail Island, Fire Eight Island, Wrightsville Beach, Carolina and Kure Beach) should attend orientation at Morton Hall in Bryan Auditorium on the UNC-Wilmington campus.

Those wishing to sight dolphins along Bogue Banks, from Beaufort Inlet to Bogue Inlet (including Atlantic Beach, Pine Knoll Shores, Salter Path and Emerald Isle) should attend orientation at the N.C. Marine Fisheries Service building, 3441 Arendell St., Morehead City.

For more information and to pre-register, call Cetacean Awareness Programs at (919)458-4700.

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