



**MIKE BALLENGER** of West End (left) won last year's *Shallotte Point VFD Flounder Tournament* with a 5.83-pounder. He fished with parents John and Doris Ballenger of Holden Beach.

## Flounder Tourney Next Weekend

BY DOUG RUTTER

Joyce Land says flounder fishing these days is the best she's seen in five or six years.

That's good news to the fishermen who plan to compete in next weekend's 11th Annual Shallotte Point Volunteer Fire Department Flounder Tournament.

If the weather is good, there should be lots of flounder brought to the scales at Tripp's Fishing Center, which hosts the two-day tournament.

"We've had more flounders so far this year than I've seen in five or six years," Land said Monday.

"It's real good right now. The biggest I've actually seen was 5 pounds, but I've heard of some caught at other places up to 8 pounds," Land said.

Tournament activities kick off with a captain's meeting Thursday, June 9, from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. at the Shallotte Point fire station.

The fishing competition will be Friday and Saturday, June 10 and 11, from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day. Fish will be weighed in until 6 p.m. at Tripp's.

Fishermen must stay between Little River Inlet and Lockwood Folly River at Intracoastal Waterway marker 36.

The Shallotte Point VFD Auxiliary will be serving breakfast and lunch to the fishermen both days at Tripp's.

On Saturday night, a fish fry will start at 5 p.m. at the fire station. An awards ceremony will follow at 7:30 p.m.

Prizes are \$1,500 for the largest flounder and \$1,000, \$500, \$400 and \$200 for the second through

fifth largest.

The fisherman who weighs in the five fish with the greatest aggregate weight will receive \$600.

Three cash awards (\$200, \$100 and \$50) will be presented each day to the fishermen who weigh in the most fish.

The child angler who weighs in the biggest fish each day will receive \$50. There also will be fish bowl drawings for door prizes and \$100 in cash.

Mike Ballenger of West End is the defending tournament champion. His 5.83-pound flounder, caught in the opening hours of last year's event, was just big enough to win.

Ballenger landed the fish near the mouth of Shallotte Inlet. The four next-largest fish were all within .74 pounds of Ballenger's winner.

The entry fee is \$50 per boat, which includes two free dinner tickets. The fishing tournament is the biggest fund-raiser for the volunteer fire department.

Last year's tournament was one of the most successful ever with 114 entries. Fishermen presented 177 flounder for weigh-in.

In keeping with tradition, Land declined to make a prediction about how many fishermen she thinks will enter this year's tournament or what it will take to win the event.

"The first year I guessed and we only had about 60 fishermen so I stopped trying to guess," she said. "I'm going to hope we break our record this year on the fishermen we have."

For more information on the tournament, call 754-6985.

## THEME FOR NATIONAL OBSERVANCE Boat Smart, Boat Safe, Boat Sober

National Safe Boating Week, June 5-11, has been proclaimed in Brunswick County by a number of its mayors.

"National Safe Boating Week is dedicated to saving the lives of boaters," said Robert Adams of the Shallotte River Power Squadron, chairman of the squadron's Safe Boating Week activities.

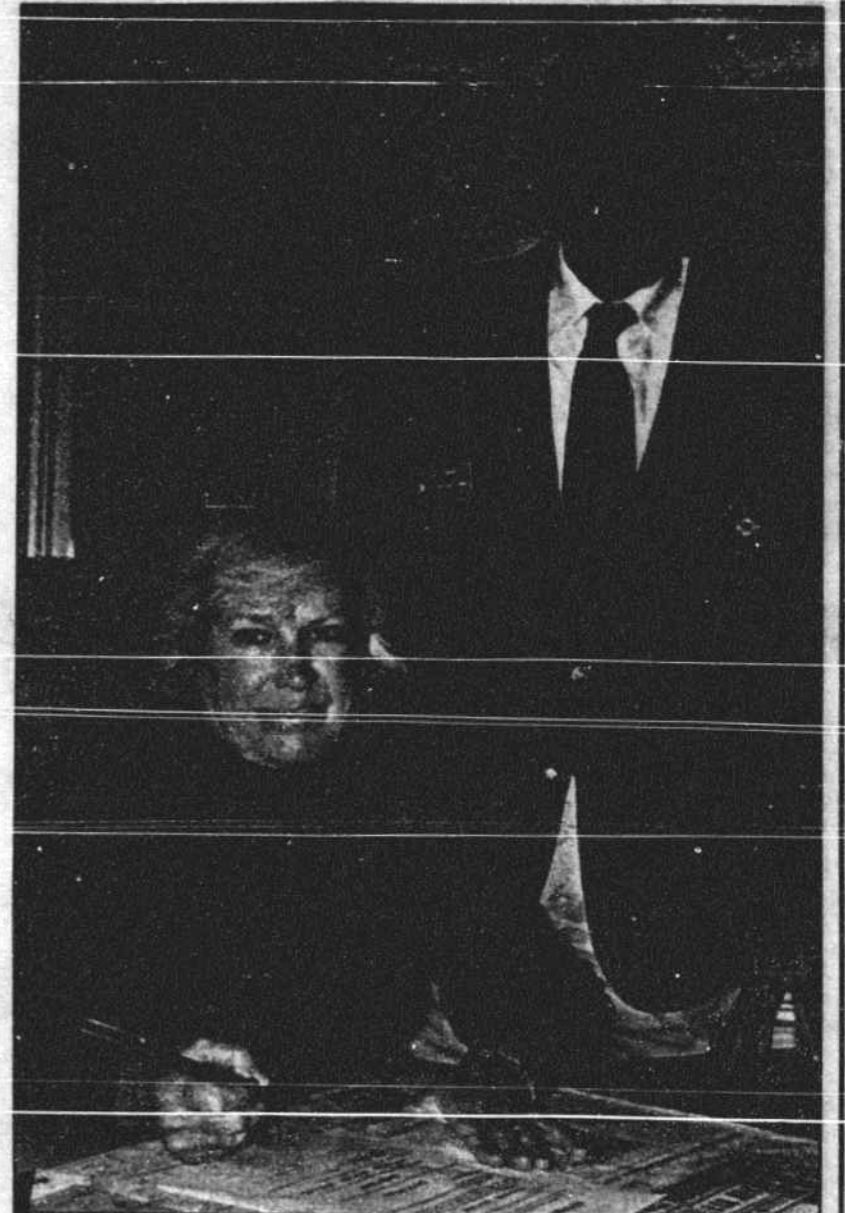
"Most of the boats involved in fatal accidents are small boats on inland waters. Most of the people who die in boating accidents fall out of boats or capsize or swamp their boats. We want to put an end to the needless deaths," Adams explained.

The mayors' proclamations point out that 70 million Americans will choose recreational boating as a way to relax with family and friends in 1994 and, unfortunately, tragedies do occur on the water, and urges responsible boat operators to learn about the hazards of alcohol and boating.

"Boat smart, boat safe and boat sober," is the theme for this year's observance.

Signing proclamations supporting the goals of National Safe Boating Week in Brunswick County were Mayor Sarah L. Tripp of Shallotte, Mayor Gay Atkins of Holden Beach, Mayor Betty Williamson of Ocean Isle, Mayor Norman Holden of Southport, Mayor Joan Altman of Long Beach, Mayor Mason Barber Jr. of Sunset Beach, and Mayor George Anderson of Calabash.

The Shallotte River Power Squadron, which promotes boating safety year 'round through its boating courses offered to the public, is observing the special week by distributing boating safety posters and pamphlets.



**SIGNING A PROCLAMATION** for National Safe Boating Week is Holden Beach Mayor Gay Atkins, while Robert Adams of the Shallotte River Power Squadron watches.

## Brunswick County Bassmasters Plan Kids' Day

Brunswick County Bassmasters will sponsor their fifth annual Kids Fishing Day For Fun on Saturday, June 25, at Boiling Spring Lakes.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. until noon at the public boat ramp. Participants need to bring their own rod and reel to fish for bream. Bait will be supplied.

The top two finishers in each age group (7 and under

or 8-15) will receive trophies. A trophy also will be presented for the smallest fish.

Every child will receive some type of prize. There will be free hot dogs and drinks after the fishing.

For more information, contact Roy Todd at 842-6864 or Jerry Saikley at 842-5358.

## Spots Plentiful At Local Piers

BY DOUG RUTTER

Pier anglers visiting the South Brunswick Islands for Memorial Day weekend should have found the fishing to their liking.

Large numbers of spots were caught at Ocean Isle Beach and Sunset Beach fishing piers, while Spanish mackerel were striking at Holden Beach.

"They're catching a lot of spots. They had a real good day yesterday," Evelyn Williams of Ocean Isle Beach Fishing Pier said Monday.

"The spots have been especially good. They were catching the spots by the five-gallon bucketful," Williams added. "For this time of year they were nice spots I would say."

Williams said anglers also caught Spanish, bluefish and whiting last week. "It looks like if the weather holds up we're going to have a good

### FISHING REPORT



**WILLIAM SOUTHERLAND** of Roseboro shows off a 2-pound snapper and 7½-pound grouper caught by his father Sunday aboard the *Alice E.* It was William's first fishing trip.

started catching Spanish mackerel last week.

"They have started picking up on the Spanish. We had a lot of people down this weekend," Bass said.

Fishermen also landed blues, flounder, spots, whiting and croaker last week at Holden Beach, Bass said.

#### Holden Beach Marina

Windy conditions limited offshore fishing much of last week, but anglers still found trout, drum and other fish inshore.

"Off in the Lockwood Folly Inlet we had some black drum and sheepshead caught on sand fleas," said Gary Carr of Holden Beach Marina. "The Spanish have been spotty."

Carr said fishermen also caught spots and flounder in the waterway and trout in the inlet. There wasn't much offshore fishing action last week.

"The wind has been blowing. Boats haven't been able to get out much. They couldn't get offshore," Carr said.

#### Ocean Isle Marina

Ken Shipley of Ocean Isle Marina said fishermen caught king mackerel, dolphin and wahoo last week.

"Kings are being caught within four miles of the beach," he said. "The flounder's still good. Sheepshead are being caught at Sunset Beach at the drawbridge."

#### Tripp's Fishing Center

Fishermen working inshore last week caught lots of flounder and spots out of Tripp's Fishing Center at Shallotte Point.

"Outside they caught bigies and Spanish, what time they could get out there," said spokesperson Joyce Land.

summer," she said.

Spots also were plentiful over the holiday weekend at Sunset Beach Fishing Pier, said manager Ed Kayler.

"They have been catching spots. That's the good news. That's what we've been waiting on," Kayler said Monday morning.

He also reported catches of bluefish, pompano, flounder and a few whiting.

At Holden Beach Fishing Pier, manager Gil Bass said fishermen

## This Week's Tide Table

Day	Date	HIGH		LOW	
		A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Thursday	2	2:35	3:07	8:43	9:10
Friday	3	4:17	4:50	10:24	10:52
Saturday	4	5:07	5:38	11:12	11:53
Sunday	5	5:55	6:23	11:58	—
Monday	6	6:42	7:06	12:48	12:43
Tuesday	7	7:25	7:47	1:25	1:26
Wednesday	8	8:07	8:27	2:08	2:07

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.

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