FISHING REPORT

Cool Weather Raises Hopes For Fall

For the first time since last spring, a cool weather system moved through Brunswick County over the weekend.

The temperature didn't get out of the 60s on Saturday, raising hopes that the fall fishing season isn't far

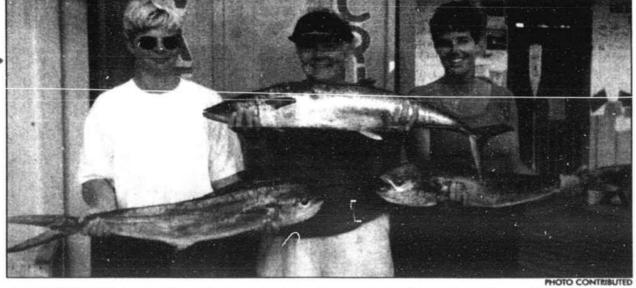
Ken Shipley of Ocean Isle Marina said the brief cool snap has already improved local fishing conditions.

"All around fishing's picked up about 300 percent," Shipley said Monday morning. "It's really picking up with the cool weather. The water's cooling down. Everything's coming back in this time of year."

Shipley said fishermen caught lots of flounder, trout, sheepshead and drum in the waterway last week. He also reported catches of Spanish mackerel between Holden Beach and Ocean Isle Beach and blacktip

"Fishing's picking up in the ocean. Kings are showing up about 18 miles off," Shipley said, adding that anglers also are catching black

Steve Stirewalt of Ocean Isle Beach landed a 100-pound tarpon last week that measured 63 inches long, Shipley said.



A RECENT TRIP on the Mega Flite produced two 16-pound dolphin and an 18-pound king mackerel. Pictured (from left) are Tina Pritchard, Daisey Cameron and Jan Reichenbach.

Tripp's Fishing Center

Fishermen have been catching spots and flounder inshore and king and Spanish mackerel in the ocean, said Joyce Land of Tripp's Fishing Center at Shallotte Point.

Land said the kings have moved to within a few miles of the beach, and spottailed drum and gray trout have started biting.

A 20-POUND CITATION BARRACUDA highlighted a recent

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

fishing trip on the Alice E for Paul Giles of Thomasville.

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will be-

gin its fall public education course,

"Boating Skills and Seamanship,"

Senior Citizens Center 7 until 9 p.m.

on Monday and Thursday evenings

from Sept. 19 until Nov. 3. Registr-

ation will begin at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 19, just prior to the first class.

There is no charge for the course itself, but there is a nominal cost for

Lesson titles in the course include

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Classes will meet at the Shallotte

on Monday, Sept. 19.

textbook and workbook.

Last weekend, Barry Frink of Shallotte landed an 8%-pound flounder and Robert King of Shallotte pulled in a 30-pound king mackerel.

Ann Wood of Lexington caught her first king mackerel last Sunday, a 44-pounder. "She was riding high," Land said.

Holden Beach Marina

Gary Carr of Holden Beach Marina said fishermen caught Spanish mackerel and flounder inshore last week, and whiting and blues in the

"It looks like tomorrow's going to be a good fishing day," Carr said Monday. "Nobody's been offshore

This Week's

Tide Table

SEPTEMBER

SHALLOTTE INLET-add 17 min.

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.

4:40 10:04 10:51

Pier Fishing

With the weather turning cool, pier anglers have started the countdown to the fall spot fishing season.

"We're looking for the spots any minute. I'm talking about coolerfuls," Ed Kayler of Sunset Beach Fishing Pier said Monday.

Kayler said anglers pulled in a few spots last week. "We had a few pretty good spurts but not what you would call a run," he said.

Fishermen also caught flounder, bluefish, trout and some big Spanish mackerel last week at Sunset Pier.

At Holden Beach Fishing Pier, Gil Bass said anglers have been catching spots, Spanish mackerel, blues, flounder and whiting.

"The fishing has picked up," Bass said. "They say the spots have just hit Topsail. That's what the bait man said. So it will be a few more days."

Senior Fishing Trip Sept. 16

The Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor a senior citizens' fishing trip aboard the Mega Flite on Friday, Sept. 16.

The group will leave from Capt. Pete's Seafood on Holden Beach at 7 a.m. and will return about 3 p.m. Participants should bring a small cooler with their lunch and drinks.

For more information or to register, call the Parks Department at 253-4357 or 1-800-222-4790.



BELTON LOCKLEAR of Maxton shows off an 18-pound red grouper caught recently aboard the Alice E.

Angler Lands Big Pompano

Holden Beach homeowner Harvey Kidd caught a 3-pound, 11ounce, pompano Monday while fishing in the surf at Holden Beach.

Kidd, of Concord, landed the big fish around noon while fishing across the street from his home at 276 Ocean Blvd. West. He was using sand fleas for bait.

"That's probably one of the

biggest I've seen in this area," said Gil Bass of Holden Beach Fishing Pier, who weighed the fish

Kidd is eligible for a certificate from the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries because his fish met the minimum weight requirement of 2

The large pompano also has been entered in the N.C. Saltwater Fishing Tournament.



Friday, September 30 Saturday, October 1

at the Columbus County Fairgrounds, Whiteville, NC For entry information contact: Henry Edmund 1-800-424-0115 or Ward's Body Shop 754-8177

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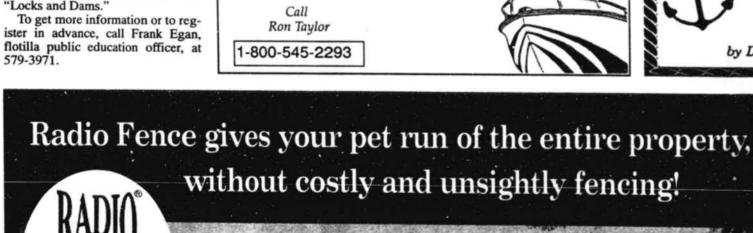
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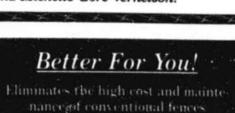
Locally owned and operated by Danny and Michelle Gore Vernelson.

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