

FISHING REPORT

Spot Season Underway At Local Piers

BY DOUG RUTTER

Sound the alarms. Fall spot season has arrived.

Anglers started pulling in big, yellow-belly spots at Sunset Beach and Ocean Isle Beach fishing piers Monday morning. By now, they should be biting at Holden Beach as well.

"It's going great. They're catching them three at a time," Ed Kayler of Sunset Beach Fishing Pier reported Monday.

"The spots are here. This is the first big day. This is the cooler day. By that I mean, they're taking them off by the coolerful," Kayler said.

"We're getting a pretty good crowd out here for a Monday. Evidently the word is out," he added.

Milton Williams, manager of Ocean Isle Beach Fishing Pier, could not be reached by telephone Monday morning because he was out on the pier catching spots.

"They're catching them pretty good right now," said Predie King, who stayed inside to help customers. "It's about time for them to come in if they're going to."

As of Monday morning, the annual run of spots had not started at Holden Beach Fishing Pier.

"We've had not big runs, but it has increased in the last couple days," said manager Gil Bass.

Pier fishermen also caught blue-



DOUG MCKINNEY of Ocean Isle Beach caught this 34-pound dolphin about 30 miles south of Shalotte Inlet during a recent fishing trip aboard his father's boat, the Extra-Five.

fish, whiting and flounder last week. Kayler reported a 6½-pound flounder at Sunset Beach.

Holden Beach Marina

As host of the South Brunswick Islands King Classic fishing tournament, Holden Beach Marina saw enough king mackerel last weekend to last a long time.

"They had an awful lot of big kings. They had a pile of them," said Gary Carr. "It was really good. I never heard a complaint the whole time."

Carr said fishermen on charter boats caught mostly snapper and grouper last week, and other anglers landed Spanish mackerel.

"The Spanish that they're catching are larger Spanish and they're farther offshore," Carr said. "Right now they're about 9 miles out."

Carr said he expected the inshore spot fishing to improve soon. "It should start any time now. We've

got some people fishing for spots right now."

Tripp's Fishing Center

"They've started catching spots with the hook and line and in the gill nets," said Joyce Land of Tripp's Fishing Center at Shalotte Point.

She also reported catches of flounder and a few sheepshead and spottailed drum inshore.

Offshore, Land said fishermen are catching king and Spanish mackerel, bluefish and black bass.



JULIAN ROMANCZUKLEWICZ of Charlotte landed this 31-pound barracuda last Saturday aboard the Intimidator.



JEFF MATHIS of Charlotte caught a 19-pound king mackerel during a recent trip aboard the Job Site out of Ocean Isle Beach.

Grouper Man Transforms Into The 'King Of Kings'

BY JAMIE MILLIKEN

That's right, folks. David Rourke, the man featured in many of my articles as the "Grouper Man," outclassed the field in this year's South Brunswick Islands King Classic Tournament. David and Ricky Hawes teamed aboard David's boat Hot Water in this year's event.



CAPTAIN JAMIE'S OFFSHORE FISHING REPORT

I got to spend a little time with David on Sunday, and I'm sure you're like I was in wanting to know the details of catching the winning king that set a tournament record with a weight of 46.10 pounds.

David calmly rocked back and forth in the recliner and began his story with his arrival at the "Shark Hole" early Friday morning. "A king hit first thing as we were getting the lines in the water. One we set back out, we got a triple. With only me and Ricky on the boat, we had to place one rod on hold in the rod holder. We landed two kings, but the one on hold cut the line on the bottom and was gone. I know we were on the fish and the fish was on."

"I told Ricky, 'I'm gonna drop one back and you try to get us back on the number. Jamie, I was feeding it back with the reel in free spool and my thumb on the reel, and I must have dropped it in her mouth. She started burning it down!'"

Tell me about her run, I asked David. "Man, she burned it out there about 300 yards and stopped. Ricky quickly got us over there and I saw her. She was lying on top of the water and she gave me a good side view. She was big. But she took off again on another hard run. Boy, I started playing her like a big fish because I knew she was the one we came after. After her second run she came right to the boat and Ricky gaffed her right behind the head. She was in the boat."

David and I talked as a lightning storm ripped across Shalotte Point. We talked about what a great tournament the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce had put together. Never before had so many fish been caught in this tournament.

On the first day of competition more than 1,400 pounds of fish were weighed in. Wow! Think about that...

Normally, the cut-off for 30th place is 18 pounds. This year it was a whopping 24.5 pounds.

This tournament was really good to a number of local anglers. I don't have an official rundown in front of me, but I remember the leader board listing Scott Taylor, Wayne Hill, Wendall Vereen, Earl Clewis, John Sullivan, Sammy Sessions and Kendall Suh—and I'm sure there's more. Way to go, guys!

The Gulf Stream has been producing wahoo, tuna and dolphin in a little stronger numbers over the past week. The cool-down in water temperatures is a direct contributor to that. As you can tell by the number of fish caught in the tournament, the king season is in overdrive.

Get down here and wet a line—you just might catch a hog. Good fishin' and good luck, Jolly Mon.

This Week's Tide Table

SEPTEMBER

Day	Date	HIGH A.M.	LOW P.M.	HIGH A.M.	LOW P.M.
Thursday	22	10:12	10:30	3:58	4:22
Friday	23	10:48	11:04	4:35	5:01
Saturday	24	11:25	11:39	5:12	5:41
Sunday	25	—	12:04	5:51	6:24
Monday	26	12:18	12:50	6:35	7:13
Tuesday	27	1:05	1:42	7:25	8:09
Wednesday	28	2:03	2:39	8:22	9:09

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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Bollinger Wins Vets Tournament

L.C. Bollinger of Little River, S.C., won the championship flight in the North Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars Golf Tournament last weekend at Sanford Municipal Golf Course.

Bollinger, who lives in Windjammer Village and is a member of Calabash VFW Post 7288, fired the low round of 76 to win his flight.

Sixteen members of the Calabash VFW participated in the state tournament, which drew 170 golfers. Lew Meyer and Walt Benes won closest-to-the-pin awards.

Bollinger won a 3-foot-tall trophy that will remain at the Calabash VFW post for the next year.

Roland Decker Bowls 300 Game

Roland Decker of Shalotte bowled his first 300 game last Friday night at Brunswick County Bowling Center.

Decker was participating in a Woodmen of the World League event. Decker's son, Terry Decker, rolled the first 300 game at the Shalotte bowling alley on Sept. 5.

To achieve a perfect score of 300, a bowler must roll 12 consecutive strikes.

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