

FISHING REPORT

Spots Biting Sporadically At Local Piers

BY DOUG RUTTER

Until cool weather sets in for good, anglers can count on the spot fishing remaining sporadic. It'll be good one day and sorry the next.

Local pier fishermen were catching yellow-belly spots by the bucketful early last week, but by the weekend the fishing frenzy had leveled off.

"The spots ran big time until early Friday morning, then they slowed up a little bit. It's been very slow this weekend," A.J. Hammill of Sunset Beach Fishing Pier said Monday.

"Most of the guys who fish here say the spots will be back in here this week, but who knows?" Hammill added.

Billy Settlemyre of Ocean Isle Beach Fishing Pier offered a similar report. Spot fishing was excellent for most of last week, but slow over the weekend.

"The spots bit real good last week and they slowed up now," he said. "They tore them up Saturday. The

spots have been biting off and on for the last two days."

At Holden Beach Fishing Pier, the spots didn't arrive until the middle of last week and anglers continued catching them through the weekend.

"We had a very good week," pier manager Gil Bass said. "We have really caught spots. They've come off with them in bucketfuls, and caught them two at a time."

"We're real happy," Bass added. "We've had a very, very good week. I hope it continues for the next month."

While they weren't catching spots last week, Bass said fishermen were pulling in bluefish and flounder. Hammill reported catches of pompano and trout at Sunset Beach.

Joyce Santern of Charlotte caught a 25-pound king mackerel Saturday at Holden Beach Pier.

Sheffield's

John Sheffield of Sheffield's Seafood & Grocery at Ocean Isle Beach said last week was "real good" for local fishermen.



A RECENT TRIP on the *Intimidator* yielded some nice grouper and hog snapper for this crew. Pictured are (front row, from left) Paul Wojnowich, Mike Stevenson, Larry Grist, (back row, from left), Kyle Grady and John Marshall.

"Everybody caught a lot of fish over the weekend," he said Monday. "Spot fishing, everybody's doing that."

Sheffield said anglers caught king mackerel, yellowfin tuna and wahoo offshore and spots, speckled trout, flounder and spottailed drum inshore.

In the surf, anglers have been catching pompano, whiting and small blues, Sheffield added.

Captain Pete's Seafood

Travis Elliott of Captain Pete's Seafood at Holden Beach said fish-

ing was slow last weekend.

Anglers caught some spots inshore and king mackerel fishing in the Wrightsville Beach King Mackerel Tournament. Fishermen on charter boats landed red and gray snapper.

"This past weekend wasn't too good at all. The spots are sort of off and on right now," Elliott said Monday.

"It's just the time of year. It's always a little sporadic this time of year. It's not real hot or real cold, so it's just off and on," he said.

Sea Mist Camping Resort

Fishing was pretty slow last week in the Brick Landing area, said Nellie Harrell of Sea Mist Camping Resort.

"I haven't heard of any spectacular catches," she said Monday. "We've had some spots running, but it's been pretty quiet."

This Week's Tide Table

		HIGH		LOW	
Day	Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Thursday	29	3:06	3:39	9:24	10:09
Friday	30	4:09	4:37	10:26	11:05
OCTOBER					
Saturday	1	5:08	5:31	11:24	11:57
Sunday	2	6:03	6:24	—	12:19
Monday	3	6:55	7:14	12:46	1:11
Tuesday	4	7:46	8:03	1:33	2:02
Wednesday	5	8:36	8:52	2:19	2:52
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.					



SAMUEL CLEMMONS of Winston-Salem caught this 18-pound dolphin last Friday on the *Intimidator* out of Holden Beach.

Reeling-n-Dealing Deals Winning Hand

BY JAMIE MILLIKEN

Captain Scott Taylor of Shallotte Point and longtime friend Scott Cates teamed up this past weekend to capture top prize at the Wrightsville Beach King Mackerel Tournament. The two Scotts landed a 40.55-pound king aboard Taylor's Mako, the *Reeling-n-Dealing*, on day one of the competition.



CAPTAIN JAMIE'S OFFSHORE FISHING REPORT

The fishing was hot and furious on the first day. They had eight kings in the boat by 11 a.m., all good-sized, so they felt confident they were in the right spot. Boy, were they right!

Somewhere around 1 p.m. the short flat line cut loose in one of those unmistakable kingfish "smoker" runs.

Fifteen minutes later they slammed him in the cooler and Scott Taylor sat down on the cooler lid. This fish was not going to get away.

Only one problem left. They had to make their run to Wrightsville Beach, some 60 miles away.

Everything was going well until they hit the "Yellow Banks" area behind Long Beach. One fuel line and fuel line bulb simply blew up. With one engine dying from lack of gas the two frantically went to work.

Folks, you've never seen an amount of gray duct tape in all your life as I saw when I stepped aboard the *Reeling-n-Dealing* Friday afternoon. They had more tape holding things together than a NASCAR team uses in a full season—but it worked. They made the weigh-in with 30 minutes to spare!

The crew of the *Reeling-n-Dealing* was not the only Shallotte Point team to win big money. Capt. Kyle White and crew Robbie White, Roy Mintz and Sam Mintz placed third aboard the *Oil Slick*. Kyle's fish weighed in at 34.60 pounds.

According to Kyle everything went very smoothly in landing their fish, and their ride to the weigh-in station was uneventful compared to the *Reeling-n-Dealing*. As Kyle says, "Nothin' to this sport..."

Both teams are members of our elite fishing group, the NFFA. Last week's South Brunswick tournament winner David Rourk is also an NFFA member. Boy, this elite group of Shallotte Point anglers has been on a roll. It started the week prior to the South Brunswick when Chip and I scored second daily at the Hardee's Tournament in Atlantic Beach. With the U.S. Open just days away, our hopes are really high!

The Gulf Stream fishing has really picked up. Here's an update: The *Quick Draw* landed a 42-pound wahoo and 52-pound yellowfin tuna. *MacMarlin* landed a sailfish. *Penn Cat* landed a white marlin. *Island Son* scored a Carolina Slam with a dolphin, wahoo and tuna. All this action took place this past weekend.

That brings you up to speed with the fishing action, so until next time, good fishin' and good luck, "Jolly Mon."

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U.S. King Mackerel Open Starts Friday

Fishermen will compete for \$100,000 in cash prizes this weekend in the U.S. Open King Mackerel Tournament out of Southport Marina.

Captains' meetings are scheduled Thursday at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the marina. All captains should attend to receive information on rule changes or clarifications.

The fishing competition will be Friday and Saturday. Fishing hours are 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. Friday and 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday.

Boats will check out each day between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. at the N.C. Bapt. Assembly Pier or with committee boats stationed at Lockwood Folly and Masonboro inlets.

After Saturday's fishing, the tournament fish fry and entertainment starts at 5 p.m. and the awards ceremony at 7 p.m. The grand prize will be \$25,000 for the largest king mackerel.

Other awards will include \$10,000 for second place, \$5,000 for third and \$2,500 for fourth. Prizes

for the fifth through 50th places range from \$1,500 to \$250.

The U.S. Open also will award two aggregate weight awards for each day in the amount of \$925 and \$625. Anglers may weigh in a maximum of three fish per day for the aggregate weight category.

Other cash prizes offered this year include \$2,000 from Suzuki Motors, \$1,000 from The Boat Clinic, \$750 in early bird drawings, \$500 from Security Savings Bank and 37 fish bowl drawings of \$125 each.

The tournament entry fee is \$250 per boat. Anglers who want to take a chance at winning extra prize money may enter the tournament-within-a-

tournament for an additional \$100 fee.

The U.S. Open is sponsored by

the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call 910-457-5787.

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