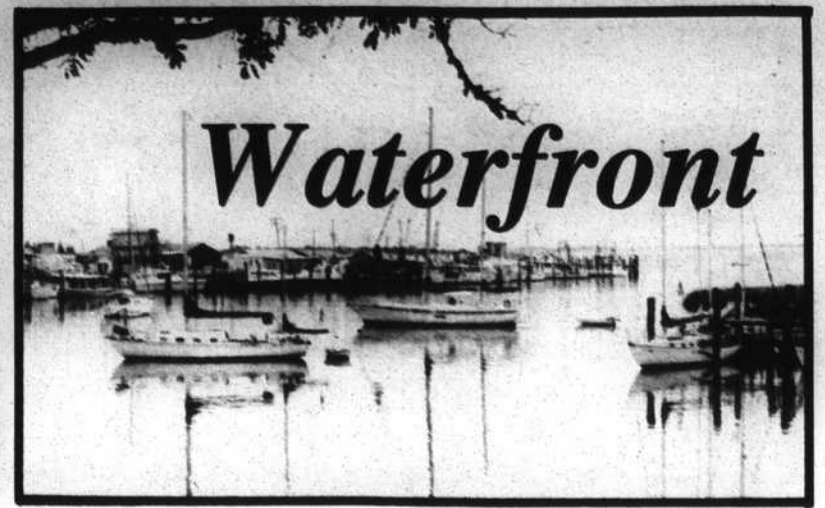




## THE WAY IT WAS

Mr. and Mrs. Preston Bergen live in New Jersey but have a summer home in Long Beach. They keep up with things here through a subscription to the *Pilot* and are familiar with our features, including "The Way It Was". Several months ago they saw this picture postcard for sale at an antique store and bought it. They were kind enough to

permit us to use it this week. It is a turn-of-the-century picture of the Southport waterfront, looking eastward from the old Cape Fear pilot tower. Bay Street looked like a wagon path, which it was at that time. The docks and buildings on the waterfront are long gone, including the pavilion, the big building in the center with the cupola.



A pleasant postlude, previously unreported, to the dedication ceremonies aboard the *Governor Daniel Russell* on June 26 was a short trip downriver as captain Harry Sell gave his passengers a fine view of the Southport waterfront.

We were again impressed by the homes situated on the Cape Fear bank, as well as our trademark live oaks providing a beautiful background. The high deck of the new ferry provided an excellent vantage point for viewing.

An interesting Coast Guard proposal is for all single-hulled oil tankers over 5,000 gross tons, which covers most of the tankers we see here, to be escorted by two towing vessels when transporting bulk oil.

The Coast Guard says that having towing vessels available would reduce the probability of grounding or collision if a tanker lost its propulsion or steering.

A proposal has been made for such escorts in Prince William Sound, Alaska, and in the northwestern waters of Washington, and the Coast Guard is requesting comments about other areas where such rules might be employed. Whether similar regulations would be useful or feasible here we don't know, but comments on the subject can be directed to the marine safety council at Coast Guard headquarters, Washington D. C. 20593-0001.

News from the U. S. House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee is that \$2.88 million has been appropriated (out of a total \$3.6-million project cost) to build a replacement for the 32-year-old ferry *Sea Level*, which has been assigned to the Southport-Fort Fisher run for the past five years. Presumably the new ferry would be on the order of the *Governor Daniel Russell* which replaced the *Emmett Winslow*.

The *Sea Level* is presently in the shipyard at Manns Harbor, but is expected back in service here after a period of repair and refurbishing.

We've been enjoying a feature in the July issue of *National Fisherman* on the scallop boat *Carolina Boy* operated by Billy Wells and his son out of Seaford, Va.

The Wellses have a 12-boat fleet of scallopers ranging from 88 to 95 feet, all with "Carolina" in their names, and we thought that amusing because we remember when Billy and his father operated a shrimp fleet here one of the most impressive craft was the *Wolfpack*.

The magazine article was on a full-scale refurbishing the Wellses had just done on the boat, from modified rigging to installing a five-foot bulbous bow. Bulbous bows are the big, chin-like things we see sticking out the front of lightly laden ships as they pass through the harbor.

The idea that such an addition would be made to a 95-foot craft never occurred to us, but Wells told the author of the article that the modified hull should be a whole knot faster for the change.

Hydrodynamics are something we do not understand, but Capt. Bill Smith, who sailed such vessels and should know, said that bulbous bows on ocean-going cargo vessels and tankers are put there precisely for the purpose of making them faster. Not uglier.



Rick Wilson of Burnsville caught this king in the mid-20s class aboard the *Salty Dog* while lightlining last Friday southwest of Frying Pan Tower. Big kings were also hitting slow-trolled baits inshore over the weekend, as were lunker cobia and big Spanish mackerel.

## New boats

Continued from page 19

build boats. We don't want someone who just punches a clock. We want someone who takes pride in their work."

One of the changes that will take place at Henry O is the production of a 19-foot boat that is still in the design stage. However, Mildenberg said it will be ready by August for its debut at the Atlanta boat show.

"Our new model will show a little difference," Mildenberg said, but it's "definitely Henry O. It's a functional look, not strictly for appearance."

The 19-footer will have European styling, meaning its stern will be tapered. Mildenberg said that design will put the things boaters want most at close hand, such as live wells, not the battery box.

"We're not planning on changing the way the boats are built. We think it's functional the way it is," he said. Things that are being changed are designed to improve the boat's basic appearance, "nothing you or I or the common fisherman would notice."

The new molds used to form the fiberglass hulls of the boat are being constructed at a cost of \$200,000 each, Mildenberg said.

Full production has not yet begun, and the owner is already planning for expansion.

"We know this building is not big enough. It's only 20,000 square feet. We'll outgrow that in a year," he said. A 40x50-foot structure will soon be added to house the molds for the various Henry O models. And when Carolina Power and Light Co.'s lease runs out on the office building next door, Henry O plans to move in.

*'We both have loved boats forever, but had never been in the business of manufacturing them. Like the guy from Remington, we liked the boat so much we bought the company.'*

Terry Mildenberg

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## Cape Fear fishing

By Jim Harper  
Staff Writer

Whopper cobia abounded inshore over the past week and good catches of king mackerel and Spanish were reported from Frying Pan Shoals to Lockwood Folly.

Ski Sherfinski on the *Trophy Hunter* helped open the action last Wednesday when he had four cobia with an aggregate weight of 120 pounds -- the largest fish weighing an even 60 pounds.

Jimmy Price reported several nice cobia taken by live baiters on Yaupon Reef Thursday and Friday, and then on Saturday anglers in the Oak Island Fishing Club tournament, seeking kings and Spanish, accounted for some really gigantic fish.

Earl Lewis weighed one cobia at nearly 66 pounds, and Hoyle Doshier had another that weighed 64 pounds after dressing, but with the head still on.

Meanwhile other competitors in the tournament were registering some nice kings in the 20-pound range and Spanish over six pounds.

Steve Smith at Sure Catch Tackle

said in the face of a blistering southwester tournament anglers stayed inshore and found plenty of fish around the sea buoy, on the artificial reefs and on Lighthouse Rock.

At the same time small Spanish were found atop the inshore lumps of Frying Pan Shoals, and Joe Tuttle reported a limit of pan-size fish there in about an hour Saturday. Strangely, pier fishermen did not have a great deal of luck with mackerel over the weekend, but Ocean Crest anglers had plenty of panfish; and at Long Beach Pier the sheephead fishermen put on a demonstration.

Dave Beckner said that Tim Lee of Fayetteville had 18 sheephead weighing from two to eight pounds in one outing there.

Price had a good day Friday catching trout on lures around Battery Island before wind made his guide trips too uncomfortable. He said that there were some nice flounder on Jaybird Shoal that day; and Gilbert Starnes had a flounder weighing over nine pounds that he caught near Bald Head Island.

Price said that sheephead fishermen, blown out of trips to

Pfizer dock, were catching them under the Oak Island bridge, and Smith said that panfishermen in the river enjoyed good catches of croaker, spots and whiting.

Offshore fishing deteriorated as the winds increased, but at midweek Don Cable on the *Linda C.* caught and released a seven-foot sailfish on frozen squid while trolling on Fifteen-Mile Rock. On Friday, Cable had 12 nice kings at the South Forty.

Smith reported that Chris Pardue had a 16-king day with a party on his *Liquid Asset* and on Friday Capt. Mike Helms on the *Salty Dog* caught a dozen kings weighing up to 25 pounds and a nice dolphin while light-lining southwest of Frying Pan tower.

On Friday Capt. Robbie Helms had 13 kings and a good bottom catch aboard the *Kingfisher* and on Saturday reported 12 kings, two amberjack and two barracuda.

Different anglers will hope for a variety of weather this weekend.

Hot southwest winds and hot -- mid-80s -- water will favor tarpon anglers off Cape Fear and could bring some bruising crevalle jack right into the surf.

Creek anglers would hope for clouds first, and northerly winds to cool their waters. In Davis Creek Dave Beckner registered a water temperature of 101 degrees over the weekend, and a moderation could favor good trout fishing for both live-baiters and lure tossers.

Inshore fishermen will continue to find good action with Spanish from the Cape Fear to the Lockwood Folly sea buoys, as well as on Frying Pan Shoals, and some really big fish may be found right in the river mouth.

Kings are good bets on live bait trolled or drifted over inshore reefs, and farther out on the Lighthouse Rock chain big mackerel of both varieties could be top performers.

Flounder will continue to hit live bait fished around structures in the rivers, and sheephead and black drum will be likely catches for specialists around Pfizer dock.

Offshore anglers will love the hot weather, for it will likely draw dolphin and other blue-water fish much closer to shore.

Surf anglers can take heart in the same heat-up trend and fish sand fleas or shrimp just behind the curl for pompano. Small hooks are likely to provide the biggest grins.

## Matthews' catch tops event

Harold Matthews took top honors in the Oak Island Fishing Club tournament Saturday with a 22.7-pound king. Gene Cline was second with a 20.9-pounder and Mike Lang third with a 19.9-pound fish.

Lang also was tops in the secondary species competition with a 6.2-pound Spanish mackerel.

Another notable catch was a 65-pound cobia taken by Earl Lewis. Club president Lewis Riddle said practically all of the fish caught in the tournament -- 29 were weighed from 22 boats -- were landed within three miles of shore, all along the Oak Island strand.

Riddle thanked the Southport Marina and Sure Catch Tackle Shop who were hosts for the monthly event.

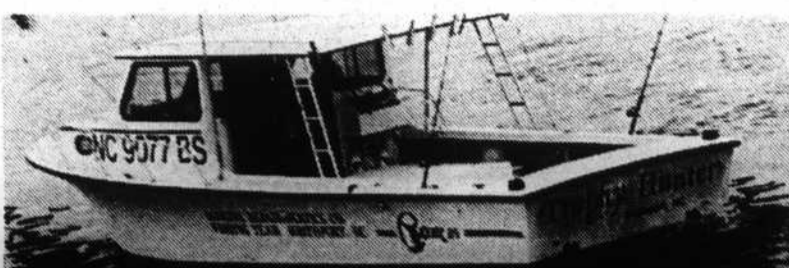
The next club meeting will be at 8 p.m. August 7 at the Long Beach VFW. The next tournament will be August 15.

## Billfish tourney is scheduled

The second annual Southport Marina Sportfishing Tournament, a bluewater event for billfish, tuna, wahoo and dolphin anglers, will be held July 23-25.

Special attention is being paid to conservation of billfish, with the possibility that the billfish competition could be won solely on releases.

Information on the tournament is available from the marina, P. O. Box 10578, Southport, NC 28461; telephone 457-9900 or 457-5261.



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