

The fishing report

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Trout biting from one end of Oak Island to the other turned the weekend into a small-game festival there.

Larger (cobia and kings) and more numerous (spots) fish were biting, too, but it was speckled trout that held everyone's attention at the Lockwood Folly point and on all three piers.

Meanwhile, bluewater anglers continued to do well with dolphin, wahoo and tuna.

On Oak Island the standard trout bait was live shrimp, though there were some fish caught with cut bait on bottom rigs, and a few on artificials. But there was more than one standard live shrimp rig.

The favorite, of course, was the bobber, with a shrimp floating about two feet below it on a treble hook.

The variation on the theme was a bottom rig with the live shrimp fished on a dropper about eight feet above the bottom.

The message was what every trout fisherman knows -- you have to find the fish, and their depth, before you can catch them.

From Long Beach Pier Dave Beckner called Tuesday afternoon to report a 53-pound cobia just decked by new resident Keith Bowman. Bowman was fishing for kings with a live bluefish for bait, Beckner said.

He also said that over a dozen kings had been taken at his pier over the past week, but none in the lunker category.

At Yaupon Pier, Billy West reported the good trout news, but also said that his customers had good catches of spots. One angler had caught three nice black drum while fishing for trout, and another landed a tripletail weighing five pounds.

Carl Collins at Ocean Crest Pier said his pierenders had experienced limited king and cobia action, but that trout and spots "big enough to fillet" were abundant.

Collins also said that sheephead were biting well for specialists.

Offshore anglers found excellent action with big tuna and dolphin, and Rodney McAdoo, fishing Saturday aboard the *Trophy Hunter* with Capt. Ski Sherfinski, landed a wahoo weighing 69.2 pounds.

Donna Helms reported that Capt. Jerry Helms on the *Kingfisher* had good luck with tuna, wahoo and reef fish on a Thursday charter, and Capt. Robbie Helms reported an excellent bottom-fish catch with an overnight charter on the weekend.

At Sure Catch Tackle, Steve Smith said that the bluewater action was coming between 35 and 44 miles offshore, while bottom fishermen



The crew of the Bald Head boat *Kimberly* whooped it up Saturday after winning the second of bluewater species.

Photo by Harold Crouch

were doing well near Frying Pan Tower. He also reported that the center of inshore trolling action had shifted to the Lighthouse Rock chain. There live-baiters were finding kings, though Spanish were generally being "finicky."

Flounder fishermen were doing well using live bait around shoreside structure in the Cape Fear River, as well as in the Jaybird Rip, Smith said, and black drummers and sheepheaders were catching fish around Pfizer Dock.

For the weekend, offshore anglers can still expect to find good action with the mid-weight "big three". Closer in, live-baiters will find good action on Lighthouse Rock. Spanish mackerel will likely be on Frying Pan Shoals and at the sea buoys for both the Cape Fear and Lockwood Folly inlets.

On Oak Island piers trout and flounder -- which also love live shrimp -- will be good bets, and in the rivers live bait will work well for trout and flounder, while trout and drum and some flounder will also be taken on lures, tossed or trolled.

Matthews second

Harold Matthews on the *Sundance* took second place in the weekend Scotts Hill King Mackerel Tournament with a 27.9-pound fish.

Matthews placed 12th in the Sun Fun king mackerel tournament, headquartered in Myrtle Beach S. C., a week earlier.



Chris Walker, skipper of the *Amanda Kay*, caught this 45-inch, 37.8-pound squid last week while long-lining for swordfish about 100 miles southeast of Southport.



Rodney McAdoo of Mebane hefts a 69-pound wahoo he caught Saturday aboard the *Trophy Hunter*. The fish took a fast-trolled bait as the party was en route to offshore grounds.

U. S. Coast Guard

About 3:45 p.m. last Wednesday, Coast Guard Station Oak Island received a call from a pleasure craft stating it was disabled and adrift in the Cape Fear River at Buoy #9. The crew did not have an anchor and the boat was starting to drift toward the beach. Since this would have created an emergency situation, the Coast Guard launched its 21-foot rescue boat to assist. Coast Guard personnel towed the pleasure craft to Southport Marina.

The operator of the motor vessel *Mega Flite* called the Coast Guard Thursday about 11:50 p.m. and said he was disabled in the Lockwood Folly Inlet due to a loose rudder, and that his anchor was not holding. There were 32 people aboard. The Coast Guard launched its 41-foot rescue boat to assist, and Holden Beach Marine Services also launched a vessel to assist. The marine services vessel arrived first and towed the *Mega Flite* to deeper water, but due to the size of the rescue boat was not able to tow the vessel back to port. The 41-footer arrived a short time later and took the *Mega Flite* in tow back to the Holden Beach Marina.

About 8 p.m. Saturday, the Oak Island station received a call from Group Fort Macon reporting an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) transmitting near Holden Beach. The station dispatched a crew with a mobile receiving unit to ascertain a more exact location of the call. Upon investigation, the crew picked up some signals off Yaupon Beach Pier and Bald Head Island Marina. However, the signals stopped a short time later and the crew was unable to pick them up with the mobile gear. The Coast Guard has suspended any further action on the case, unless the satellite picks up additional signals.

Kimberly wins island event

The crew of the *Kimberly*, out of Bald Head Island, won the second annual Bald Head Island Fishing Rodeo over the weekend with 164.5 points based on a point per pound of tuna, wahoo and dolphin.

Top prize was \$7,500.

Second place and a prize of \$3,750 was taken by the Bald Head boat *Rascal Fair*. Third prize of \$2,000 was won by the *Slow Poke* from Morehead City.

Fourth place boat was *Miss Sarah* from Holden Beach and fifth place boat was the *Reel Thing* out of Bald Head.

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Pets of week

A spayed and declawed female cat named "Jasmine" is now available for adoption at the Brunswick County Animal Control Center. Formerly a family pet, "Jasmine" is said to be very playful and affectionate. She has black and tan stripes, with an orange tint. The adoption fee is \$21 and the fee for a rabies vaccination is \$7.

An assortment of "adorable" kittens are also available. The adoption fee is \$2 each, and the fee for a rabies vaccination is \$7.

Two ten-week-old Doberman mix puppies are also up for adoption. One is black and tan and the other is chocolate and tan. Both are said to be "frisky and lovable."

For more information, persons can call the animal control center at 754-8204 or toll-free 1-800-233-2169.

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Long Beach Parks & Recreation Department

KIDS FISHING DERBY

June 26th
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Ocean Crest Pier

AGE GROUPS

5	to	8
9	to	12
13	to	16

Last Day to Register is Friday, June 25 by 9:00 p.m.