

FISHING REPORT

# Mixed Week For Fishing, But Kings Were Biting

BY SUSAN USHER

Fishermen who were in the right place at the right time last week caught fish—plenty of kings at the Sunset Beach Pier, a few at Holden Beach Pier, and a mixed bag of other fish inshore and offshore.

Some places, however, said fishing was slow and/or spotty.

**Holden Beach Pier**

Jerry West at the Holden Beach Pier said the fish "made a detour" of the pier this past weekend, with spots "fair" and a few blues biting Monday morning. Earlier in the week, kings were biting, with catches of a 34-pounder and a 26-pounder from the pier.

**Captain Pete's**

Fishing was pretty good this past week along the shore, according to Jesse Hayes at Captain Pete's on Holden Beach. Mrs. Johnny Walker of Wilkes County caught a five-pound drum, he said, and Frank Watson caught a four-pound flounder in the waterway near the fish house.

Of the two charter boats, the *El Toro* has been bringing in kings and a few Spanish, while the *Salty 1* has had good results bottom fishing. Hayes said its booty recently included a 12-pound grouper and a 4-pound American snapper and several dolphin.

**Tripp's Fishing Center**

At Tripp's Fishing Center at Shalotte Point, Joyce Land said fishermen were catching flounder, spots, croaker and speckled trout over the weekend.

Fishing Saturday and Sunday,

David and Sandy Barden of Columbus landed 29 sheephead, the largest 8 1/2-pounds. Billy "Squeaky" Usher of Fayetteville and Shalotte Point netted seven flounder and about 200 pounds of spots. **Hughes' Marina**

"The ocean was full, the river was full. Everybody caught fish of some description," said Allison Hughes of weekend fishing out of Hughes' Marina. Offshore catches included some Spanish, kings, bonita, crevalle jack, black bass and grey trout. Spots, croaker, speckled trout, puppy drum and flounder were biting in inside waters.

Marshall Ouzts of Lumberton picked up 17 flounder Sunday, which Mrs. Hughes said was the most she'd seen caught in that short a time.

**Ocean Isle Marina**

Steve Burr at Ocean Isle Marina gave mixed reviews. "The spots are erratic," he said. "If you're sitting on the right hole you can catch some fish."

Kings are still close in, he said, but the live bait fishermen appear to be spending much of their time looking for bait. On the up side, Sammy Sessions, now a licensed captain, and his dad, Sam Sessions caught a 62-pound cobia last week. Both are from Ocean Isle Beach.

**Ocean Isle Pier**

The spots starting running about 4 p.m. Saturday at the Ocean Isle Beach Pier and didn't stop until about 4 a.m. the next morning. "It was a pretty good day," said Curtis Williamson. Quite a few fishermen came back Sunday, but didn't find

the same kind of action.

However Williamson's still predicting the season will start anytime, with cooler weather and the moon on the rise. "Ethel's been at the pier 18 years. She says it always starts between the 15th and the 20th of September."

**Inlet View Marina**

Kings were biting for Wade Byrd of Clarkton and Rob Nehauer of High Point, according to Joe Furr at Inlet

View Marina, as well as for Denny Dennis of Ocean Isle Beach and Buck Thorpe of Seaside. "They slaughtered the kings," he said. Drum and trout were biting at the Little River Inlet Jetty.

**Sunset Beach Pier**

Kings, kings and more kings were biting last week at the Sunset Beach Pier, according to Richard Tarleton. On the 10th, these were the catches: Hubert Hawk 16 1/2-, 16-, and 21-pound

kings; Tommy Green, 16-pounder; Jim Stone, 18-pounder; Mike Calloway, 13 1/2- and 16-pound kings; Randy Sarvis of Whiteville, 17-pound king. On the 13th, it was Sarvis again, with a 13-pounder. Josh Green of Whiteville also landed a 13-pounder

while Marty Cooper of Asheville landed the largest of the lot, a 44-pounder.

On the 14th, Jerry Hunt caught 17- and 18-pound kings and Jimmy Sarvis of Columbus County picked up a 12-pound king.

## Waters Open In Cape Fear

Approximately 500 acres of waters in the Cape Fear River area reopened Sept. 12 to the harvest of shellfish, according to the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries.

Areas that remain closed to shellfishing include:

•all waters upstream from a line across the mouth of the Oak Island Coast Guard Station Canal;

•all waters upstream of a line across the mouth of Caswell Basin;

•waters in the Cape Fear River north and west of a line that begins on Federal Point as noted on the proclamation;

•waters in the Intracoastal Waterway bounded on the east by the Cape Fear River and on the west by a line across the waterway, to include all tributaries except the waters in Elizabeth River and Dutchman Creek south of the Intracoastal Waterway.

•waters within the Baldhead Island Marina and radiating 100 feet from

the mouth of the entrance to the harbor will remain closed.

## This Week's Tide Table

Day/Date	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Thursday 18	7:48	6:14	1:34	3:53
Friday 19	8:30	8:53	2:15	2:37
Saturday 20	9:12	9:32	2:53	3:19
Sunday 21	9:51	10:09	3:33	4:01
Monday 22	10:31	10:47	4:10	4:42
Tuesday 23	11:11	11:27	4:50	5:27
Wednesday 24	11:56	—	5:32	6:14

**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.  
 TUBBS INLET—subtract 12 min. high tide, subtract 8 min. low tide.  
 SOUTHPORT—add 7 min. high tide, add 10 min. low tide.



That's One Big Catfish

It's nothing unusual for Carl Milligan of Leland to catch a hunker like the 35-pound catfish getting a once-over above from his granddaughter, Jennifer Hogan of Ash. Caught in Sturgeon Creek last Saturday, the cat measured 41 1/2 inches in length and 27 inches around. Milligan won't say what kind of bait he uses to catch the big ones.

## County Keeps Flounder Lead

One Brunswick County catch has replaced another in the competition for the largest flounder caught this year in the N.C. Saltwater Fishing Tournament.

Cathy Cates of Holden Beach has taken the lead with an 8-pound, 12-ounce flounder caught in the Intracoastal Waterway at Holden Beach on Aug. 20. It was her first flounder.

On the leader board, she replaces Allen Andrews of Shalotte, whose 8-pound flounder caught off Shalotte Point had been at the top of the list since May.

Several other new leaders have

been announced:

•a 41-pound grouper caught by Tommy Chatham of Marsh, Va., off Morehead City;

•A 49-pound sailfish caught by Robert Westhelle of Wyckoff, N.J., off Hatteras; and a 511-pound shark caught by Richard Ayers of Kill Devil Hills at Nags Head;

•and a 10-pound, 4-ounce Spanish mackerel caught by Carlton Batten of Roxboro on Aug. 7 took the lead in that category.

Catches of Spanish and king mackerel and white marlin are running well below that of a year ago as of Sept. 8.

## Areas Open To Shrimp Trawling

A number of areas are open now to shrimp and crab trawling in the Cape Fear River, Southport, Shalotte and Holden Beach areas, according to the N. C. Division of Marine Fisheries.

As of Sept. 16, open are:

•the main channel of the Intracoastal Waterway opened from Marker No. 1 at Southport to Marker No. 67 behind Holden Beach;

•the Carolina Power & Light Company By-pass Channel including the dredged portion of Piney Point Creek south of the waterway, with all tributaries of the canals to remain

closed;

•the Shalotte River south of a line from the west shore at Holden's Landing to a point on the east shore at Gibbin's Point, with all tributaries to remain closed.

Open as of Sept. 12 is an area of the Cape Fear River that includes the "Triangle," the Wilmington By-pass Channel and the Intracoastal Waterway from Marker No. 163 to the Cape Fear River Ship Channel near Buoy No. 29. Dow Chemical Bay and Radar Dome Bay will remain closed.

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