

FISHING REPORT

Cool Weather Puts Damper On Pier Action

BY DOUG RUTTER

Cool weather and rain which fell late last week resulted in another slow week of pier fishing and limited landings of king and Spanish mackerel which have been a big part of offshore action this season.

Steve Burr of Ocean Isle Marina said most fishermen who went offshore last week caught black bass using squid as bait and also landed a few Spanish mackerel.

Robin King of Ocean Isle Beach caught two 12-pound king mackerel over the weekend aboard his boat, "Rockin' Robin." Burr said these fish were landed about 11 miles offshore.

He added that inside fishing was slow last week, with anglers catching small spots, whiting and croaker. "Flounder are still about the best

thing going," he said, adding that most have been caught on live minnows.

Like spokesmen at other local marine centers, Burr said the warm and sunny weather expected this week should result in improved fishing conditions.

Holden Beach Pier

Pier fishing was slow for the second consecutive week but there were two somewhat unusual catches last week at Holden Beach Fishing Pier.

According to Mary Banner, one unidentified angler landed a cobia and another caught an amberjack. Other pier fishermen caught spots, whiting and pinfish.

"Fishing has been fairly slow," she said, adding that kingfishermen had no luck last week. "We're still hoping

the gates will be left open and they'll be coming in."

Sunset Beach Pier

Fishing conditions weren't any better at Sunset Beach Pier last week, although two anglers did land king mackerel, according to spokesman Dick Tarleton.

Frank White Jr. of Charlotte caught a 14-pound king Saturday and Shea Noble of Chadbourn landed a 9-pounder Sunday.

Tarleton said other fishermen caught spots and bluefish and just a couple of Spanish mackerel.

Holden Beach Marina

Richard Hearn of Davis caught a 10-pound dolphin Saturday to highlight what Danny Liebl of Holden Beach Marina called a "decent" week of fishing.

"It was a pretty good weekend," he

added. "Everybody who went out there caught something."

Fishermen caught mainly grouper, pink snapper and black bass offshore, he said, in addition to a few king mackerel and Spanish.

Liebl said mackerel have moved offshore since last week's cool snap, noting that kings are about 20 miles outside while Spanish are about 12 miles out.

Ocean Isle Pier

Anglers caught spots, blues and a few flounder during some uneventful days of fishing last week, according to Curtis Williamson of Ocean Isle Beach Fishing Pier.

"I think it's gonna be better soon enough," he said. "The people are already starting to show more interest in it now that summer is coming."



DVIN GOLOB of Fayetteville caught this string of pinfish Saturday while fishing with her father, Mike, in the waterway near Holden Beach Bridge. The six-year-old and her family are visiting Holden Beach for one week.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Not Exactly A Flounder

This fish, commonly known as a stargazer, earned honors as the most unusual species caught during last weekend's Shallotte Point VFD Flounder Tournament. Pictured with the fish is Brent Winner, biologist for the event, who said the species is somewhat rare in local waters. He said it measured more than 20 inches long and may be the largest ever caught on the East Coast. Winner said the species usually buries itself in sand, as do flounder, and feeds by first shocking its prey with electrical cells.

Poor Boy Shark Tournament To Offer 90 Percent Payout

Winners in next month's seventh annual Poor Boy Shark Tournament will split 90 percent of the entry fees.

This year's tournament will be held July 28-30 at Hughes' Marina at Shallotte Point and the angler with the largest shark will walk away with 30 percent of the fees.

Runners-up will also receive cash prizes based on the total number of entries according to the following scale: second place, 20 percent; third, 15 percent; fourth, 10 percent; and fifth, five percent.

The angler with the smallest shark will win five percent of the purse. Daily prize-winners for aggregate weight will split the last five percent.

There will also be a \$250 bonus prize offered for the largest hammerhead shark caught during the tournament.

Following an 8 a.m. captain's meeting on July 28, fishing will begin at 9 a.m. A representative from each boat must be present during the captain's meeting to receive a boat identification card.

Fishing will continue non-stop through July 30 at 2 p.m., which is the absolute deadline for weigh-in. Sharks can be weighed-in Thursday and Friday until 6 p.m.

An organizational meeting will be held June 27 from 4:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. at Hughes' Marina. This meeting will include a review of tournament rules and will be the last chance to register boats.

Entry fees are \$200 per boat if registered before July 1 and \$250 after that date. Boats must be at least 16 feet long, but there is no maximum size limit.

Last year, fishermen aboard the 22 boats entered in the tournament caught 40 sharks with a total weight of about 3,300 pounds.

Allison Hughes of Hughes' Marina said the weighmaster again this year will be Dr. Frank Schwartz. Schwartz, a marine biologist who has been researching sharks for the past 20 years, will dissect and examine the fish after they are weighed in.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Beginner Lands Wahoo

Gabe Fraire of Cloverdale, Calif., (right) landed this 32-pound wahoo last Thursday during his first-ever fishing trip and first time on a boat. Pictured with Phil Orr of Greensboro, he was fishing aboard a charter boat out of Holden Beach.

State Imposes Limit On Spanish Mackerel

Anglers are now permitted to catch only 10 Spanish mackerel per trip on the hook and line regardless of where they are fishing.

According to the state Division of Marine Fisheries, officers began enforcing the creel limit Wednesday, under a proclamation issued last Friday by Dr. William Hogarth, director of Marine Fisheries, with approval of the Marine Fisheries Commission.

The limit was imposed because recreational fishermen last year reached their quota for Spanish mackerel about six months into the season, the release states. The commercial quota was reached just three months later, in December, and all fishermen were prohibited from harvesting Spanish in federal waters through April 1.

Also, North Carolina fishermen caught 83 percent of the recreational catch last season and almost twice their quota. The fishery was harvested so much in this state, the release continues, that recreational anglers in South Carolina and Georgia never had an opportunity to fish for Spanish last year.

The 10-fish limit of Spanish mackerel in federal waters, from three miles offshore to the 200-mile limit, was implemented in 1986 in light of statistics which indicated reductions in Spanish mackerel populations.

According to the news release, United States catches of Spanish mackerel dropped from 11.5 million pounds in 1980 to 4.2 million pounds in 1984. Much of the decline was attributed to the uncontrolled use of

purse gill nets previously allowed in Florida.

However, the release further states that the most recent stock assessment indicates that Spanish mackerel populations appear to be recovering.

The limit will contribute to the conservation effort which is needed in both state and federal waters, it continues, and it will decrease the possibility of closing the fishery before the end of the 1988-89 fishing year.

Florida currently has a four-fish creel limit for Spanish in state waters, while South Carolina and Georgia are expected to implement 10-fish limits in the near future.

This Week's Tide Table

Day/Date	JUNE HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Thursday 9	4:18	4:58	10:30	11:16
Friday 10	5:16	5:53	11:24	—
Saturday 11	6:12	6:46	12:12	12:15
Sunday 12	7:07	7:37	1:07	1:03
Monday 13	7:57	8:24	1:56	1:52
Tuesday 14	8:45	9:09	2:43	2:38
Wednesday 15	9:31	9:52	3:26	3:21

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: add 7 min. high tide, add 7 min. low tide.

Fishing Club Plans Dinner

The Brunswick County Fishing Club will hold a chicken bog dinner this Saturday, June 18, on the club grounds at Sunset Harbor.

Dinners will be free to all fishing club members, while guests will be asked to give a small donation. Chicken-bog will be served from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The club plans to hold a dinner the third Saturday of each month this summer, June through September, and all are welcome to attend.

For more information, call Ruby McDowell at 842-3136.

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NOTHING WAS BITING at Ocean Isle Beach Fishing Pier Saturday afternoon. But that didn't discourage Harry Chavis of Cheraw, S.C., or a handful of other fishermen who tried their luck and enjoyed the balmy weather just the same.

Replacing Your Air Conditioning?

Sooner or later, it will happen in the middle of a sizzling summer. Your air conditioner will kiss you goodbye. Don't be forced to make a fast decision in the heat of the moment. Tim Evans at Evans Heating & Cooling can give you the facts you need now to make a confident decision later. Call him. And when the time comes, you'll make the right choice. Rheem.

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