

Local Anglers Reeling In Blues, Spanish

BY DOUG RUTTER
Pier anglers caught bluefish and a few Spanish mackerel last week and continued to reel in the spots that have made the 1991 spring fishing season one of the best in recent years. "It's still good fishing," Gil Bass of Holden Beach Fishing Pier said Monday. "We're very pleased how the season's going thus far."

FISHING REPORT

Fishermen at the three South Brunswick Island piers caught plenty of small "spring" spots last week, as well as blues, whiting, a few flounder and some of the first Spanish mackerel of the year.

Ed Kayler of Sunset Beach Fish-

ing Pier said anglers caught lots of blues at the end of last week before weekend rains. One fisherman caught 21 blues in 90 minutes last Thursday.

"The spots they were catching weren't big, but the numbers were high," Kayler added. "We had a couple of people catch 300 spots one day last week."

Fishermen also caught spots, blues and some trout in the inland waterway, said Mary Roscoe of Sea Mist Camping Resort at Brick Landing.

"The fishing's been real good," she reported Monday morning. "The fish are doing better and the spots are getting larger. They're biting like crazy."

Spokespersons at the local fishing piers haven't reported any catches of king mackerel so far this year. But Kayler said several fishermen told him they spotted kings from the end of the Sunset Beach pier.

"I haven't seen any kings myself," Kayler said. "But about four people told me they saw them jumping the other day."

Offshore Fishing

While pier fishermen wait for the season's first king, anglers working offshore have been running into more and more kings every week.

Jesse Hayes of Captain Pete's Seafood at Holden Beach said fishermen caught several kings last week at the sea buoy off Lockwood Folly Inlet.

Most of the king mackerel have been caught farther offshore. Steve Speros of Captain Jim's Marina at Calabash said several anglers caught their limit in kings last week about 30 miles outside. They also caught black bass, snapper, dolphin and black fin and yellow fin tuna.

"It looks good. It looks real good," Speros said. "I think we're going to have a good year."

Hayes agreed. "It looks like it's going to be a real good spring," he said. "It looks like we ought to have a good year if everything continues."

This Week's Tide Table

		APRIL HIGH		LOW	
Day	Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Thursday	25	6:07	6:42	12:15	12:15
Friday	26	6:56	7:29	12:47	1:00
Saturday	27	7:39	8:11	1:34	1:42
Sunday	28	8:24	8:53	2:20	2:23
Monday	29	9:02	9:32	3:02	3:02
Tuesday	30	9:39	10:09	3:41	3:39
		APRIL			
Wednesday	1	10:16	10:46	4:22	4:17

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.



SHALLOTTE SHREDDERS pictured at a recent surf contest in Garden City are, from left, Raja Lofland, Stan Russ, Joe Powell and Gabe Cooper.

Surfers Win In Garden City

Four members of Shallotte Middle School's surfing team won trophies at the National Scholastic Surfing Association (NSSA) contest April 13 in Garden City, S.C.

Shallotte Shredders winning trophies were Gabe Cooper, fourth overall; Stan Russ, second overall; Joe Powell, first overall; and Raja Lofland, first overall in body board.

Also scoring points for Shallotte Middle at the contest were Zachary Hicks and Rocky Fallon, who both finished fourth in their heats.

The Shallotte Shredders are currently in first place in the middle school division of the NSSA Carolina Conference, which includes teams between Long Beach and Fol-

ly Beach, S.C.

Competing surfers earn individual points as well as points for their team at sanctioned contests.

Individuals and teams earning the most points during the season qualify for the national contest to be held June 24-27 in Oceanside, Calif.

The Shallotte Shredders are trying to raise money to go to the national competition.

Coach Marty Mentzer said local residents and businesses can support the team through donations or by purchasing T-shirts with the words "Support Your Local Surfers" screened on them. The shirts cost \$15 each.

To make a donation or to buy a shirt, call Mrs. Mentzer at 579-5963.

King Mackerel Season Kicks Into High Gear

BY JAMIE MILLIKEN

Area king mackerel fishermen enjoyed calm seas and screaming reels this past week. Anyone fishing 24 miles or farther had no trouble catching their limit as our kingfish season kicked into high gear. There were even reports of a 36-pound king being taken on one of the local fishing piers.

Sammy Sessions of Ocean Isle Beach took advantage of a beautiful fishing day last week and fished his boat, the *Shoot Star III*, 50 miles out. He and his crew enjoyed catches of large grouper, pink snapper, triggerfish and black sea bass.

This past week also produced the first sighted school of Spanish mackerel. This is great news for the many who visit our area each year and fish for Spanish. These fish are easily caught by fast trolling a "Clark spoon" around the school. These fish are real fighters, considering their size, and it is a thrill on light tackle; not to mention how good they are on the table.

The Gulf Stream has moved out this week. Its last position had it tracking along the 100-fathom line. This should produce hot action in the area of the "Georgetown Hole." Catches of tuna, wahoo, dolphin and even marlin can be expected in that area.

That's it for this week. Until next, tight lines, bent rods and good fishin'.

CAPTAIN JAMIE'S OFFSHORE FISHING REPORT

Waters Will Open For Fishing Pots

Fishermen can use fishing pots to catch crab, oel, fish and shrimp in certain waters starting May 1.

Pots may be set in designated coastal fishing nursery areas, coastal waters that are closed to shrimp and crab trawling and shellfish management areas that have been planted and posted by the state, according to an N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries proclamation.

Local waters that will open to fishing pots include Middle Bay, Buzzard's Bay, Bay Creek, Cape Creek, Bald Head Creek, and sections of Bonaparte Creek, Shallotte Inlet, Eastern Channel, Elizabeth River and Cape Fear River.

Pots can't be set in any marked navigation channel, in the middle third of any other channel or in any other location where they might con-

stitute a hazard to navigation. Fishing pots can't be used after Oct. 31.

Heavy Rain Halts Area Shellfishing

All waters between Southport and the South Carolina state line closed to shellfishing Monday after a heavy weekend rainfall.

The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries closed the areas, which include all of the Elizabeth River, because of the resulting runoff and pollution.

The South Brunswick Islands area received approximately 2.75 inches of rainfall last week.

It is illegal to take or attempt to take clams or other shellfish from a closed area, or to sell or offer for sale shellfish taken from a closed area.

STARTING MAY 1

TED Rules Resume For Shrimpers

Shrimp fishermen must resume using turtle excluder devices (TEDs) in their nets next week or otherwise comply with federal rules designed to protect sea turtles.

Starting May 1, trawlers that are at least 25 feet long and shrimp in the ocean must be equipped with TEDs, according to an N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries news release.

Smaller vessels and all shrimp boats working inshore have the option of using TEDs or limiting their tow time to 90 minutes.

Shrimpers who choose the 90-minute tow time will not be restricted to a specific time schedule, according to the news release.

However, violations of the tow time could result in stricter enforcement. Federal officials could designate starting times for trawling and periods when no trawling would be allowed unless nets were equipped

with TEDs.

TEDs are metal and mesh devices that can be sewn into shrimp nets. They allow turtles to escape the nets so they don't drown.

Federal agents and the Coast Guard will enforce the regulations, which are the same as those in effect last year.

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