38-Pound King Chases Crew Around The Boat

Sport fishermen enjoyed another beautiful weekend of offshore fishing this past week. Fish have been showing up in great numbers this spring, much to everyones delight.

The southwest wind that has prevailed has pushed the Gulf Stream in closer and has, in turn, developed well-de-CAPTAIN fined weed lines offshore. These are perfect con-

ditions for dolphin and wahoo fishing. King mackerel catches continue to be strong. Anglers have had little trouble landing their limits. Speaking of limits, the state of North Carolina has increased the limit of kings per per-

FISHING REPORT son from four to five in state waters. I believe this certainly reflects that the kingfish stocks have improved since regulations have been imposed in the southern coastal states. The federal regulations have also been a contributing factor. Federal regulators announced that they will adjust their limits possibly

limit on kings taken in federal waters. Being an avid king mackerel fisherman, I applaud what state and federal agencies have done to preserve and protect these game fish. My

as early as June 1. I believe they will follow the state in increasing the

hat is off to you, guys!

Local fisherman David Hooks landed a 38-pound king while fishing an area 20 miles off Ocean Isle last week. David hooked the "smoker" while using a spinning reel and ballyhoo for bait. The wild thing about this story is that the king made his initial run directly toward his boat, the Captain Hook II. David got a good look at this prize king and immediately grabbed the gaff. As the fish turned underneath the boat, David stuck him with the gaff and hauled him over the side. As he explained to me the fish was real "green" and proceeded to put him and his crew hop-scotching around the boat with the king in hot pursuit! Now that's a fish story.

The Spanish mackerel continue to arrive in large numbers. There have been several reports of 20-30-pound cobia being caught.

As you can tell, the offshore fishing is hot. So until next time, tight lines, bent rods and good fishin'.

State Restricts Dolphin Harvests

North Carolina fisheries officials have imposed a 10-fish per day bag limit on dolphin to conserve the fish population.

State Fisheries Director William Hogarth said charter boatmen initiated the move to place the limit on dolphin, which took effect Monday in state and federal waters.

State Reopens Lockwood Folly

A section of Lockwood Folly River was temporarily opened to shellfish harvesting Monday, but part of the Shallotte River remains off limits to fishermen.

State officials closed portions of both Brunswick County rivers last Friday following heavy rainfall Thursday. Rain can carry bacterial pollution into rivers and make shellfish unsafe to eat.

Lockwood Folly was closed upstream of the river mouth last week, and reopened to a point just north of Genoes Point on Monday, according to N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries procla-

Waters in Shallotte River upstream of a line between Bowen Point on the western side and Long Point on the east shore have been closed since Friday.

"They believed that conservation was needed to protect dolphin stocks," Hogarth said. "They had tried initiating a voluntary limit on dolphin but felt that a rule was

JAMIE'S

OFFSHORE

Vessels with valid federal coastal migratory pelagic charter boat permits licensed to carry six or less passengers for hire can catch a maximum of 60 dolphin per day, regardless of the number of people on

This Week's Tide Table

MAY							
		HIGH		LOW			
Day	Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.		
Thursday	16	10:33	10:59	4:28	4:33		
Friday	17	11:31	11:54	5:23	5:27		
Saturday	18		12:31	6:15	6:24		
Sunday	19	12:53	1:33	7:12	7:27		
Monday	20	1:50	2:34	8:10	8:29		
Tuesday	21	2:49	3:35	9:07	9:34		
Wednesda	ay 22	3:46	4:32	10:02	10:35		

ADJUSTMENTS SHALLOTTE INLET-add 17 min. high tide, add 32 min. low tide.

LOCKWOOD FOLLY—subtract 22 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.

Anglers Catch Kings, Spanish, Bluefish

BY DOUG RUTTER

Anglers hooked plenty of king mackerel, Spanish and bluefish last week during a good period for both inshore and offshore fishing.

"It's picked up real good," John Sheffield of Sheffield's at Ocean Isle Beach said Monday. "There's a lot of fish coming in."

Several fishermen caught their limit in kings and Spanish over the weekend, Sheffield said, and reeled in trout near the west end of the

Top catches included a 40-pound cobia caught by Mark Logan of Ocean Isle Beach. Sheffield said Linda Walters of Sunset Beach landed a 36-pound king Saturday.

Catches of flounder also have increased over the last week. Sheffield said Ronnie Baucom of Lumberton caught several before the rainstorm last Thursday that weighed four and five pounds each.

Joyce Land of Tripp's Fishing Center at Shallotte Point said the Lefler family of Albemarle caught 18 flounders over the weekend. The largest was about five pounds.

Ms. Land said other anglers caught Spanish and kings in the ocean and spots and croaker inshore.

Joe Hardasty of Independent Seafood at Holden Beach said fishermen caught kings, Spanish and blues in the ocean and spots and croaker in the inlets.

Hardasty said flounder fishing has really picked up in the water-

FISHING REPORT

way. "Everybody's catching fish pretty good, real good as a matter of

Pier Fishing

Pier fishermen reeled in Spanish and blues last week as well as a few spots and whiting.

"Blues are probably the big thing right at the moment," Forrest Whitley of Holden Beach Fishing Pier said Monday.

King mackerel fishermen continued their run of good luck at the pier. Whitley said they landed seven kings last Friday and one over the weekend. Most of the kings weighed be-

tween 14 and 20 pounds. There were no kings landed at the other local piers last week.

But Ed Kayler of Sunset Beach Fishing Pier said catches of Spanish and blues were very good.

Most of the Spanish caught last week weighed between 1 1/2 and 2 1/2 pounds; a six-pounder was brought in Monday morning.

Curtis Williamson of Ocean Isle Beach Fishing Pier said things are improving after a few weeks of inactivity.

"It's picking up," he said. "It was much better than last week."

Williamson said anglers pulled in blues, flounder and spots. One man hooked a 20-pound bluefish last Thursday.



SALISBURY RESIDENTS (from left) Randy Honeycutt, Trisha Honeycutt and Roy Honeycutt Jr. caught these kings Sunday aboard the Mega Flite.

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Fisherman Flown To Hospital A Richfield man fishing on a the man suffered or his condition.

boat near Frying Pan Shoals Sunday was taken by helicopter to a Wilmington hospital after he suffered a seizure. Edwin L. Whitman was flown

from the fishing vessel Mega Flite to New Hanover Regional Medical Center Sunday afternoon, said D.H. Putman, executive officer of the Oak Island Coast Guard Station. The Coast Guard received a call

from the Mega Flite at 10:24 a.m. Sunday saying a passenger was having a seizure and needed assistance. Putman said the Coast Guard sta-

tion dispatched a boat at 10:28 a.m., and an emergency medical technician boarded the fishing boat at 11:50 a.m. to help Whitman.

him to Wilmington. Putman said he didn't know what type of seizure

On Friday, the Coast Guard rescued a Winston-Salem man after his boat capsized and sank in the Cape Fear River near Southport.

Putman said Joseph Firtts was uninjured when his 16-foot boat overturned near the Bald Head Island ferry terminal Friday evening.

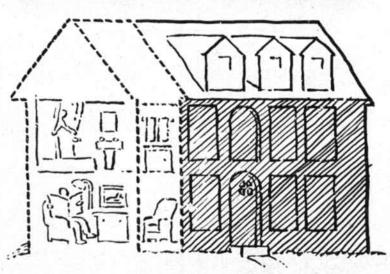
The boat apparently capsized when Firtts tried to lower an anchor over the stern. Putman said his weight and the weight of the anchor lowered the stern into the water and caused the boat to sink.

Coast Guardsmen picked up the man, righted the boat and took it to Southport Marina around 4:30 p.m.

A Coast Guard helicopter picked up the 43-year-old man at sea Friday. The boat was not damaged.

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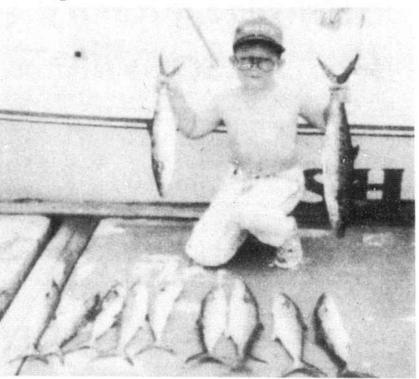


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BRYAN SEALEY of Lumberton caught these Spanish last weekend fishing with his grandfather, Marvin Lovett, aboard the



ROY HARRISON of Gastonia caught this 14-pound, 10-ounce citation red snapper last week aboard the Super Salty I. He was fishing 45 miles offshore with cut squid for bait.



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