

Heat Causes Problems For Some Fishermen

BY TONIA TREST

Hot weather was to blame for smaller catches of fish in the rivers and the ocean last week, according to reports from most local fishing areas.

At Captain Pete's Marina of Holden Beach, Jesse Hayes reported "a good week."

"All the boats did well," he said. "It is going to be another good week," he said.

Hayes said ocean fishermen landed king mackerel and grouper, with black bass caught 10 to 12 miles out. Also, the *Alice E.* reeled in a 39-pound sailfish about 30-40 miles outside, he said.

Inshore, anglers caught spots,

FISHING REPORT

whiting and trout.

"The hot weather has affected the inshore fishing, but it is still good, which is unusual," said Hayes. "The heat is harder on the fishermen than the fish."

Hughes Marina

Allison Hughes of Hughes Marina at Shallotte Point agreed that the hot weather has affected the fish in the river.

"It is too hot in the river for flounder and other fish," she said.

Hughes reported that one boat landed its quota of dolphin, spanish and kings, which is unusual for this

time of year.

Sea Mist Camping Resort

At Sea Mist Camping Resort, Mary Roscoe reported "real good" catches of spots on the incoming tide.

Also, she reported, Evelyn and J.R. Parton of Cowpens, S.C., landed 12 flounder and five trout in the waterway using live minnows and fishing off the bank.

"The fishing in the inlet has been good," she said. "I don't know anybody that went outside."

Holden Beach Pier

The picture wasn't as good at Holden Beach Fishing Pier, where Gil Bass reported, "Fishing hasn't been that good all week."

"In the summertime, the water gets hot and the fish move out to colder waters, but the rain may cool things down," he said. "We might have to wait until the fall or at least the first of September."

Bass reported a few catches of spots, croakers, flounder and sheep head.

Ocean Isle Fishing Pier

At Ocean Isle Beach Fishing Pier, the report was different.

Curtis Williamson said "fishing had been good since Wednesday."

"The fish were biting every day," he said. "The hot weather hasn't affected the fishing yet."

Fishermen enjoyed catching spots, blues, trout, and flounder.

Williamson said the rain would cool things down and that he expected the fishing to improve.

"The last of July is always good," he said.

Sunset Beach Fishing Pier

"It's been kind of slow," said Mary Kayler of Sunset Beach Fishing Pier. She was not sure if the hot weather was accountable for the lack of fish.

She reported catches of spots, whiting, trout and spot-tailed drum.



DOLPHINS, king snapper and bottom fish were caught June 29 aboard *Nancy's Diamond* by (from left) Larry McDowell of Holden Beach, Gary Sellar of Bolivia and Captain Mike O'Neal of Holden Beach. Fishing 55 miles offshore, their catch weighed in at more than 200 pounds.

It's Been A Banner Year, But Best Is Yet To Come

BY JAMIE MILLIKEN

It is usually in July when we begin to get scattered reports of sailfish being either sighted as they crash bait fish working the surface water or even an occasional hook-up. This July is no different. Last week I heard reports of several hook-ups and the crew aboard the *Alice E* were fortunate enough to boat one.

CAPTAIN JAMIE'S OFFSHORE FISHING REPORT

The South Brunswick Islands attracts these billfish and you do not have to run 50 miles to find one of these babies. The state record for sailfish was set at Ocean Isle Beach with a weight of 100 pounds and it reportedly came from an area four miles out. Another good location for sailfish has been the AR 455 artificial reef seven miles southeast of Shallotte Inlet. Every year there are hook-ups all during July and August.

Please let me encourage you to do several things if you are planning a trip where sailfish are likely to be. Carry a camera on board your boat. Be prepared during the strike to allow the fish to bill your bait and then he will turn and come back to the bait to swallow. You should be feeding him line off your reel at this point. Once he has taken the bait then set your hook. The last thing I encourage is not to kill the fish. You need only the measurement of the length and girth for a mount. Pull the fish alongside for a photo session and carefully remove the hooks and release him.

Offshore catches this week continued to be strong with dolphin, cobia, wahoo and king mackerel. John Sheppard, fishing the *Out of Control*, caught several nice wahoo and bull dolphin. He was fishing out past Frying Pan Light Tower. Marlon and Pat Long, fishing on board the *Outlaw*, had a nice catch of cobia as they fished the 18-mile area off Shallotte Inlet. York Pharr and his sons had a great week of king fishing on board their boat, the *Fishing Team*. They caught close to their limit four out of five days.

I keep reminding myself that our best fishing months are yet to come, and it has already been a banner year for sport fishing. Oh boy, I can't wait. Until then, tight lines, bent rods and good fishin'.



A GOOD CATCH of dolphin and king were landed July 7 aboard *Nancy's Diamond* captained by Mike O'Neal (far left) of Holden Beach. The fishing party included (from left) Tommy Peel of Winston-Salem, Jay Kessler of Winston-Salem, Stuart Chance of Holden Beach and Brian Kessler of Winston-Salem.



Teen Lands Sailfish

Sixteen-year-old Jonathan Shockley of Bluefield, W.Va., (center) caught this 28-pound sailfish last week aboard the *Alice E.* Also pictured are Capt. Otho Tew (left) and mate Mike Hendricks.

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