

Shark Didn't Get Free Lunch This Time Around

BY JAMIE MILLIKEN

The South Brunswick Islands continued to have strong thunderstorms last week. They were the result of a low pressure system that stalled over much of the South. A steady 15-20-knot southwest wind kept the ocean water rough and made for unfavorable fishing conditions. As of this writing, the frontal system has moved out of our area and I believe conditions will improve rapidly.

CAPTAIN JAMIE'S OFFSHORE FISHING REPORT

There were fish caught last week by those who chose to dodge the thunderstorms. Last week I told you about the shark that ate a possible record-breaking kingfish and left Wayne Hill and Larry Fowler scratching their heads and wondering why. Well, this week the shark does not get the free lunch. Here is how it goes:

Paul Bennick was fishing with Jack Prince and Phil Brinsfield on Phil's boat, the *Getaway*. They had been catching a fair amount of kings as they worked an area 20 miles off Shallotte Inlet. According to Paul it was a very routine day of fishing.

They were using light tackle and 20-pound test line (which is normal equipment for king fishing). Paul was doing battle with a small king when a very large fish thrashed the water behind the king and suddenly he was on Paul's line. No one on board got a good look at what this sudden invader was, but they knew two things: it was big and it was strong! It was not long into the fight that they knew that it was a large shark. Once you have battled a shark you never forget his tactics.

After a lengthy fight they boated a 7-foot long, 200-plus pound shark. All this, mind you, on a "Carolina live bait rig" on 20-pound test line. This is surely an example of superb fishing skills. Congratulations, guys, that was sport fishing at its best.

The "Georgetown Hole" has been the hot spot offshore lately. A couple of my marlin fishing buddies, Jim Caudle and Stuart Foxworth, took Jim's sportsfisher, the *Dixie Chicken* to the hole last Saturday and had a banner day. Their catch consisted of tuna, dolphin, wahoo and sailfish. Way to go, fellows, and thanks for releasing the sailfish.

That about covers the action for this week. I am trying to put together a tarpon fishing trip to Bald Head Island and if that goes as planned I'll put you on the end of the rod battling a 100-pounder next week. Until then, tight lines, bent rods and good fishin'.



Veteran Lands Triggerfish

Jason Crow of Fayetteville caught this 10-pound citation triggerfish Sunday aboard the *Super Salty I* out of Holden Beach. Crow recently returned from Saudi Arabia with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg.

Fish For Cash On Labor Day

The 1991 South Brunswick Islands King Classic will be held Labor Day Weekend in area waters, where king mackerel are plentiful during the fall of the year.

Cash will be awarded to the top 30 catches during the King Classic, said Kathi Grissett, spokesman for the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce, tournament sponsor.

The Classic offers \$12,500 to the angler bringing in the largest king mackerel. Prizes included are: second place, \$5,000; third place, \$2,500; and fourth place, \$1,000.

The next 15 place winners will receive \$500 and \$250 prizes. Cash prizes will also be awarded for aggregate weight each day and a two-day total.

\$50,000 will be awarded to the angler catching a certified state record king mackerel in N.C. waters during the tournament.

The King Classic is a captain's choice tournament. The event will begin with Captain's meetings on Friday, August 30 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Fishing days are Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, from

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the Shallotte, Lockwood Folly and Little River inlets. Weigh stations are Marsh Harbour Marina, Calabash; Holden Beach Marina, Holden Beach; and Island Motel and Marina, Ocean Isle Beach.

The tournament has been sanctioned by the Southern King Fish Association.

For more information, contact the chamber at P.O. Box 1380, Shallotte, or call 754-6644.



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Shellfishing Closures Confuse Fishermen

BY DOUG RUTTER

Why does the state close the Lockwood Folly and Shallotte rivers to shellfish harvesting after it rains? And why does the state allow other waters to stay open when they receive the same amount of rainfall?

These are two questions that have been on the minds of Brunswick County commercial fishermen repeatedly over the past few years, as the temporary closure of local oyster and clam beds have become commonplace.

Bill Woodell, a clammer from Leland, is among those who are confused by the way the state handles the closing of shellfish waters. "I think it's pitiful the way they run their little organization," he said recently.

Woodell said he understands the need to close shellfish waters when they become polluted. But he and others say they don't see how certain areas can be shut down before they are ever tested for bacteria.

They also don't understand why they may be allowed to market clams harvested one morning from a specific area, when the area may be closed to shellfishing that afternoon because of bacterial pollution.

Local fishermen also wonder why New Hanover County waters aren't closed to shellfishing when that area gets just as much rain as Brunswick County.

The answers to closure-related questions aren't simple.

Closing waters to shellfishing is the work of two state agencies—the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries and the N.C. Division of Environmental Health's shellfish sanitation branch.

"We spend a whole lot of time and effort on that to make sure people know about it as soon as possible."

—Rich Carpenter, district manager
N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries

Shellfish sanitation officials recommend closures to the state fisheries director, who has the authority to issue proclamations and close areas. Marine Fisheries officers are called on to notify the public and enforce closures.

In Brunswick County, temporary closures frequently occur after a heavy rainfall. Stormwater runoff carries pollutants from the land into the streams where they contaminate oysters and clams and makes them unsafe to eat.

The amount of rainfall that must occur before an area is closed to shellfishing depends on the location and how dry it has been, according to Patty Fowler of shellfish sanitation.

The state branch has access to rainfall measurements from Sunset Beach, Shallotte, Lockwood Folly River and Southport through three Marine Fisheries officers and three area residents.

Based on past studies, Ms. Fowler said shellfish sanitation officials know how certain rivers and streams will react to heavy rainfall without having to check water samples for bacteria every time.

Under normal conditions, she said Lockwood Folly and Shallotte

rivers are usually closed after a two-inch rainfall. Other local waters close following three inches of rain.

Ms. Fowler said shellfish sanitation uses "very conservative" figures to ensure fishermen don't harvest polluted oysters and clams. "Our main job is to protect the consumer of shellfish and make sure they're safe to eat."

To meet federal requirements, shellfish sanitation also takes water samples in each area five times a year and conducts a routine bacteriological survey and shoreline survey to check for potential pollution sources.

Shellfish Sanitation Director Bob Benton said waters and shellfish don't become polluted as soon as there is a heavy downpour. "There's some lag time definitely," he said, and it varies from place to place.

It takes time for stormwater to run from the land to streams and ditches and into shellfish waters. Once it gets into shellfish waters, it also takes time for bacteria to affect clams and oysters.

Benton said Shellfish Sanitation and Marine Fisheries work together to close areas as soon as possible after a significant rainfall.

Rich Carpenter, southern district

manager with the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, said law enforcement officers distribute proclamations to shellfish dealers as soon as they are issued.

If it's low tide and shellfishermen are working, Carpenter said officers notify the fishermen from boats or airplanes.

"We spend a whole lot of time and effort on that to make sure people know about it as soon as possible," he said. "The officers are able to get out into the field very, very quickly to let people know an area has been closed."

Depending on how long it takes to notify the fishermen, Carpenter said officers tell them to keep what they have harvested or put it back in the water.

This Week's Tide Table

		AUGUST		LOW	
Day	Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Thursday	1	-----	12:15	6:08	6:34
Friday	2	12:24	1:09	6:53	7:29
Saturday	3	1:17	2:12	7:48	8:35
Sunday	4	2:21	3:18	8:50	9:47
Monday	5	3:34	4:27	9:57	10:58
Tuesday	6	4:47	5:33	11:04	-----
Wednesday	7	5:56	6:36	12:02	12:07

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.

Storms Make Dent In Local Fishing

BY TONIA TREST

Local fishing centers report mixed fishing results over a week dotted with thunderstorms, rains and water spout sightings.

Captain Pete's

"All we have seen is a lot of wind, a lot of rain and little fish," said Jesse Hayes of Captain Pete's Marina at Holden Beach. "The storms have played havoc on the fishing."

He reported catches of king mackerel, black sea bass and grouper.

The *Lighter Knot* of Sanford landed a 38-pound king.

"If the rain keeps up, we will be able to fish on land," Hayes said. "Hoping for better things next week."

Hughes Marina

Allison Hughes of Hughes Marina at Shallotte Point echoed Hayes. "It was not a good week for fishing," she said.

However, Mrs. Hughes said the storms have only affected ocean fishing.

Inside anglers have landed more catches of larger spots than previous weeks, she said, along with flounder, speckled trout and drum.

Ocean fishermen reeled in spanish, king and black fish.

Mrs. Hughes reported that water

FISHING REPORT

spouts spotted Saturday had brought some boats in, while others stayed out, catching spanish and king.

Sea Mist

Mary Roscoe of Sea Mist Camping Resort at Brickland had nothing to report.

Pier Fishing

Jerry West of Holden Beach Fishing Pier reported a fair week.

He said anglers caught spots, whiting and sheepshead, as well as some catfish, sand shark and flounder.

"It's been pretty slow, because most of the seasonal fishermen are here," he said.

Ocean Isle

"Fishing was great over last week," said Curtis Williamson of Ocean Isle Beach Pier. "Fishing done real good from Wednesday to Saturday."

On Saturday, Williamson said, "The water spouts scared the people off the pier and there were more sightseers than fishermen."

He reported catches of spots, blues and trout.

Sunset Beach

Sunset Beach Fishing Pier management was not available Monday morning.



SETH CASAHION of Burlington fishes off the Ocean Isle Beach Fishing Pier early Thursday morning.

Waters Closed To Trawlers

Brunswick County waters including the Shallotte and Calabash rivers and most of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway were closed to shrimp and crab trawlers last week.

Waters closed last Friday to protect small white shrimp from trawls, according to a proclamation from the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries.

The inland waterway from Yellow Banks to the South Carolina line was closed to trawlers.

Other areas affected were Bonaparte Creek, Jinks Creek, Eastern Channel at Ocean Isle Beach, Davis

Creek and part of the Cape Fear River.

Rich Carpenter, southern district manager with the Division of Marine Fisheries, said he is "cautiously optimistic" about the white shrimp season.

"It looks pretty good right now," he said. "When you have variables like the weather and that you never know."

North Carolina commercial fishermen harvested about 1.15 million pounds of white shrimp last year worth more than \$2.5 million, according to Marine Fisheries statistics.

State Opens Waters To Shellfishermen

Brunswick County waters closed to shellfishing July 22 were reopened last Friday by the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries.

Waters from Southport to the South Carolina state line had been

closed July 22 following heavy rainfall and runoff.

State officials reopened the waters last week due to satisfactory bacteria samples, according to a Marine Fisheries proclamation.

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