

State Is One Of Greatest Places For Offshore Fishing

The fishing along the South Brunswick Islands coast really heated up this past week, thanks to some excellent sea conditions that existed early in the week. I can surely speak for all the offshore fishermen in saying that the calm weather was a welcome sight.

As of this writing the Gulf Stream is located right along the 100-fathom curve. This should make the "Georgetown Hole" and the "Big Rock" area a good choice for anyone targeting wahoo, tuna, dolphin, sailfish or marlin. Speaking of marlin, we are less than a month away from the world-famous white marlin run that takes place every September off Oregon Inlet. During the first two weeks of September the white marlin start making their run southward. The Cape Hatteras area, with its close location to the 100-fathom curve, makes for an anglers' heaven. Every year the fishing explodes; it is very common to hear of boats tagging and releasing ten or more whites per day.

If this kind of action gets your blood pumping, you might consider trailering your boat up their for this marlin harvest. If your boat is too large to trailer, you can consider running up the Intracoastal Waterway. That is an estimated 15-hour trip which could be easily divided between two days. Isn't North Carolina a great place to live? It surely is one of the greatest places for offshore fishing in the world.

The highlight locally this week was the 21-pound grouper landed by Captain Adam Sanders and crew aboard the *Adam's Apple*. Dr. Kendal Suh and his crew, fishing the *Mackerel Missile*, had a banner day Monday. They landed nine king mackerel and several large Spanish mackerel. York Pharr, fishing his boat *Fishing Team*, experienced the same kind of day limiting out on kings as they worked an area 20 miles offshore.

The Long Bay Lady Angler King Tournament was held Sunday, Aug. 11 in Southport. According to Mrs. Faye Harrelson, co-chairman of this event, 48 boats participated. The winner was Joyce English of Long Beach, fishing aboard the *Lady's Choice*, with a 38.95-pound king. Second place went to Mrs. Ronda Minor fishing with Dr. Andre Minor aboard their boat, *Hypertension*. Third place went to Mrs. Claire Long aboard the *Kodiak*. The banking institutions locally were well represented in this tournament. Mrs. Diane McRainey (branch manager of NCNB Calabash) placed 5th fishing with her husband William McRainey on board the *Overdue Binge*. Mrs. Linda Walters (branch manager UCB Calabash) placed 6th fishing with her husband, Charles Walters, aboard their boat *Sinsation*.

A large king was not the only excitement experienced by William and Diane during this tournament. They were fortunate enough to hook up with a nice sailfish. William reported that the sailfish hit the flat line right behind the transom. They did battle with this beautiful billfish for close to 30 minutes. The battle was highlighted by an estimated 20 grayhounding leaps. Finally the leader wire broke under the strain and sent this sailfish off to fight another day.

What a week of fishing! That it is for now. Until next time, tight lines, bent rods and good fishin'.

CAPTAIN JAMIE'S OFFSHORE FISHING REPORT

Fishing Picks Up In Some Places

BY DOUG RUTTER
After several weeks of slow fishing, activity has started picking up for some local anglers.

Catches of mackerel, bottom fish and spots increased last week, according to reports from several fishing centers. Others said the fishing remains slow.

"Even with the rain last week, the fishing was pretty good," said Jesse Hayes of Captain Pete's Marina at Holden Beach.

He reported catches of king and Spanish mackerel, snapper and sea bass in the ocean and flounder, spots and puppy drum in the surf.

The king mackerel have been large for this time of year. Hayes said kings weighing 27 and 28 pounds usually don't show up until the menhaden arrive in October.

He said it will probably take a real nice catch to win any of this year's king mackerel tournaments. "Maybe everybody has something to look forward to this fall," said Hayes.

He said fishermen already are reporting catches off the *Jell II*, a 170-foot ship that was sunk as an artificial reef less than two months ago off Lockwood Folly Inlet.

Anglers have hooked kings and Spanish at the site. "That was very, very promising there," Hayes said.

Sea Mist Camping Resort
The fishing was better last week than the two previous weeks, said Mary Roscoe of Sea Mist



JOSHUA NEWNAM of Greensboro sets up his tackle box before fishing off the Ocean Isle Beach pier.

Camping Resort at Brick Landing. "The spot fishing seems to be picking up," she said Monday.

During the week, Keith Ellerbe of Rockingham caught a bucket of spots and croaker and Steve Glover of Fayetteville filled a cooler with spots measuring six to eight inches long.

Mrs. Roscoe said Chris Fallin of Gastonia caught a mixed bag of bottom fish.

FISHING REPORT

pretty typical for this time of the season.

Sunset Beach Pier
Ed Kayler of Sunset Beach Fishing Pier said the fishing was average for the second week of August. "There just aren't that many fish around this time of year."

Kayler said pier anglers caught mostly spots, whiting, catfish and small sharks last week. Fishermen caught one 14-pound king mackerel and one Spanish during the week.

Holden Beach Pier
At Holden Beach Fishing Pier, anglers also pulled in spots, whiting, catfish and sharks.

"With the rain on and off we've got just a few king mackerel fishermen out there," spokesman Jerry McLamb said Monday.

Anglers caught a couple of flounder and one sheepshead last week at Holden Beach Pier.

Ocean Isle Beach Pier
"They've been catching fish but it could be better," was the report from Curtis Williamson of Ocean Isle Beach Fishing Pier, where anglers caught spots, trout and blues.

Williamson would rather focus on the season as a whole than what happened last week. "I heard a fella say last week he's already caught more fish than he did all last year. That made me feel better."

Hughes' Marina
The fishing wasn't so hot last week for the fishermen out of Hughes' Marina at Shallotte Point.

Allison Hughes said anglers went out in the rain but didn't catch anything. "It was a bad week. I don't really think anything was done."

Pier fishermen didn't fare too well last week either, but that's

This Week's Tide Table

Day	Date	HIGH		LOW	
		A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Thursday	15	12:21	1:05	6:29	7:06
Friday	16	1:09	1:57	7:16	7:58
Saturday	17	1:59	2:50	8:07	8:57
Sunday	18	2:53	3:45	9:03	9:54
Monday	19	3:49	4:42	9:59	10:52
Tuesday	20	4:45	5:35	10:55	11:45
Wednesday	21	5:40	6:22	11:48	-----

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.

Areas Open To Shellfishing

Some Brunswick County waters were opened to the harvest shellfish last week, but most local waters remain closed.

The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries opened shellfish beds in Cape Fear River, Buzzard Bay and The Basin near Bald Head Island on Saturday.

All waters between Southport and the South Carolina state line remain closed to shellfishermen, according to a Marine Fisheries proclamation.

Brunswick County waters were closed Aug. 1 due to heavy rainfall and runoff, which carries bacterial pollution into rivers and makes shellfish unsafe to eat.



FRANK SCHWARTZ, biologist with the N.C. Institute of Marine Sciences, dissects the winning catch in the 1989 Poor Boy Shark Tournament—a 565-pound tiger.

POOR BOY ENTERS 10TH YEAR Anglers Want More Sharks In '91

BY DOUG RUTTER
North Carolina's only shark fishing tournament turns 10 years old next week.

The annual Poor Boy Shark Tournament is scheduled Aug. 22-24 out of Hughes' Marina at Shallotte Point.

Fishing starts Thursday, Aug. 22, following an 8 p.m. captain's meeting at the marina. All fish must be weighed in by Saturday, Aug. 24 at 2 p.m.

Shark fishermen are looking to rebound from last year's event, which organizers called the worst Poor Boy tournament in its nine-year history.

Anglers weighed in only 27 sharks and the total weight of 900 pounds was about 1,500 pounds below the previous worst year.

David Smith of Whiteville won the tournament with a 234-pound silky shark. It was the only fish caught that weighed over 100 pounds.

Frank Schwartz, biologist with the N.C. Institute of Marine Sciences and weighmaster for the annual event, expects fishermen will bring in more sharks this year than they did last year.

Schwartz attributed the lack of sharks in 1990 to the cold late spring and other weather-related

conditions. They combined to form a wall of cool water several hundred miles offshore which prevented sharks from migrating into state waters.

Those conditions persisted until May, he said, but have now returned to normal. Although it's been unusually warm much of this year, recent rainfall should help the shark fishing.

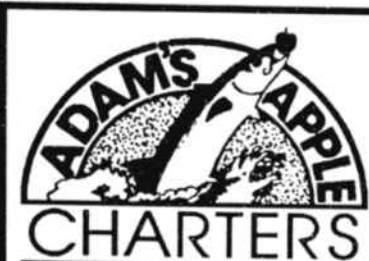
Schwartz, a leading shark expert in the state, said ecological conditions are more conducive to shark catches this year than they were a year ago when only five of the 18 boats weighed in fish.

"It looks good as far as I can see from up this way," Schwartz said in a recent telephone interview from Morehead City. "There is a good variety of sharks around."

The tournament entry fee this year is \$225 per boat, and 90 percent of the fees will be paid out as cash prizes, said spokesperson Allison Hughes.

Fishermen bringing in the five largest sharks will receive 30, 20, 15, 10 and 5 percent of the fees. Another 10 percent will be paid for the heaviest aggregate weight of five sharks.

For more information on the tournament, call Hughes' Marina.



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