

Kings, Other Game Fish Are Plentiful This Week

The South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce held its annual King Classic tournament this past weekend. As a participant, I felt it was an extremely well-run event. We had excellent sea conditions for the most part of the two-day event.

CAPTAIN JAMIE'S OFFSHORE FISHING REPORT

If there was one common problem that everyone encountered it had to be locating good bait. It seems every year at tournament time the pogies perform their disappearing act. A lot of fishermen resorted to dead frozen bait as an alternative. Frozen bait can be productive as Cecil Logan proved by landing a 29½-pound king on the first day of the tournament.

Kingfish were not the only game fish that were plentiful offshore. There were scores of sailfish hook-ups. Several were actually landed and then released. A few anglers that I can name off the top of my head who had encounters with these billfish were Tommy Norris on the *Tom Boy*, Linda Walters on the *Sinsation*, Robin "Snapper" King on the *Rocking Robin* and Al McLaurin on the *Lindsey K*.

My ten-year-old son Justin and I fished the *Caribbean Soul* and had a great time. On the second day of the tournament we fished the waters off North Myrtle Beach and were successful in landing a few kings. At one point we had two on at a time (that's exciting but also chaotic). It seems that we were just getting on the fish and having a great deal of action when the huge thunderstorm approaching caused us to quickly pick up and try to run around this storm. However, it was too big and we had to dash through the heart of the storm.

As I stopped long enough to get Justin strapped into his life jacket and put on the foul weather gear, he made a most comforting comment to me. He said, "Don't worry, Daddy, Jesus was a fisherman; he will look after us." That's my boy, and his words were right.

Calabash fishermen get the bragging rights for this year as the *Mr. Magoo* won the first-place prize money of \$18,000 and Mike Cain fishing the *Ram Rod* placed second to win \$8,400. Both boats fish out of Calabash. Congratulations to all the winners.

A special thanks to all who released the sailfish. To my knowledge not one of these magnificent billfish were killed. Release them; they will grow on you. That's it for now. Until next time, tight lines, bent rods and good fishin'.

Anglers Hook Kings, Yellow Spots

BY DOUG RUTTER

Local fishermen caught lots of king mackerel last week and some of the first mullet and yellow-bellied spots of the year.

Mullet and spot catches indicate a cooling of the ocean water and the start of the fall fishing season.

"The fishing looks pretty good right now," John Sheffield of Sheffield's at Ocean Isle Beach said Monday following a busy holiday weekend.

He weighed in several nice kings over the Labor Day weekend, including a 33-pounder that Robert Neill of Ocean Isle landed Friday.

Sheffield also noted catches of good-sized Spanish mackerel and several sailfish.



STUART JENNINGS of Danville, Va., caught this 23-pound red grouper Saturday off Holden Beach.



MORRIS HALL of Shallotte caught these largemouth bass last week in a farm pond near Fairmont. The biggest fish weighed about 5 pounds.

FISHING REPORT

Pelican Pointe Marina

Fishermen out of Pelican Pointe Marina at Seaside caught lots of kings and barracuda over the weekend, said spokesman Clay Allen.

Several anglers caught kings weighing between 25 and 35 pounds. Charles and Linda Walters of Sunset Beach landed a 40-pound sailfish on Saturday.

"It's been a great weekend for fishing," Allen said Monday. "And this week looks like it's going to be good if the wind lays down."

Tripp's Fishing Center

Anglers caught king and Spanish mackerel, black bass, flounder, speckled trout, croaker and large, yellow spots last week, according to Joyce Land of Tripp's Fishing Center at Shallotte Point.

She said the spots started showing up the middle of last week. William Usher of Shallotte Point



CECIL DURHAM of Liberty, S.C., (right) landed this 11-pound dolphin while fishing last week aboard the *Alice E*. Also pictured is mate Mike Hendricks.

netted 75 pounds of spots and pigfish one day.

Billy Leffler of Albemarle landed a 7-pound, 12-ounce flounder, and Billy Cook of Whiteville caught a 26-pound king.

Independent Seafood

Local fishermen reeled in kings, speckled trout, flounder, and whiting last week, said Joe Hardasty of Independent Seafood at Holden Beach.

Anglers caught large spots in the Holden Beach surf following Sunday's rainstorm.

Pier Fishing

Holden Beach Fishing Pier Manager Gil Bass said anglers caught Spanish mackerel, blues, spots, whiting and croaker last week. They also caught mullet in nets and one small king mackerel.

Bass said the cool weather early this week should help the fishing. "Fishing's picking up, and a lot of the fishermen are starting to come down. They'll be coming down from here on out."

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'Magoo' Wins King Classic

Brian Henry of Gastonia hooked a 43.77-pound king mackerel to win the South Brunswick Islands King Classic.

Fishing aboard the *Mr. Magoo*, Henry won \$18,000 for first place in the Labor Day weekend fishing tournament that attracted more than 160 boats.

Mike Cain of Calabash finished second with a 35.94-pounder caught aboard the *Ram Rod*. He won \$8,400.

Third place honors and \$4,768 went to Bob Black of Belmont with a 35.54-pound king mackerel.

Charles Shore of Long Beach and the *Team Reaction* crew placed fourth and won \$1,000 for a 322.98-pound fish. Shore is a former King Classic winner.

Winners in the aggregate weight division included Al McLaurin of Calabash. Fishing aboard the *Lindsey K*, he weighed in six fish over the weekend with a total weight of 127.28 pounds and won \$1,000.

The \$500 aggregate weight winner Saturday was Randy Way of Yaupon Beach with three kings weighing 63.87 pounds. Sunday's winner was Dick Warrick of Long Beach with 66.91 pounds.

Other \$500 winners, listed with



CAIN McLAURIN

the weight of their fish, were as follows: Walter Funderburk, 30.94; Donald Jogano, 30.30; Tommy Norris, 30.07; Rusty Rowland, 29.40; James Garrison, 29.28; and Cecil Logan, 29.27.

Also James McGregor Jr., 28.65; Wyndal Vereen, 28.33; Sammy Sessions, 27.92; Kyle White, 27.20; William McRaine, 26.40; Charles Wilson, 26.24; Forrest Taylor, 25.54; David Franklin, 25.25; and Ronnie Reeves, 24.79.

Winners of \$250 prizes were as follows: Donald Johnson, 24.11; Dale McDowell, 24.06; Sam Flint, 24.00; John Payne, 23.93; Lane Tucker, 23.00; Robert Causey, 22.93; Al Phipps, 22.12; Fred Johnson, 22.03; David Brittain, 21.84; Gary Moose Hull, 21.39; and Boyce Broadwell, 21.32.

This Week's Tide Table

Day	Date	HIGH		LOW	
		A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Thursday	5	5:48	6:20	11:56	-----
Friday	6	6:47	7:13	12:39	12:54
Saturday	7	7:42	8:06	1:31	1:47
Sunday	8	8:35	8:51	2:17	2:37
Monday	9	9:23	9:37	3:02	3:25
Tuesday	10	10:09	10:20	3:45	4:12
Wednesday	11	10:55	11:04	4:27	4:57

ADJUSTMENTS
SHALLOTTE INLET—add 17 min. high tide, add 32 min. low tide.
LOCKWOOD HOLLY—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.

Groups To Offer Boating Classes

Local branches of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and U.S. Power Squadron will offer safe boating classes starting in September and October.

Shallotte Flotilla 10-08 of the Coast Guard Auxiliary begins its course Monday, Sept. 16, at the Shallotte Senior Citizens Center.

For more information, contact Bill Grancsay at 754-8599.

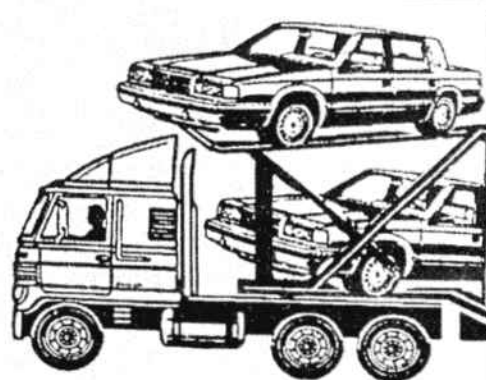
The Shallotte River Power Squadron course starts Tuesday, Oct. 1, at 7 p.m. in the Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp. office near Shallotte.

The eight-session course is free, but there will be a minimal fee for materials. For more information, contact Clete Waldmiller at 579-8954.

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STARTING SEPT. 15 New Safety Rules Set For Commercial Boats

Commercial fishing boats will come under a new set of safety, design and operational requirements starting Sept. 15.

The U.S. Coast Guard has drafted a comprehensive set of rules designed to reduce the number of fatal accidents that occur each year in the commercial fishing industry.

Commercial fishing is regarded as one of the nation's most dangerous occupations, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Each year more than 80 fishermen die and approximately 200 vessels are lost. Until now, commercial fishing vessels only had to meet minimal safety equipment requirements.

"The Coast Guard is committed to improving safety in the commercial fishing industry," Coast Guard Commandant Admiral J. William Kime said in a news release.

"These regulations are a major step in reducing the unacceptably high accident rate in the fishing industry," Kime said.

The rules set requirements for safety equipment such as life jackets and life rafts, visual distress signals, fire extinguishers, nautical charts, compasses, and communications equipment.

The rules further require the person in charge of each vessel to con-

duct safety drills each month, and set standards for boat stability, which has been related to most of the deaths on commercial fishing boats.

The regulations were mandated by the Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Safety Act of 1988. They don't apply to sportfishing, charter or passenger boats.

The federal law required the Coast Guard to develop comprehensive safety rules dealing with radio communication, navigation, lifesaving, fire fighting and electrical and marine equipment.

It also required the Coast Guard to evaluate the stability of new vessels and compile accident data in the commercial fishing industry.

The Coast Guard based the rules on recommendations from the Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Advisory Committee, comments received from the public when the rules were proposed and testimony from 13 public hearings.

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