



LEE HARRIS of Supply caught this 22-pound king mackerel last week at Holden Beach Fishing Pier.

## Weather Cooperates; Kings Biting Good

Alright, let's hear it for the pretty weekend of fishing. No nor'easters this weekend and that, my friends, is something to cheer about.



CAPTAIN JAMIE OFFSHORE FISHING REPORT

The king mackerel bite was equally as good as the weather. Scores of kings were boated. Wendell Vereen, fishing his new Mako, the *Tough Enough*, had a banner day Sunday. He and his crew landed a dozen kings with an average weight of 17 pounds each and his largest fish was 28 pounds. Sure does sound like ole Wendell had them located, doesn't it?

I guarantee he will be a force to be reckoned with in this upcoming weekend's Captain Poo's King Mack Attack Tournament fished out of Harbourgate Marina in North Myrtle Beach. Fishing days for this event is June 27 and 28. For more information call Darby at 803-249-8888.

Wendell was not the only king angler setting the water on fire this weekend. York Pharr, fishing with his son aboard *The Fishing Team*, caught their limit of kings while working an area 20 miles off Shallotte Inlet. York's largest fish tipped the scales at 20 pounds.

I even got a chance to do a little fishing. David Hooks invited John Caison and me for a little king mackerel fishing on board the *Captain Hook II*. I would say that we had a good trip. As we were just putting our lines in the water, the long line reel exploded in a high pitch scream. The minute I got the rod out of its holder I knew that this was a little bit different fish from what we were catching in the Sun-Fun Tournament. The fish peeled off a good 250 yards on his first run. John was busy getting the other lines in while I moved to the bow to try and retrieve some of my line. David swung the *Captain Hook II* in the direction that the fish was running and we proceeded to run him down. The water at the 18-mile rock was cobalt blue that day and we got our first look at him as he circled under the boat about 20 feet below the surface. He was a nice one!

After several laps around the boat he began to come up and soon "Dead Eye John" popped him with the gaff and laid the ole North Carolina kingfish on the deck. The fish was 42 inches long with a girth of 19 inches and weighed 25 pounds. Where was he in the Sun-Fun?

I want to bring to your attention the fact that South Carolina is bringing into a law a S.C. Saltwater Fishing Stamp effective July 1. I spoke by phone with Wayne Waltz of the S.C. Wildlife Commission and it is his understanding that if a North Carolina fisherman enters Little River Inlet with fish on his boat the captain is required to have this stamp. The cost of the stamp is \$5.50 and is obtainable through the S.C. Wildlife Commission.

Charter boat captains must pay \$150 for this stamp. This covers all of their charter passengers for a 12-month period. The large headboats must obtain a stamp at a cost of \$350. This will cover all of their customers for a 12-month period.

Mr. Waltz stated that if there was a change in the wording of the law (concerning N.C. fishermen) that he would contact me so our anglers could be kept informed.

The state of Florida has had this fishing license in effect for a number of years. They have done real well at using the generated funds to help their fishery. With South Carolina implementing this into law, I would not be surprised to see North Carolina doing the same. What we (the taxed fishermen) must insist upon is that these monies go to helping our fishery, not helping some other agency not related to the saltwater fishery.

All of you fishermen who plan to fish the South Brunswick Islands King Classic and plan to fish out of Little River Inlet, please be prepared to have this stamp.

The cobia bite is still going full guns. There were several taken off the seven-mile boxcar this weekend. Barry Millard, fishing the *Sea Bass*, had two nice cobia from that area on Friday.

The Spanish mackerel run is still strong also. Skipper Brummett of Sunset Beach landed a citation-size Spanish aboard his boat, *Gator Bait*. His Spanish was certified at Tripps Fishing Center and it weighed 6 1/2 pounds.

So, as you can tell, the fishing is hot. Live bait continues to be a little hard to find but there is some in the waterway and right many have been caught in the ocean. It just takes a lot of patience to locate them.

Until next time, good fishin' and good luck, "Jolly Mon."

## Cool Weather Keeps Fish Biting

BY DOUG RUTTER

Unseasonably cool temperatures added up to decent fishing most of last week across the South Brunswick Islands.

"Everybody that went fishing seemed to do pretty good," said Jesse Hayes of Captain Pete's Seafood at Holden Beach.

Prior to Sunday's stormy weather, Hayes said anglers had luck inshore and offshore catching a variety of fish.

Catches close to shore included Spanish mackerel, spots, bluefish and drum near the inlets.

Outside, fishermen pulled in a lot of grouper and some big dolphin. Hayes said a 12-year-old girl landed a 42-pound king mackerel while fishing on a charter boat last week.

"So far this year it's been a good year for fishing," Hayes said. "I hope the rest of the summer's as good as this part."

Tripp's Fishing Center

Anglers caught lots of small spots and croaker as well as some flounder and drum last week, said Joyce Land of Tripp's Fishing Center at Shallotte Point.

Fishermen also landed a lot of Spanish mackerel in the ocean and a few kings. One angler reeled in a Spanish weighing 6 3/4 pounds.

"With all the weather we've had

### FISHING REPORT

the fishing's been fair," Ms. Land said.

Pier Fishing

Fishermen enjoyed an excellent week at the local piers, pulling in everything from small spots to king mackerel.

"I'd say fishing was real good last week," Ed Kayler of Sunset Beach Fishing Pier said Monday.

Anglers caught spots, whiting, pompano, trout and flounder last week at the pier. "The water hasn't heated up enough to run them off yet."

Kayler also reported six king mackerel landed in the past week. For the second straight week, Paul Grigg of Kings Mountain pulled in a 30-pounder.

Gil Bass indicated the fishing wasn't as good at Holden Beach Fishing Pier, where anglers caught mostly spots and pinfish last week.

Anglers also pulled in a few Spanish mackerel and three kings. A 10-year-old boy also landed a 3-pound spottailed drum.

"He was tickled to death," Bass said. "It was the greatest thing he had ever done."

Ethel Williamson of Ocean Isle Beach Fishing Pier said anglers



JEFF LOWERY of Salisbury landed this 32-pound cobia last week at Holden Beach Fishing Pier.

caught spots, trout, flounder and whiting last week.

## This Week's Tide Table

		JUNE		JULY	
Day	Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Thursday	25	3:36	4:23	10:03	10:54
Friday	26	4:36	5:22	10:03	10:54
Saturday	27	5:37	6:18	11:54	—
Sunday	28	6:36	7:13	12:47	12:50
Monday	29	7:32	8:04	1:41	1:41
Tuesday	30	8:28	8:56	2:32	—
Wednesday	1	9:23	9:48	3:20	3:25

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.



RUSSELL STONE of Dallas, N.C., caught this 20-pound king mackerel recently aboard the *Sea Wolfe*.

### HEARING IS NEXT WEEK

## State May Make Fishermen Tend Nets

BY DOUG RUTTER

All fishermen may be required to tend their gill nets under a rule change proposed by the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries.

The regulation would prevent anglers from leaving gill nets unattended by requiring them to stay within 100 feet of their nets.

Currently, only fishermen who use gill nets within 100 feet of the center of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway must tend their nets.

Rich Carpenter, southern district manager with Marine Fisheries, said the new rule is designed to reduce friction between boaters and fishermen.

"Certain times of the year we get calls from people having problems with gill nets," he said. "At times you end up with conflicts between boaters and nets."

Fishermen typically use gill nets in the fall to catch schools of fish as they run along the shore.

Carpenter expects to hear from local fishermen next week when the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission holds a public hearing on the new gill net rule and other proposed changes in fishing regulations.

The hearing will be Wednesday, July 1, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 302 at the New Hanover County Courthouse in Wilmington.

The state commission placed additional restrictions on gill nets two years ago when it decided to prohibit use of the nets within 300 yards of the beach on summer weekends.

"I expect there will be some comments on this," Carpenter said last week. "Gill nets are big in Brunswick

County."

Other proposed rule changes going to public hearing include one that would give the state fisheries director authority to control the harvest of speckled trout.

The state also proposes prohibiting the sale of any red drum more than 20 inches long and requiring aquaculture facilities to allow inspections of their operations before and after permits are issued.

Carpenter said a new rule likely to draw interest at next week's hearing is one designed to protect tarpon, a highly-prized recreational fish that is not used commercially.

The regulation would allow harvest by hook-and-line only and limit anglers to one tarpon per day. It would also make it illegal to sell tarpon.

Another new rule would require seafood dealers to let state officials collect data needed to make decisions on size limits and quotas.

In addition to the public hearing in Wilmington, other hearings are planned over the next two weeks in Morehead City, Raleigh, Washington, Columbia and Manteo.

The Marine Fisheries Commission is expected to decide on the proposed rules at its business meeting July 24 at the CP&L Media Center in Southport.

If the new regulations and amendments are approved, they are scheduled to take effect Oct. 1.

Written comments on the proposed rules must be received by July 15. They can be mailed to the Marine Fisheries Commission, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, N.C. 28557-0769.

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## State Limits Gray Trout Catch

State fisheries officials will impose restrictions on the harvest of gray trout next week and plan more rules for this fall.

Starting July 3, it will be illegal to possess or sell gray trout, also called weakfish, that are less than 10 inches long.

All undersized fish must be returned to the water, according to a proclamation from the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries.

Also, the use of undersized weakfish for crab pot bait will be prohibited starting Aug. 1.

The new rules are needed to reduce harvest pressure on gray trout. This fall, state officials plan to impose more restrictions.

Finfish excluder devices will be required in shrimp trawls in state waters where weakfish are usually caught.

A state weakfish harvest permit will be required for the use of gill nets and flynets in the Atlantic Ocean.

Fisheries officials are encouraging anglers to apply for the permits early to avoid possible delays in receiving permits this fall.

The state will tolerate some undersized fish in the catch, allowing up to 25 percent by number or 15 percent by weight. Scales to determine weight will be used when they are available.

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