

Fishing Calendar

April

By mid-month deep-sea bottom fishermen are happy to find sea bass moving in to join tautog (blackfish) on the near shore wrecks. Inshore bay fishing begins to come alive as the first flounder of the season begin to bite, along with stripers (rockfish), and schools of snapper bluefish.

May

In May fishermen are delighted to find big bluefish on the near shore shoals 5-20 miles out. Of course with bluefish being a major food source for sharks, it's not surprising that the end of the month also marks the start of Ocean City's shark season. Blue sharks typically arrive first, but before the month comes to a close, the coveted "first mako" is usually taken, and sharking season is in full swing. Near shore wrecks continue to load-up with big sea bass. As bay waters warm, anglers find excellent light tackle action with flounder, stripers, shad, and bluefish.

June

Considered by many to be the "month of the shark", June is when most hard core sharkers get offshore to enjoy their sport. Most local species of sharks will be available to fishermen this month as will lots of hungry bluefish. In the beginning of the month the football yellowfin tuna show up in the canyons. Towards the end of the month, large bluefin and larger yellowfin tuna will start to appear offshore, along with a few dolphin, and most likely the first white marlin of the season. Bay anglers will continue to score big on flounder, stripers, and bluefish, but can also now add sea trout to their "available species" list.

July

Warm July waters offer anglers a smorgasbord of fishing opportunities. In addition to what they had been catching in June, bay fishermen will also start to enjoy action with croaker, spot, and sea bass. Offshore fishermen should anticipate excellent action with bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna, marlin, and dolphin. We should also see some of the first wahoo of the season. Near shore trolling will likely produce plenty of bites by bluefish, bonito, king and Spanish mackerel. Shark fishermen will enjoy a variety of shark species including tigers, makos, hammerheads, duskies, Spinners, sandbars, sharpnose, and blacktips.

August

WHITE MARLIN OPEN is here usually the first full week of August. Ocean City is ablaze with excitement. It is a grand week. Just about everything that's biting in July is still hungry in August! Anglers will, however, find a few new additions. Deepsea bottom fishermen find schools of big croaker and all kinds of 3-5' sharks in the near shore waters, while clean water and lots of weed-lines really "turn on" the offshore dolphin fishing. The other offshore species continue to be very active - marlin, tuna, more wahoo, swordfish, tilefish and sharks.

September

September finds offshore fishermen having some of the best action of the season with marlin, tuna, dolphin and wahoo fishing really explodes into action. Wahoo fishing in September is at its finest in Ocean City. Really can't explain why but it started happening in 2005 and has been strong since. Near shore fishing goes ballistic as anglers find excellent light tackle opportunities with false albacore, bluefish, bonito, sharks, trout, and croaker. Wreck fishing for seabass and tautog begins to improve. Bay anglers continue to catch a variety of flounder, bluefish, and trout. Striper fishing improves as bigger fish start showing up in and around the inlet area.

October

Near shore fishing in October is absolutely outstanding! Some of the best seabass fishing of the year over the wrecks and fishermen should have no problem finding plenty of fat croaker, bluefish, and nearshore sharks. In October anglers find that the nearshore shoals are loaded up with false albacore and bluefish. Yellowfin & Longfin tuna, wahoo, dolphin and a few billfish can be found farther offshore and the bite is usually very good. The down side is the lack of predictable weather. In October we may be able to get out about three days a week. It is a shame because the fishing is normally so very good.