

FISHING SEMINARS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

1:00 PM

FISHING FOR STRIPED BASS

Jim Hutchinson, Jr.
The Fisherman Magazine

With the March 1 opening of the back bays, the Spring run of striped bass is officially underway in the Garden State. Whether it's bloodworms to start the year or chasing down a personal best during the bunker run, new regulatory changes put greater focus on increasing the survival of released fish. Get details on striped bass management and the state of the stock, as well.

2:30 PM

TUNA TIPS & TACTICS

Capt. Phil Howarth
*Goose Hummock Shops,
Orleans, MA*

Every angler must start somewhere, just as Capt. Phil Howarth, a self-confessed tuna addict, did 13 years ago. If you're looking to gear up for tuna in '26, Capt. Phil and the crew at Goose can help equip your boat with the right fishing and safety equipment. They'll also provide valuable tips on how to catch this majestic species, and cover the rules, regulations and reporting requirements for tuna fishing.

4:00 PM

WRECK & BOTTOM FISHING

Capt. Adam Nowalsky
Valiant II Fishing Charters

Whether you're looking for your own hidden snag or working the state's artificial reef complex, get a pro's point of view for putting more fish in the box when fishing structure. With more than 25 years of experience as a professional charter captain, Capt. Adam is known as an expert bottom fisherman and offers unique insight into the tackle and techniques to pull blackfish (tautog) and black sea bass from hard bottom.

5:30 PM

FISH MAPPING FOR PELAGIC SUCCESS

Dan Dickerson
SiriusXM Marine

Dan Dickerson has more than 50 years' experience in the boating and fishing community. He grew up fishing on the shores of the Potomac River, served in the Coast Guard primarily in the Chesapeake Bay, then entered the Marine Electronics industry. For the past 15 years he has worked with SiriusXM to broaden the scope of their marine weather and fishing services.

FISHING SEMINARS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

1:00 PM

FISHING FOR DOORMAT FLUKE

Capt. Greg Cudnik
Fisherman's Headquarters

Summer brings a bounty of boat fishermen targeting summer flounder. Whether you're fishing the local wrecks or along the shallow flats there are plenty of tactics, tricks, and tools to use which can optimize your chances of scoring that personal best doormat. Start your first drift of the new season with Jenni as she shares a few secrets to summer flounder success.

3:00 PM

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4:30 PM

LIGHT TACKLE STRIPERS

Capt. Greg Cudnik
Fish Head Charters

Join Barnegat Light charter captain, and owner of Fisherman's Headquarters in Ship Bottom, Capt. Greg Cudnik, for a look at light tackle striped bass fishing at the Jersey Shore. From the spring run to fall mayhem and madness, Capt. Greg will run down the tackle and techniques he uses behind the barrier island and on out along the inshore waters to chase down New Jersey's most popular gamefish.

5:30 PM

USCG CAPTAIN'S LICENSE—MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS

Capt. Neil Smith
US Captains Training

Learn about U.S. Coast Guard's requirements for obtaining a Captain's License, including specific personal, medical, and experience qualifications, as well as the formal training and application process. This session will cover common misconceptions about the USCG Captain's licenses, answer any questions you may have on new or existing licenses, and introduce you to contacts looking to hire.

FISHING SEMINARS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

1:00 PM

ONWATER EMERGENCIES—ARE YOU PREPARED?

Brendan Phillips
Maritime Rescue Associate

There are mandatory safety gear requirements, but do you know how to deal with an actual on-water emergency? This session offers practical a device for getting down and dirty when the chips have fallen. Learn how to respond to potential life-threatening emergencies, during what may be the most critical half-hour you'll spend as a boater. A must-attend for marina owners!

2:30 PM

TUNA TIPS & TACTICS

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*Goose Hummock Shops,
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4:00 PM

SOUTH JERSEY SHEEPSHEAD

Khoa Nguyen
*Tidechasers Podcast &
Century Rods*

Learn all about targeting some of New Jersey's more unusual seasonal residents, sheepshead, from Khoa an expert in sheepshead fishing. The popularity and availability of sheepshead has soared in recent years. Learn what gear and techniques you need to target these very accessible and delicious fish. Khoa is co-host of TideChasers podcast which covers topics ranging from conservation to seasonal tactics and gear reviews.

5:30 PM

FROM DOCK TO DESTINATION

Capt. Chris Juall
The Qualified Captain

Learn what every boater needs to know to stay safe, from a "Qualified Captain" with 40 years of experience. This session will cover essential skills for operating safely and confidently, recent updates to New Jersey boating laws, and real-world examples of common mistakes and preventable mishaps. Whether you're new or experienced, you'll gain valuable takeaways to stay safe, avoid accidents, and enjoy more time on the water.

FISHING SEMINARS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

11:00 AM

CATCHING JUMBO BLACKFISH

Frank Mihalic
Century Rods

Blackfish are pound for pound one of the hardest fighting fish in the Mid-Atlantic, with some of the biggest bruisers coming from New Jersey waters. A dedicated togger and author, Frank has spent years perfecting the equipment he uses to target tog and he offers his proven tips on hunting down and landing the biggest tog in our region.

12:30 PM

SOUTH JERSEY SHEEPSHEAD

Capt. Dan Schafer
Insomniac Guide Service

As one of the most respected light tackle and flyfishing backwater guides in New Jersey, Capt. Dan Schafer has effectively revolutionized sheepshead fishing at the Jersey Shore. The Stone Harbor guide and lure designer (Bottom Sweeper jigs) is an expert at targeting New Jersey's more unusual seasonal residents such as sheepshead, spadefish and triggerfish in the shallow, back-bay waters.

2:00 PM

FISHING FOR DOORMAT FLUKE

Jenni Ackerman
The Fisherman Magazine

Summer brings a bounty of boat fishermen targeting summer flounder. Whether you're fishing the local wrecks or along the shallow flats there are plenty of tactics, tricks, and tools to use which can optimize your chances of scoring that personal best doormat. Start your first drift of the new season with Jenni as she shares a few secrets to summer flounder success.

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5:00 PM

FISHING DELAWARE'S REEF SITES

Capt. Jamar Campbell
Jay Sea II Charters

Delaware's artificial reef complex runs from Delaware Bay out along the Atlantic Coast, providing outstanding opportunities to catch summer flounder, black sea bass and tautog, easily accessible to South Jersey and Delaware crews alike. Join Capt. Jamar Campbell, a Delaware-based charter captain, for strategies and tactics to help you find more wreck fishing success.

6:00 PM

JIGGING & POPPING BLUEFIN TUNA

Capt. Jim Freda
Shore Catch Sportfishing

Author and 35-year charter captain at the Jersey Shore, Capt. Freda has specialized in all aspects of light tackle fishing—from topwater spin gear to jigging, fly-fishing, plugging, and live bait. Consistently finding and tackle bluefin, whether inshore, midrange or offshore, requires a strong understanding of multiple techniques. With optimism running high for the '26 bluefin season, this is the perfect chance to get your tuna game plan started.

FISHING SEMINARS

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

11:00 AM

USCG CAPTAIN'S LICENSE—MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS

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US Captains Training

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12:00 PM

JERSEY SHORE FLUKE

Capt. Scott Newhall
Time Out Charters

Having spent the last 20 years fishing every part of the Jersey Shore, Capt. Scott Newhall has learned a thing or two. With all those years on the water, primarily targeting fluke, one is almost guaranteed to learn something from Scott. His ability to put clients on the fish consistently speaks to his expertise. Join him as he shares his proven tips to help make your outings for fluke more productive.

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TROLLING MOTOR TACTICS

Capt. Brett Taylor
Reel Reaction Sportfishing

Trolling motor technology has revolutionized how many people fish for fluke, tautog and stripers at the Jersey Shore. Trolling motors paired with navigation electronics allow you to pinpoint your drift and put you on the exact spot you want to be, or, once you find the fish, put you back on that same drift. Trolling motors also allow you to fish in less-than-optimal conditions such as wind against the tide.

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