

OFFSHORE FISHING OPPORTUNITY

On June 14, Dave Newton and I will depart from Kentmorr Marina and transit to Wachapreague Marina. This will mark the start of a two week visit that will be used to fish offshore for tuna, dolphin, wahoo, and perhaps some billfish with the MSSA TUNAMENT as the centerpiece (June 20-22) of the trip.

During the non-tournament days, TOMCAT will fish as often as I have a crew of at least 3 anglers to go offshore, preferably 4 or 5 total onboard. This message is to invite members of the Annapolis Chapter of MSSA to take advantage of TOMCAT's availability in one of the premier fishing ports on the DELMARVA Peninsula and experience the excitement and challenges of finding, catching, and landing large fish that are also great to eat (not including the billfish).

The logistics for the stay in Wachapreague are pretty well pinned down. The boat will be at Wachapreague Marina in a slip just in front of the restaurant next to Dale Dirk's HEAT WAVE. We are delighted to be located at a convenient site with access to fuel, bait, fresh water, ice, and a fish cleaning station.

Lodging is arranged with room for 4-5 people to stay at Cash O'Rourke's guest house. The daily rate to stay in this modern facility is \$40. The phone number at the lodge is 757-787-9339.

The success of this trip, and the one we are planning in August around the MSSA MARVA Tournament, is going to depend largely on the response to this announcement. Weather can, and most likely will, play a major role in how many days we can get to the canyons. There are no guarantees that even in perfect weather we are going to find and catch fish. But I have done all I can to give us the best possible chance to be successful with the improvements to the boat (new diesel engines, a full Furuno NavNet v2 system with Sirius Weather module that provides the latest satellite sea surface temperature maps along with C-Map Bathy Charts of our region). Safety equipment includes an EPIRB and inflatable liferaft plus the distress feature on the new VHF radio. We will have a full complement of rods, lures, gaffs, and fish storage facilities onboard and thank Keith Neal of Teaser Sport Fishing for pre-positioning some top quality ballyhoo at his house waiting for us.

You don't need me to tell you that the cost to fish offshore has gone up dramatically with the rise in fuel prices. Diesel is well over \$4.00 per gallon and a day offshore typically will see TOMCAT consume about 90-100 gallons based on a 15 hour day (6 hours out and back at cruising speed + 8-9 hours of trolling). I expect that the crew, including me, will share the fuel costs and chip in for the consumables such as food, beverages and ice. Add in the lodging cost and you can come up with a fair estimate of what it is going to cost for a day. My guess is that for a typical 4 man crew, fuel will run \$125, food, drink and ice, \$25-\$35 per day per person and lodging \$40. This amounts to about \$200 per day for a canyon run and a chance to put some tuna and dolphin in your freezer for the summer. I've seen projections near \$600 for a day on a charter boat so you do the math.

Here's the hard part: I need to hear from you that are committed to get to Wachapreague (about 2.5 - 3 hr. drive from Annapolis) to fish on the following days:

June 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29

You need to let me know the day you plan to arrive and need lodging for that night and how many days you want to stay and fish. RESPONSES BY EMAIL PREFERRED to abbottgru@aol.com. Phone reservations can be made prior to June 13 by calling 443 871 5342 (cell).

The distribution of this message to members of the Annapolis MSSA Chapter is not meant to imply that only current, active members are welcome to fish with me during this period. Friends, relatives, and individuals who are interested in participating in an offshore trip are most welcome. Please respond as quickly as you can. I will construct a roster from your responses and let people know when any of these dates are fully subscribed with 5 people onboard. I look forward to fishing with you next month. May we enjoy fair winds and following seas and find fish on a regular basis.

Tight Lines,

Pete Abbott

