

## Take to the Seas on a Jersey Shore Party Boat



David Turton Photography

**Party boats at Broadway Basin and Ken's Landing Marina in Point Pleasant Beach.**

One of the quintessential Jersey Shore experiences, for both locals and visitors, is a fishing trip aboard one of the many party boats that call Ocean and Monmouth counties home. Whether it's a child's first time or an octogenarian's one hundredth, there's nothing like heading out to the open sea, eagerly awaiting that first tug on the line. With each fish that's caught comes another fish story, and with each hook that comes up empty, the next tale about "the big one that got away" is born.

"Party boats are run by veteran captains who know the local fishing scene well. The boats are generally large and stable with various amenities such as galleys, sundecks, and heated and air conditioned cabins,"



**A boy catches a fluke on the Norma K III.**

said Jeff Gutman, captain of the boat *Voyager* out of Point Pleasant Beach. "Party boats provide an economical way to spend a day out fishing, whether for a half, three-quarter, or full day," Gutman added.

Party boat fishing at the Jersey Shore dates back almost one hundred years, with the role of the family most pivotal. Consider the *Dorothy B* out of Atlantic Highlands. The original *Dorothy B* was purchased

by William Bradshaw in 1918, who named it after his daughter. During the Depression, he began taking people out fishing for fifty cents, and in turn, they'd catch enough fish to feed their family for a week. Thus party boat fishing began for the Bradshaw family who has kept a *Dorothy B* vessel on the seas ever since. The *Dorothy B* sailing today is the ninth in the fleet and is run by Captain Kevin Bradshaw, William's grandson.

Likewise, Brielle's Bogan family has deep roots in the fishing industry, operating deep sea fishing boats for over eighty years. The *Paramount* vessel moored today at Bogan's Basin is named after the family's original *Paramount*, a forty-eight-foot wooden boat that the Bogan family acquired in 1930. In 1934, the *Paramount* was one of the first boats to arrive at the *Morro Castle* disaster off Asbury Park, rescuing sixty-seven passengers and crew from the burning cruise ship.

Docked next to the *Paramount* is the *Jamaica II* with a story all her own. Built in 1962, the original *Jamaica II* sailed from Bogan's Basin for fifty-two years. One of its more memorable trips happened in February 2010, when fisherman Billy Watson of Landsdale, Pennsylvania

### Paramount, Brielle, NJ – circa 1932

*Party boat fishing at the Jersey Shore dates back almost one hundred years, with the role of the family most pivotal.*

*The original Paramount party boat was operated by Captain John Bogan Sr. (standing at the open helm above the cabin), Captain John Bogan Jr., and Captain James Bogan Sr.*

*The vessel was built at Brooklyn in 1930 and had a length of forty-eight feet with a sixteen-foot beam. A single 100 HP, 4-cylinder Fairbanks Morse diesel engine provided power to the propeller.*

*The gangster 'Dutch' Shultz originally owned the boat and operated her as a rumrunner during the Prohibition Era. The boat was "busted" on her very first smuggling run and later sold at government auction to the Bogan family in 1930.*

*The Paramount began her fishing career sailing from Bayonne until the Bogan family relocated to Brielle in 1931. In 1934, she responded to the Morro Castle disaster and rescued sixty-seven passengers from the ill-fated ship. The federal government seized her for coastal patrol use during World War II. She ended her most interesting fishing career in Bermuda.*



courtesy of Mike's Maritime Memorabilia

## The Typical Jersey Shore Catch

**Spring:** blackfish, striped bass, ling, sea bass, porgy, bluefish, flounder

**Summer:** striped bass, ling, sea bass, porgy, bluefish, bonito, false albacore, tuna, fluke

**Fall:** blackfish, striped bass, ling, sea bass, porgy, bluefish, bonito, false albacore, tuna

**Winter:** blackfish, striped bass, ling, porgy, cod

All illustrations by Diane Rome Peebles, except Red Hake: courtesy of NOAA.

**Blackfish (Tautog)**



**Bluefish**



**Bonito (Atlantic Bonito)**



**Cod (Atlantic Cod)**



**False Albacore (Little Tunny)**



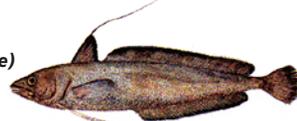
**Flounder (Winter Flounder)**



**Fluke (Summer Flounder)**



**Ling (Red Hake)**



**Porgy (Scup)**



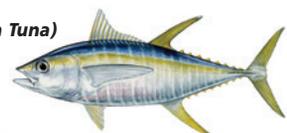
**Sea Bass (Black Sea Bass)**



**Striped Bass**



**Tuna (Yellowfin Tuna)**



caught the world record ling (12 lbs., 13 oz.) during a trip to the mud-hole fishing grounds. As the *Jamaica II* aged, it was time to upgrade the vessel. *The Canaveral Star II* party boat, with a more modern steel frame, came up for sale out of Port Canaveral, Florida and became the new *Jamaica II*. The streamlined, 125-foot steel-framed vessel sailed her first voyage out of Bogan's Basin in 2014. The original *Jamaica II* still sails the seas out of Brooklyn as the *Capt. Dave III*.



*The 125-foot Jamaica II sails from Brielle.*

The party boat business has seen a sharp decline in recent years as the fishing industry faces increased fishery management policies and regulations amidst a stagnant economy. Barnegat Light's Eble family was a casualty of the industry in 2015 when they called it quits after seventy years. Their legendary *Doris Mae IV* party boat is now the *Voyager* out of Fisherman's Supply on Channel Drive in Point Pleasant Beach.

New Jersey Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations for 2017 are expected to be stricter than ever when they are announced later this spring. Party boat captains and crews are scrambling to figure out how to make trips worthwhile amid sharp reductions in quotas. "We are still fighting to save our season. If the regulations are enacted, we plan to keep fishing as usual but may add in some combo trips to spice things up a bit," Gutman said.

With the new regulations and a bleak future, Captains say they will need the support of the public to survive now and for the next generation of party boat anglers.

—Jill Ocone

continued on page 12

## Party Boat Tips and Advice

*Before you head on down to the docks, here's some tips and advice.*

- Anglers do not need an individual fishing license when fishing on a party boat. However, when fishing on their own, anglers must register for free with the New Jersey Salt Water Recreational Registry at [www.nj.gov/dep/saltwaterregistry](http://www.nj.gov/dep/saltwaterregistry).
- In most instances, you can keep any fish that you catch as long as it meets National Marine Fisheries Service and New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife regulations. Anglers who choose to keep illegal fish risk strict fines and severe penalties. If you are unsure about whether the fish you just caught is regulation, ask a deck hand.
- While some boats do not require advanced reservations, it's always a good idea to call or check the boat's website or social media feed to secure your spot and to make sure the trip you plan on enjoying is not sold out.
- Likewise, check your boat's website and social media feed before leaving to make sure that the day's fishing trips have not been cancelled due to weather, fishery regulations, or for other reasons. Even though it might seem pleasant where you are, all it takes is a small windy system a few miles offshore to change the boat's plans.
- All posted rates and schedules are subject to change.
- Plan to arrive at least thirty to forty-five minutes before your boat is set to sail so that you have enough time to park, unload your gear, and get your perfect spot on the rail.
- As a rule of thumb, children age six and older are usually permitted on party boats (when accompanied by an adult) and have a separate rate. Check with your boat beforehand for minimum age requirements.
- All boats have both a strict alcohol policy and a zero tolerance drug policy. Guests 21 and older are limited to bringing four to six beers in cans only (no bottles). Hard alcohol is not permitted onboard any of the vessels.
- If you bring your own food and/or a cooler, make sure you do not bring glass bottles. Local lore and legend suggest that bananas on a fishing vessel are bad luck, so it's a good idea to leave your bananas at home.
- Other items you should bring: sunscreen, sunglasses, a few rags, rubber boots, rain gear, and an extra sweatshirt. Consider dressing in layers as it might be a pleasant day at your location, but thirty degrees cooler with a gusty wind on the water. If you do not have your own rod or tackle, most boats provide rentals and tackle for a nominal fee.
- Make sure you tip the crew as they rely on your generosity for their livelihood just like servers and bartenders.

## Party Boat Directory – Monmouth & Ocean Counties

All party boats listed are U.S. Coast Guard inspected and certified with a properly licensed captain on board. Call or check the boat's website or social media for up-to-date rates, sailing times, and fishing reports—as well as what they're fishing for—as each boat may vary.

### ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS

*Sailing from Atlantic Highlands Municipal Harbor, 2 Simon Lake Drive, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716. (732) 291-1670. Free parking.*

#### CAPT. RON'S FISHERMEN

Captain Ron Santee  
(732) 872-1925  
www.captainronsfishermen.com  
Facebook: facebook.com/Capt-Rons-Fishermen  
The Fisherman is a 72' fast, clean, fully equipped, custom built party vessel. Sailing daily April – Dec. 7:30 AM – 2:30 PM and 6:30 PM – 11:30 PM. Day: Adults: \$65.; Seniors: \$60.; Children 8-11: \$35. Night: Adult: \$60.; Seniors: \$55.; no children under 10 on night trips. Full galley with breakfast and lunch options. Corporate and private charters.

#### PROWLER V

Captains Scott Hilliard and Glenn Hilliard  
(732) 872-7530  
www.prowler5.com  
Email: captscott@prowler5.com  
Facebook: facebook.com/Prowler5fishing  
The Prowler V is a family owned and operated state of the art 80' all aluminum super cruiser party boat. Sailing daily year-round 7:30 AM – 2:30 PM and 3:30 PM – 9:00 PM. Adults: \$65., Seniors: \$60.; Juniors: \$40.; rod rentals: \$3.; bottom rigs: \$3.; special fluke rigs sinkers: \$.25 per oz. Full galley with breakfast and lunch options, heated hand rails, free bait, optional fish cleaning service. Corporate and private charters.

#### DOROTHY B

Captain Kevin Bradshaw  
(732) 616-8378  
www.dorothyb.com  
Email: captain.kevin@dorothyb.com  
Facebook: facebook.com/DorothyB.Fishing  
Dorothy B offers a family-friendly atmosphere and great access to some of the best spots in the New York Bight as well as Jersey's rocks and reefs. Adults: \$65.; Seniors: (62 and up): \$60.; Children under 12: \$35.; rod rentals: \$5. Free bait. Corporate and private charters.

#### ATLANTIC STAR

Captain Tom Buban  
(732) 291-5508  
www.atlanticstarfishing.com  
The Atlantic Star is a family owned and operated 73' Lydia Yacht with twin turbo diesel engines. Sailing daily April – Jan. Corporate and private charters.

#### SEA HUNTER

Captain Rob Semkewyc  
(732) 291-4468  
www.seahunter.info  
The Sea Hunter is a 70' twin diesel engine fishing vessel. Sailing daily April – May 7:30 AM – 2:30 PM; daily Memorial Day – Labor Day 8:00

AM – 12:30 PM and 1:30 PM – 6:00 PM; daily Sept. – Dec. 7:30 AM – 2:30 PM. Refreshments, tackle for sale. Corporate and private charters.

#### SEA TIGER II

Captain Hal Hagaman  
(732) 872-9231  
www.seatiger2.com  
Facebook: facebook.com/Sea-Tiger-II-156019344476890  
The Sea Tiger II is a 70' Lydia party fishing boat equipped with all of the finest electronics and fish finding devices available. Sailing daily March – mid-Oct. 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM and 1:30 PM – 6:00 PM. Adults: \$42.; Seniors (over 65): \$37.; Children under 12: \$27.; daily mid-Oct. – Jan. 7:30 AM – 2:30 PM. Adults: \$65.; Seniors (over 65): \$60.; Children under 12: \$35.; rod rentals: \$5. Bait supplied (except sandworms) and optional fish cleaning service.



#### SEA HAWK

Captain Mike Russo  
(732) 615-7531  
www.njseahawk.com  
The Sea Hawk 75' party boat sails for a variety of East Coast saltwater fish. Sailing daily April – Dec. Morning trips: Men: \$65.; Seniors: \$60.; Women and children 16 and under: \$35.; Evening fluke trips: Men: \$45.; Seniors: \$40.; Women and children 16 and under: \$30.; Evening striped bass and porgies: Men: \$50.; Seniors: \$45.; Women and children 16 and under: \$40.; rod rentals: \$5. (includes first rig and sinker); rigs: \$1. sinkers: 4-6 oz.: \$1., 8-12 oz.: \$1.50. Snack bar galley, heated hand rails, heated/air conditioned cabin, optional fish cleaning service. Corporate and private charters.



#### ANGLER

Captains George Bachert and Jeff Gutman  
(732) 872-0744  
www.partyboatangler.com  
Email: captaingorge@partyboatangler.com or captainjeff@partyboatangler.com  
The Angler is a 75' all-aluminum super cruiser specializing in bottom fishing and striper fishing. Sailing daily April – Dec. Adults: \$65.; Seniors: \$60.; Children 12 and under: \$35.; rod rental: \$5. Corporate and private charters.

### HIGHLANDS

*Sailing from Bahr's Landing Marina, 2 Bay Avenue, Highlands NJ 07732. Free parking.*

#### ELAINE B II

Captains Stan Zagleski & Stan Zagleski, Jr.  
(732) 541-2169  
www.elaineb2.com  
The Elaine-B II is a neat, clean professionally operated party fishing boat that has been family owned and operated since 1974. Sailing daily March – Dec. Rod rentals and optional fish cleaning service.

### BELMAR

*Sailing from Belmar Marina, 905 Highway 35, Belmar, NJ 07719. (732) 681-2266. Free parking.*

#### GOLDEN EAGLE

Captain Rich Falcone  
(732) 681-6144  
www.goldeneaglefishing.com  
Email: contact@goldeneaglefishing.com  
Facebook: facebook.com/goldeneagleparty-boat; Instagram: @belmargoldeneagle  
The Golden Eagle is built for speed and comfort, allowing for more fishing time during a comfortable relaxing day in the ocean. Sailing daily April – Dec. 7:30 AM – 3:00 PM. Adults: \$60.; Seniors: \$50.; Children under 14: \$40.; First responders: \$53.; rod rental: \$7.; May 27 – September 9: 4:30 PM – 8:30 PM. Adults: \$55.; Children under 14: \$35.; rod rental: \$5. (advance reservations required). 24 and 31 hour tuna trips in the fall. Full galley with breakfast, lunch, snacks, beverages, optional fish cleaning service. Corporate and private charters.



#### MISS BELMAR PRINCESS and ROYAL MISS BELMAR

Captain Alan Shinn  
(732) 681.6866 or (732) 681-0030  
www.missbelmar.com  
Email: missbelmar@aol.com  
Facebook: facebook.com/MissBelmarPrincess; Instagram: @MissBelmar  
Email: missbelmar@aol.com  
The Miss Belmar Princess and the Royal Miss Belmar pride themselves on being two of the best party boats along the Jersey Shore. Sailing daily April – Dec. Full galley, tackle for sale, optional fish cleaning service. Corporate and private charters.

#### BIG MOHAWK

Captain Chris Hueth  
(732) 974-9606  
www.bigmohawk.com  
Email: bigmohawk@optonline.net  
Facebook: facebook.com/BigMohawkParty-Boat; Instagram: @bigmohawkpartyboat  
The Big Mohawk is one of the Jersey Shore's most popular party boats. Sailing daily April - Feb. 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Adults: \$65.; Seniors: \$60. (Mon. - Fri. only); Children under 12: \$35.; rod rentals: \$5. Soft drinks and optional fish cleaning service. Corporate and private charters.



#### CAPTAIN CAL II

Captain Ron  
(732) 977-2020  
www.captaincal2.com  
Email: info@captaincal2.com  
Facebook: facebook.com/Captain-Cal-2-561664440625951; Instagram: @captaincal2  
The Captain Cal II is a family owned and operated 75' party boat. Sailing daily May - Nov. 7:30 AM – 2:30 PM and in June 3:30 PM – 10:30 PM (Sun., Tues., Thurs.): \$60. Tackle available for purchase. Rod rentals, military/senior/group/children discounts, optional fish cleaning service. Corporate and private charters.



## OCEAN EXPLORER

Captain Bobby Quinn  
(848) 565-0519  
www.oceanexplorerbelmar.com  
Email: oceanexplorerbelmar@hotmail.com  
Facebook: facebook.com/Ocean-Explorer-204711249565857

The 100' Ocean Explorer fishing vessel features spacious decks and a clean interior area with tables available. Sailing daily year-round. 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM. Adults: \$65.; Children: \$35.; rod rentals: \$7. Free bait, tackle for sale, senior/military/group discounts.

## BRIELLE

*Sailing from Bogan's Deep Sea Fishing Center, 800 Ashley Avenue, Brielle, NJ 08736. Free parking.*

## JAMAICA

Captain Howard Bogan  
(732) 528-5014  
www.bigjamaica.com  
Facebook: facebook.com/TheBigJamaica  
The 125' Jamaica is the largest and fastest party fishing boat. Sailing daily year-round. Snack bar, heated handrails, optional fish cleaning service available.

## JAMAICA II

Captain Joseph Bogan  
(732) 618-1241 or (732) 458-3188  
www.jamaicaii.com  
Facebook: facebook.com/J2fishing  
The 125' Jamaica is the largest and fastest party fishing boat which holds the world record for biggest ling. Sailing daily year-round. Climate controlled cabin, free bait, fish cleaning service available. Corporate and private charters.

## PARAMOUNT

Captains Francis Bogan and Dennis Bogan  
(732) 528-2117  
www.wreckmasters.com  
Email: Paramount@wreckmasters.com  
Facebook: facebook.com/Paramountfishing  
The 100' Paramount has provided the ultimate party boat fishing experience for nearly 80 years. Sailing daily year-round. Snack bar, heated handrails, rod rentals, optional fish cleaning service available.

## POINT PLEASANT BEACH

*Sailing from behind Spike's Seafood Restaurant, 415 Broadway, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742. Free parking.*

## QUEEN MARY

Captains Dave Ribak and John Brackett  
(732) 899-3766  
www.njqueenmary.com  
Email: info@njqueenmary.com  
Facebook: facebook.com/partyboatqueenmary  
Email: info@njqueenmary.com  
The legendary Queen Mary's crew has over 30 years of experience and has a solid reputation for providing an excellent fishing experience. Sailing daily April-Dec. 7:30 AM – 2:00 PM. Rod rentals: \$7. conventional, \$12. spinner. Free bait, t-shirts for sale, group discounts, optional fish cleaning service available.

## COCK ROBIN

Captain Jim O'Grady  
(732) 892-5083  
www.cockrobinfishing.com  
Email: captjim@cockrobin.com  
Facebook: facebook.com/CockRobinDeepSeaFishing  
Email: captjim@cockrobin.com  
The Cock Robin is a 78' Lydia with twin turbo charged engines and a crew with more than 25 years of experience. Sailing April-Dec. Free bait.

*Sailing from Fisherman's Supply, 69 Channel Drive, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742. Free parking.*

## VOYAGER

Captain Jeff Gutman  
(732) 295-3019  
www.voyagerfishing.com  
Email: info@voyagerfishing.com  
Facebook: facebook.com/voyager.fishing  
Email: info@voyagerfishing.com  
The Voyager is a 100' all aluminum super cruiser powered by three turbocharged diesel engines making her fast, spacious, and very comfortable for deep sea fishing. Sailing daily year-round. Full galley serving hot and cold food and beverages, climate controlled cabin, heated handrails, free bait, rod rentals, optional fish cleaning service available. Corporate and private charters.

*Sailing from Broadway Basin, 47 Broadway, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742. Free parking.*

## DAUNTLESS

Captain Bill Egarter and Son  
(732) 892-4298  
www.dauntlessfishing.com  
Email: captain@dauntlessfishing.com  
Facebook: facebook.com/DauntlessFishing  
The 85' Dauntless is family owned and operated with a friendly and professional captain and crew. Sailing daily year-round. 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM. Adults: \$65.; Seniors (over 62): \$60.; Children under 16: \$35.; rod rentals: \$6. Heated handrail, free hot coffee, galley with drinks and snacks, optional fish cleaning service available.

*Sailing from Ken's Landing Marina, 30 Broadway, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742. Free parking.*

## NORMA-K III

Captains Ken Keller and Matt Sosnowski  
(732) 899-8868, (732) 496-5383, and (732) 899-5491  
www.normakfishing.com  
Email: normak123@aol.com  
Facebook: facebook.com/norma.kiii  
The flagship of the Norma-K historical fleet, the 87.1' Norma-K III has three turbo caterpillar engines and is known for being one of the fastest party boats at the Jersey Shore. Sailing daily year-round. Heated handrails and cabin, full galley and snack bar, gift shop, free bait, rod rentals, optional fish cleaning service available.



*Sailing from 59 Inlet Drive, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742. Free parking.*

## GAMBLER

Captains Bob Bogan and Mike Bogan  
(732) 295-7569  
www.gamblerfishing.net  
Email: captbogan@aol.com or tara@gamblerfishing.net  
Facebook: facebook.com/TheGamblerDeep-SeaFishing  
The Gambler is a 90' super cruiser built for high speeds and high seas reaching speeds up to 30 knots. Sailing daily April - Jan. Heated handrails, climate controlled lounge, food galley, sun deck, free bait, rod rentals, optional fish cleaning service. Corporate and private charters.

## LONG BEACH ISLAND/ BARNEGAT LIGHT

*Sailing from 18th Street and Bayview Avenue, Barnegat Light, NJ 08006*

## MISS BARNEGAT LIGHT

Captain Les Elich  
(609) 494-2094  
www.missbarnegatlight.com  
Email: information@missbarnegatlight.com  
Facebook: facebook.com/Miss-Barnegat-Light-Deep-Sea-Fishing-166833273331170  
The Miss Barnegat Light is a 91' long, high speed catamaran and one of the fastest party boats on the East Coast. Sailing daily May – Dec. Rod rentals.

## CAROLYN ANN III

Captains Bill Hammarstrom and Will Hammarstrom  
(609) 693-4281  
www.carolynanniii.com  
Email: carolynanniii@yahoo.com  
Facebook: facebook.com/fishingCA3  
The family owned 85' Carolyn Ann was built in 1973 and has over 30 years of experience fishing the water around Barnegat Light. Sailing daily May - Dec. Full galley, free bait, rod rentals, optional fish cleaning service available. Corporate and private charters.

## LONG BEACH ISLAND/ BEACH HAVEN

*Sailing from Black Whale Dock, Center Street and the Bay, Beach Haven, NJ 08008. Free on-street parking.*

## MISS BEACH HAVEN

Captain Frank Camarda and Captain Brant Whittaker  
(609) 978-9951  
www.missbeachhaven.com  
Email: missbeachhaven@comcast.net  
Facebook: facebook.com/Miss-Beach-Haven-233821030086184  
The Miss Beach Haven is an 80' vessel built by Chesapeake Boats and equipped with state of the art electronics to ensure a safe trip for all. Sailing daily May – Nov. Rod rentals \$5. Free bait. Corporate and private charters.