

## **Many a Somers Point Fish Goes From Sea to Sauce With the Gregorys**

*By Michael Strauss Special to The New York Times*

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When Elmer Gregory is not at the helm of his 17 foot Boston whaler or his 28 foot sea skiff, there has to be a reason for it. Today, it was high winds and heavy seas.

There is a 225 to 30 knot northwester and small craft warnings were out for the second straight day. So Gregory ended up talking fish instead of playing them.

To make sure the day wasn't a total waste, Elmer, a World War II Marine paratrooper, spent the afternoon checking lines and oiling reels. He has heaps of each.

Gregory is a member of one of the most enthusiastic angling families this side of Hatteras. His older brother, Walter, and his father round out a well-known trio hereabouts. It is said that the family will try for anything willing to take a hook.

For the Gregory's, the season lasts 10 months. At least one of them manages to get to sea daily. When the weather turns cold and the water ices the rod tips, they go to Florida.

They operate a restaurant in this Atlantic County community, and it's not unusual to find flounder, stripers, kingfish and blues on the menu with the notation: "These fish are caught daily from our own boats."

The Gregory's also take their share of marlin and tuna, but these denizens never are served in the establishment. Almost always, the big game fish are tagged and returned. On occasion, one will be retained as a trophy.

In recent years, Elmer Gregory has concentrated on game fishing while Walter has shown a preference for inside angling. Walter predicts that stripers will be flooding the local inlet and river systems within a week.

Elmer, who released a marlin on Monday, says this season can be one of the biggest for these billfish hereabouts. He expects—and hopes that the invasion will continue until at least Labor Day.