

Hordes of haddock; hurry!

This will be a short column, however, as many of my informants are not in full swing yet. As this is a limited column, I should start with an “off-limit” discussion of limits.

As of May first, the limits on cod and haddock will be altered to favor the anglers. The cod limit will drop to twenty-two inches and the haddock limit will drop to nineteen inches. Further, there will not longer be a per-angler limit on the number of keeper haddock

I spoke with Ryan of Captain’s Parties on Plum Island. Ryan said that the offshore haddock fishing was “excellent” and “as good as it gets.” Last Sunday, they had multiple “double-headers”, with most of them being keepers. Haddock have been running to ten pounds, with the pool fish last week being a wolfish of seventeen pounds and a codfish of twenty pounds. Please give Chris or George Charos a call at 1-800-427-1333 to make your reservations.

Captain Rick LaPierre of the Yellow Bird wrote of last Saturday: “Pretty decent day of fishing today, not as good as yesterday, but still very good. The high hook had eighteen (haddock, mostly), the low 4, with everybody else somewhere in between. The May 12th BIG money trip is sold out. The next one will be June 2nd. There is also plenty of room available on the May 3rd marathon. The weather looks pretty good for the next few days, hope to see you soon.” You may call 1-888-234-3531 for Yellow Bird reservations.

I spoke with Martha Moulton of Surfland. Martha expects all hell to break loose very soon; she said that there were schools of baitfish around (herring and alewives) – and the bigger fish will soon follow. Martha reported “hold over” striped bass, some of them keepers, were being caught upriver (near Lawrence) on herring and on small “Skitter Pops.” Martha also said that shad were beginning to be caught near the Rocks Village Bridge, white perch “in the middle river”, and small pollock off the beach in the Hamptons.

As always, I thank Kay and Martha Moulton, Rick Vigneault and the local sport-fishing captains for their forecasts and news. If you have your own stories, please call me, John Altson, at 978-499-9972 with your news, recipes, and stories Better yet; send them by e-mail to altson@us.ibm.com. I’d love to hear from you. This column is available, along with other good fishing reports, on www.surfcaster.com.

Have a great weekend!