

There is a good mixed bag available for local fisherfolks.

George Charos of Captains Parties on Plum Island reported “very good” fishing. George said that there were fair numbers of cod, haddock, and pollock with some really large fish mixed in. George weighed in pollock “in the 30s” and quite a few large cod, including one 50-pounder. The bluefishing, George said, has been on and off with the tides. On the morning tides last week, they’d load up with bluefish – sometimes running out of bait – while the afternoon tides were slow. They had spotty striped bass fishing last week, mostly due to the weather. Please call 978-462-3141 for reservations.

Captain Rick LaPierre’s Yellow Bird report for September 4<sup>th</sup>: “It started off a little slow today, the tide had us going in circles all day long, causing a lot of tangles and frustrated anglers. To their credit, they hung tough, and started to catch some really large fish in really deep water. We had 4 cod from 35-40lbs, many in the teens and twenties, a bunch of pollock in the teens and twenties, and a few of those ‘big as a man’ hake. Oh yeh, Dave Call ended up catching his rod, which he said went over the side in a tangle full of pollock.” You may call 1-888-234-3531 for Yellow Bird reservations.

I was a guest of Joan and John Smith and the “Fenway Painters” on that same September 4<sup>th</sup>, the day of their annual charter on the Sundance II. We had calm seas and fair skies, but not too many fish. Captain Tom Brady worked hard to find the fish, but luck was not on our side. I had 6 cod, with only one small keeper. My friend Bob Kelleher won the pool and the annual “Fenway Painters’ Trophy” with a twenty-pound codfish. Atta boy, Bob!

Martha Moulton of Surfland on Plum Island said that the surf fishermen were having a blast with striped bass and bluefish on the beaches; the best times last week were 4:00 – 7:00 in the AM or the PM. In addition, night fishermen were picking up some nice-sized stripers while casting worms. Martha said that the boaters were catching small stripers and bluefish inside the river while getting larger bluefish and “football” tuna outside.

Paul Hogg from of Crossroads Bait and Tackle in Salisbury said that “billions” of football-sized tuna were in the waters leading up to Halibut Point. Paul cautioned that you need to know what you are doing; you cannot just drive your boat into the middle of the school and expect results. Some larger tuna are being caught, in addition – Tommy Clark landed a 600-pounder off of Jeffrey’s Ledge. Paul said that the tuna were around because of the abundance of baitfish, large schools of tinker mackerel. Paul added that large striped bass were still around – Dan LeBlanc picked up a 41-incher while fishing eels on Joppa Flats at night.

Peter Murray from Bridge Bait and Tackle in Salisbury had heard that a new school of 30-40 inch striped bass was around for anglers fishing the Salisbury side of the river. The bass were hitting herring, clams, and surface poppers. Like Paul Hogg, Peter suggested live eels on Joppa Flats at night.

Recipe time. This one had rave reviews:

#### **Monkfish kebobs**

Remove the membrane from the tail of the monkfish. Cut the meat off of the bone and then into 1.5-inch cubes. Wrap each cube in prosciutto and place on a skewer. Barbeque for 10-15 minutes on a high flame, turning once. Serve with a tomato-based salsa or a marinara sauce.

As always, I thank Kay and Martha Moulton, Rene Vigneault, Paul DeFrancisco, Paul Hogg, Kate Yeomans, 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 [jaltson@comcast.net](mailto:jaltson@comcast.net). I’d love to hear from you. This column is available, along with other good fishing reports, on <http://plumisland.surfcaster.com/> See the striper ornaments at [www.sportsornaments.com](http://www.sportsornaments.com).

Have a great weekend!