

The striped bass fishing is now in full stride...

We had a chance to see for ourselves last Sunday night. Oscar Boreth, Jim Barton and I had an evening charter with Paul Piraino who, once again, delivered the goods. While fishing the beginning of the outgoing tide at Joppa Flats and using cut herring as bait, we had lots of action. In our total catch of almost 40 schoolies was Oscar's 35" cow striper, the biggest fish Oscar had ever caught.

Rene Vigneault of Bridge Bait and Tackle in Salisbury had a "great week". Rene had weighed in quite a few striped bass from the 20's and up to almost 40 lbs. Rene said that some very large bass were being caught upriver, even as far as the Rocks Village Bridge. Rene suggested using mackerel or herring as bait for the striped bass. Want bluefish? Try outside the mouth of the river, suggested Rene.

"Pretty good fishing", reported Kay Moulton of SurfLand. Kay had weighed in quite a collection of respectably sized stripers. As was the case in the last report, Kay suggested that the boaters troll tubes and worms and that clams and worms would be the best bait in the surf. Kay said that the bluefish were making their presence known by biting through leaders, but that the blitz had not yet started. The mackerel have gone away and there are no reports of flounder.

And there is good fishing offshore too...

Rick LaPierre's Yellow Bird report of June 17: "Another great day of fishing, the haddock were biting and the weather couldn't have been better. We had a lull in the fishing around noon time for about an hour, but than it picked back up and we left them biting when we reeled up the lines to go home." You may call 1-888-234-3531 for Yellow Bird reservations.

George Charos of Captain's Parties had similar reports. George told me that the bottom fishing really picked up. While there were no "whale cod" recently caught, there were good numbers of cod, haddock, and pollock, with a sprinkling of cod in "the 20s and 30s". George is running an occasional afternoon striped bass trip, with some decent action but no keepers as of yet. The dogfish are coming in but "in small amounts". Please call 1-800-427-1333 for reservations.

As for my offshore news, I played hooky on June 13 and went out with Paul Piraino to try some local "humps" for cod and haddock. We had spectacular weather and caught quite a number of undersized cod and haddock. I did manage to get one large haddock and two good-sized ocean pout in the mix.

As always, I thank Kay and Martha Moulton, Rene Vigneault, Paul Hogg, 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. 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!