

### **Bigger bluefish come in to town...**

Bill Drelick gave me the report from Surfland on Plum Island. Bill said that 10-12 lb. bluefish were hitting poppers at the mouth of the river at the very beginning of the incoming tide. Bluefishing off of the beaches, he said, had slowed down. Additionally, Bill spoke of a few keeper stripers being weighed in – Ryan McCoy caught a 10.9 lb bass in his boat while Joe Mulligan caught a 12-pounder in the surf using clams as bait. Joe won the “Potpourri Prize” that same day, catching 2 flounder and some bluefish all on clams and all the same day!

Dave Provencher of Bridge Bait and Tackle in Salisbury again mentioned the bluefish at the mouth of the river. Bridge Bait and Tackle had weighed in a number of striped bass between 35 inches and 44 inches. As far as he knew, all of the large bass he mentioned had been caught on chunk herring while fishing the mouth of the river and at Joppa Flats. Dave mentioned that surfcasters with waders fishing Joppa in the late afternoon had had some success with larger stripers. Maybe the larger bass are making a return? As a final comment, Dave had heard of large bluefish and a few school tuna being caught “near the rock pile” over by Halibut Point.

George Charos of Captain’s Parties said that the large bluefish had moved in to spice up the fishing. He is still sailing for striped bass and getting a few, although the numbers are down from earlier in the year; there were keepers from 29” to 32” in the mix. George said that the moon tides were making things challenging offshore and that the dogfish had departed. Fishing for cod and haddock was “ok” with pool fish “in the 20s”, but certainly not as good as last year. Please call 1-800-427-1333 for reservations.

I spoke with Kevin Anderson, son of Tim Roland-Anderson of Tim’s Bait and Tackle in Salisbury. Kevin said that his dad would be out of rehab in the next week or two and that his speech was slowly returning. Keep up the good work, Tim – we’re praying for you! The bait shop remains open while Tim recovers and, in fact, reported a number of keeper stripers being weighed in, caught on herring. There were also, it seems, some nice flounder being caught off of the beach at the Plum Island Reservation.

The report for August 10<sup>th</sup>, from Captain Rick LaPierre of the Yellow Bird: Good catch today, it could have been much better, but tide conditions made it tough for the novice fisherman to control their lines. Catches ranged from 1-2 fish to over 30 for the better fisherman. Most fish caught were large pollock with a small amount of haddock and hake among them.” Please call 1-888-234-3531 for Yellow Bird reservations.

As always, I thank Kay and Martha Moulton, Rene Vigneault, Tim Roland-Anderson, 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 [www.surfcaster.com](http://www.surfcaster.com).

Have a great weekend!