

How's fishing? Depends on whom you ask...

How about starting with the good news? Dave Provencher of Bridge Bait and Tackle in Salisbury said "great week!" Dave said that they "pounded" big bluefish at the mouth of the river last Saturday night. The blues were out by the green cans as well as along the Plum Island beach. Most of the bluefish were caught trolling divers and mid-water plugs and, to spice this up, some striped bass were in the mix. Some charters were in the area using chunked herring and ran out of bait, having starting with 75 pounds. Dave also said that big bluefish were out at Rockport near "the rock pile" and near some pods of football-sized bluefin tuna. Dave was cautiously optimistic about a "great end of season."

The report from Tim's Bait and Tackle in Salisbury was also good. Tim Roland-Anderson was at up and walking around, slowly getting better after his stroke. Tim's shop had weighed in stripers of 33, 34, and 42 inches last week. Most of these stripers were caught near the mouth of the river, off the beach, and using herring as bait.

Bill Drelick out at Surfland on Plum Island was less optimistic. Billy said that fishing was "slow", with a few bass and bluefish having been caught off of and near the jetties. Billy said that there had been little action off of the Plum Island beaches. Billy, I'd guess, was giving a report from the vantage point of "a beach guy", because he did admit that the boats trolling out by the green cans had done well with bluefish 10-12 lbs.

George Charos of Captain's Parties said that the offshore fishing was improving, with the surging tides more of a problem in the recent past. The Captains Parties' pool fish were "in the 30s" with not as many big pollock, and some large hake. George said that the bluefishing had definitely picked up, and that they are still making Wednesday evening trips along with other half-day bluefishing trips. Please call 1-800-427-1333 for reservations.

The report for August 22nd, from Captain Rick LaPierre of the Yellow Bird: "Somebody said yesterday that Mars was as close to the Earth as it has been in many years. I'm not sure if it has anything to do with the way the tide has been running this month, but it has been a royal pain in the butt. Fish amounts rely heavily on angler participation, and how much effort is put into dealing with the tide. The big pollock and haddock are still 99% of the catch, and when you can get a line to them are biting quite well." 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. 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!