



April 21, 2009

By Ken Lamb of the Tackle Box, 301-863-8151

On the opening day of rockfish season, the fish are usually just about jumping into the boat, but not this year. Trollers found the going slow both Saturday and Sunday as high pressure and bright sunshine made the fish anorexic. The windy, rainy days leading up to the opening day found plenty of action for the scouters, but the abrupt change in weather made a big difference.

There were some exceptions as some big fish were found north of Parker's Creek early Saturday and the boats out of the Rod and Reel Dock did very well. But that cooled down by 10 AM, and everyone was just plunking along after that.

Most everyone found a few fish in all areas of the bay and the Potomac River, but overall it was the slowest opening day in many years.

Rockfish seem to feed and revel in cool wind and rain (the prediction for the weather this week), so fishing should improve soon.

There were some good catches of rockfish off the Chesapeake Bay shore regions of Cedar Point on the Naval Air Station where four big rockfish were checked in by surfcasters using bloodworms for bait.

We have not heard of any more croaker being caught since several catches from the lower Potomac River last week. The croaker fishing will improve as the water warms.



Cody Leach landed his 44 inch, 35 pound opening day rockfish near buoy 76.



Ed McIntosh caught this 41 inch rockfish trolling near Chesapeake Beach.



Brad Sorenson trolled between buoy 70 and 76 and caught this 41 incher.



Robert Cook and C.T. Elliot with a pair of rockfish from near Stewart's Pier in the Potomac.



C.T. Tsai and Chris Chotipatanafis headed from the shore Saturday morning and landed this two trophy rockfish at Hog Point in the mouth of the Patuxent.



Ray Dickens with an opening day rockfish from near Goose Creek (NAS) surf casting and bloodworms.



Luke Steelman trolled near the HSBuoy Sunday and caught this 42 inch



David and Mike La Fond found hungry rockfish at Cedar Point Sunday morning.



John Napier shows off some fine rockfish from opening day.



Bill Stone with his 48 inch, 39 pound rockfish from Cedar Point.



James Powell caught this 33 inch rockfish from the beach at Cedar Point near the T pier on the Naval Air Station.