



**April 5, 2010**

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

The fish are biting out at St. Mary's Lake as the warm weather has the crappie feeding on live minnows, night crawlers, and artificial lures like small grubs, shad darts, and jigs. Bluegill are mixed in with the crappie. The best technique is to cast a bobber out as far as possible with a #4 hook baited with a live minnow or a piece of night crawler. As the bobber is very slowly reeled back to shore, the crappie will strike. A jig or shad dart substituted for the hook sometimes adds luster to the presentation, and eliminates the need for split shot to hold the hook down.

Croaker have shown up in the nets at Point Lookout. Tommy Courtney caught two 16-inch croaker on Friday, April 2. Several flounder have been caught too. The alewives and herring are here.

Some big catfish have been caught off of Bushwood Wharf in Bushwood. The gang at Quades Store report catfish in good numbers and size off the public pier there. Fresh herring and alewives are the preferred bait. There are plenty of catfish up the Patuxent River at Chalk Point and under the Benedict Bridge. Huge blue cats (50 pounders are not uncommon) are caught in the Potomac River out of Mattawoman Creek. Enthusiasts are not deterred to drive to Lexington Park to load up on fresh herring and alewives for bait.

The rockfish season opens April 17, and the fish are here now. Explorers trolling both in the Bay and up the Potomac River have found plenty of big rockfish in excess of 40 inches, all catch and release. Jiggers at the Nuclear Power Plant have found big rockfish very willing for the catch and release season the past couple of weeks.



Lloyd and Rodney Carpenter with catch of crappie and bluegill from St. Mary's Lake on April 1, 2010.



Christopher Burke shows off two big blue catfish from the Potomac caught near Marshall Hall on April 5th. The fish weighed 46 and 43 pounds and were caught by Shauna and Chris Burke, Christopher's children. The catfish went for cut herring as bait.