



May 3, 2009

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

The rock fishing is red hot in both the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River as the spawning run is hitting full stride. The cold winter and spring delayed the bulk of the fish run by a couple of weeks. This past weekend seemed like the opening day we had expected two weeks ago when the fishing was uncharacteristically slow. The action will continue to be very good now until the weather gets consistently hot. The forecast of cool, rainy, windy weather for the next ten days will make the fish wild.

We had many fish brought in for citations (minimum 40 inches) from the Potomac River, the lower Chesapeake Bay from Point No Point to Point Lookout, and the northern regions from the HI buoy to the Gas Docks.

The big stripers struck white and green umbrellas, tandem rigs, and big mojos fished on dummy lines. The fish seem to be on the top or the bottom, but not much in the middle of the water column. The shallower regions in the 20 to 40 foot depths were best, especially in the Potomac River.

There were reports of good hardhead catches in the mouth of the Patuxent River and on the Chesapeake Bay shore of the Naval Air Station where surfcasters did very well at night on bloodworms and squid.

A 40 inch rockfish was reported caught on a cast Rattletrap lure in the mouth of Goose Creek just south of Cedar Point. The big fish was landed by a surfcaster after a fifteen minute battle on light tackle.

A few more spots have shown up, but their main migration will not begin until we have



Dawn Letts landed her 40 inch, 21 pound rockfish at the HI Buoy.



Ralph Ernst trolled up a 45 inch, 31 pound rockfish in the Potomac River.



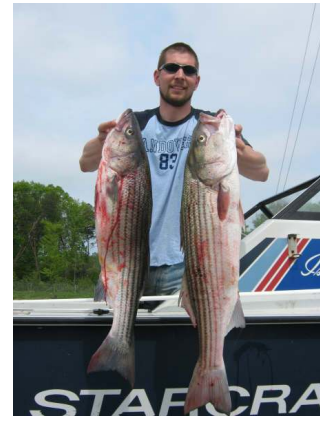
Pat Wathen and friend with rockfish caught near Stuart's Pier in the Potomac.



Camden Murphy with his 43 inch, 22 pound rockfish caught on a trolled umbrella rig in the Potomac River.



Patricia Taylor with her 45 inch, 31 pound rockfish from the Gas Docks.



David Hodack and friends caught eleven rockfish on Thursday including these two at Point No Point.



Charlie Carter with his Potomac River rockfish caught just outside the crab pots near the mouth of Herring Creek.



Jacob and Reed Walker used Green umbrellas to land these stripers in the Potomac River.



Jim Costanzo used a daisy chain near St. Clement's Island to catch this 43 inch, 31 pound rockfish.



Rich Hughes trolled a charreuxe umbrella near Buoy 3 in the Potomac River to catch this 50 inch, 44 pound rockfish.



Lucky Cleveland, Bill Davis, and Frank Hais with three big ones from Point Lookout. The one in the middle was 53 inches and weighed 45 pounds.