



May 3, 2010

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The rockfish frenzy continues unabated in the Bay and Potomac. Big fish are caught daily by trollers in the main stem of the Bay and Potomac (which is really hot). The most limiting factor is the weather, which can ruin a fishing trip when the wind starts howling.

We have had several stories recently of out-sized rockfish that have been hooked and brought close to the boat only to have been broken off, or have been too big for the net, or some last second bungle allowing the fish freedom. Stories of fish being the biggest ever seen or "at least five feet long" are not uncommon. A troller got one Friday near Cedar Point that was 54 inches and 50 pounds. We did not record this fish, but saw a photo of it.

The sudden temperature change from cold to hot over the weekend will adjust the movement and appetite of the post spawn rockfish as they begin to leave the Bay for the Atlantic. The trollers should continue to land big fish until the first of June. Some really skillful anglers catch big fish all year. On May 15, the limit changes to two rockfish per day with the minimum being 18 inches, and only one over 28 inches.

A 30 foot right whale was seen in the ship's channel this week.

Croaker are being caught now in the Patuxent up as far as Helen's Bar. There are white perch mixed with the croaker. An excellent catch was reported this week by a bottom fisherman using grass shrimp (he caught himself). The fishermen using bloodworms from the public fishing pier under the Solomons bridge are getting decent catches of hardhead in the evening. The Navy Recreation Pier in the Patuxent has croaker and perch caught most every night. The croaker should be available now at Hawk's Nest out of Cuckold's Creek.

We expect some flounder at the Three Legged anytime, but the trusty anglers that have tried so far have come home empty handed.



Eddie Roldan caught these croaker off the fishing pier at the boat ramp under the Solomon's bridge.



James Whiteside III and Jr. show off a 41 inch rockfish.



Michael Kline and Stephen Knott trolled up these big rockfish in the Potomac near buoy 7.



Dwayne Sullivan used a green umbrella rig near buoy 72 and caught this 45 inch, 32 pound rockfish.



William VanCleaf and Richard Martin trolled white umbrellas at the HI buoy.



Cy Granger landed this 42 inch, 24 pound rockfish on a parachute lure near buoy 52. His party caught six fish in a matter of minutes last Friday morning at daybreak.



Richard Davis with a great fish from Ragged Point in the Potomac.



The Potomac River produced this trophy rockfish near buoy 9 last Friday.



Tommy Masri and sister Kristen claimed this big striper from the Potomac near Stewart's Pier.



Michaela Young and her 42 inch rockfish from the Potomac.



Zaynah Masri (left) shows off her trophy rockfish from last Friday.



James Bates and his trophy rockfish.



Paul Rossi and Joe Baker with big stripers from Ragged Point in the Potomac that were partial to green umbrellas.



Mary Lou Tippet caught this 44 inch, 34 pound rockfish in the Potomac near Ragged Point.



Richard Tippet with another Ragged Point striper.



Larry Hubbard trolled with a white umbrella near buoy 70 in the Bay and was rewarded with this 40 incher.



John Travers, Joe Bonifant, James Stephens, and Mark Messick show off the biggest of the fish they caught last Saturday.



Raymond Clausen, William Davis, and Frank Haiss trolled umbrella rigs near Point Lookout and came home winners.



Ryan Smeltz used a green umbrella near buoy 9 in the Potomac and landed this 42 inch trophy striped bass.