



**June 1, 2010**

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

Croaker have invaded Southern Maryland waters in almost every nook and cranny. If you can see water, you are in the presence of croaker! The Potomac has croaker from Cornfield Harbor to the Nice Bridge.

The mouth of the Wicomico is loaded with these hardhead (local name). The folks at Quade's Store report plenty of croaker both from the pier and from the boats putting over a short jaunt to the oyster beds that seem to be carpeted with fish. There are plenty of big catfish there too.

All of the points and holes around Piney Point and St. George Island have croaker, and the shore fishermen are doing well on the rocks at the bridge; fishing here is best in the evening.

The Patuxent has steady catches of croaker from the fishing reef off the O'Club in the mouth of the river all the way up to Benedict. The drop off in front on Green Holly is loaded with fish. Hellen's Bar and the mouth of St. Leonard's Creek are hot. White perch are abundant too.

The white perch have moved into the creeks and will take bloodworms, grass shrimp, peeler or soft crab and small lures.

The rockfish are all up and down the rivers, which are now open for the two per day limit with an 18 inch minimum size. The rockfish will become more consistent on the full moon this week. The anglers pursuing rockfish last week had to work to find willing fish, but persistence paid off for most. The rockfish can be jigged up at Cedar Point Rip when the tide is not running too fast to get the lures down. The rockfish are most consistent out of the mouth of St. Jerome's Creek where breaking fish can be found from the lighthouse to the hotel on most evenings; these are good sized fish with few under 18 inches.

Night trips out to the Middle Grounds for croaker will begin this week. The charter boats will catch 300 or more depending on party sizes.

Bluefish are moving in slowly.

Some spot have been caught off the beaches and pier at Point Lookout. As soon as the spot increase to summertime levels (by mid-June), live lining for rockfish will be all the rage. The big 30 inch rockfish follow the spot schools as a mobile picnic.

There are still some big black drum around.

There are record numbers of cobia off the North Carolina coast, which are headed to the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. Maybe the huge quantity will bring some up to our area in more than the handful we seem to have been limited to in the past decade. In the 1960's, cobia were a staple here in the latter summer months.



Ken Lamb with his hands full of white perch from a creek off the Patuxent.



Steve Mapp with the winner of the Tackle Box's big croaker contest for May! An 18.25 inch beauty from Breton Bay in the Potomac.



Drew Youngston (right) and friend with croaker caught near Piney Point.



Mathew Barrett shows off a string of perch from Harper's Creek.



Leroy Wells with a fine croaker caught off the O'Club in the mouth of the Patuxent River.