



August 10, 2009

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

Bluefish, Spanish mackerel, and all manner of bottom fish have taken over as principle targets for fishermen in the heat of the summer. The rockfish are still here, but are not as active in severe heat. Their time is coming in a few short weeks when fall brings us a break in the weather.

The bluefish and Spanish mackerel are mixed at Cedar Point and in Cedar Point Hollow. They are selective in feeding habits and luck is an important factor in finding them willing to take trolled lures. The bluefish are hot for surgical eels and spoons using planers to keep the lures down. Occasional rockfish will show up. Fast moving tides and the cool of the early morning and late evening trigger activity.

Several captains are targeting big red drum for catch and release. The drum range from 20 to 50 pounds and they love big spoons (Tony 18 and 19's). The drum run in pods of 10 or 12 and when located they will take all lures offered. Having four or more of these big brutes on at the same time can make time go by very fast. Red drum are slot limited in Maryland. One a day can be kept between 18 and 27 inches. Ninety-nine percent of these fish, called by the names red drum, channel bass, redfish, puppy drum, rat reds (smaller sized), caught in Maryland have to be released as either too big or too small. Bottom fishermen on the Middle Grounds of the Bay are catching a few big ones mixed in with the croaker.

Croaker fishing in the bay is terrific at night. Catching a limit of 25 per person on an evening trip is simply a matter of spending the time and energy to stay until all the fish boxes are full.

Spot are plentiful in the Patuxent river, but are moving about and can be difficult to locate on some days. In the heat, look for them in the deep. The cool of daybreak find them in the shallows. Plenty of white perch are in the creeks and rivers.

Puppy drum are in the creeks eager to take Beetle Spins. They are, to the last, all under-sized. Eighteen inchers will be caught by the first of October off the beach at Point Lookout and some keepers could be in the creeks by then too.



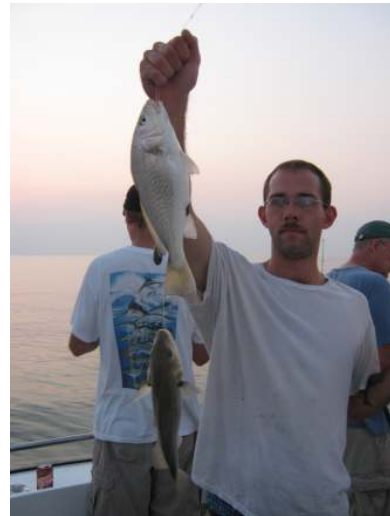
Brandon Wilson and William Moore caught lots of croaker near Aqualand in the Potomac.



David Monje and his dad caught plenty of perch at Harper's Creek (NAS) including this 12 and one half incher!



Dickie Wose landed this 35 inch, 22 pound red drum on Captain Greg Buckner's charter boat Miss Susie.



Joe Ball with a double header of croaker in the Bay near buoy 72.



Preston and Lee Davis show off spot and perch from the shoreline near Piney Point.



Rudy Tyrus leads the Big Croaker Contest for August with this 18 and one half inch fish.