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

The whole bay has erupted with Spanish mackerel. The trollers are using planers to drop small spoons (Clark and Drone) to catch these tasty tropical fish that invade the bay in late summer in great numbers and decent size. We have had plenty of reports of catches from all areas of the Bay and river mouths.

Blues are mixed in with the mackerel, and some rockfish too. Most of the time the fish are not breaking and the trolling is blind. There are exceptions when the fish get to chewing on a big school of bait and froth up the water. The mackerel love to jump clear out of the water and sail through the air in a rainbow leap.

The lower Bay area of the middle grounds is loaded with schools of big red drum from 25 to 50 pounds. If you want to target these brutes, pull big spoons such as Tony 18 and 19's. The vast majority of the drum are over the slot maximum of 27 inches, so carefully release them.

Croaker on the middle grounds at night are still as plentiful as ever and seem to be bigger this week than last. The range is now 15 to 20 inches. They will bite during the day, but the night time is the right time for croaker.

Spot are on the drop off at Green Holly in the Patuxent in 30 feet of water. The spot are out-sized, approaching 12 inches and a pound a piece. This is the best spot fishing in the Patuxent in recent years. Spot are reported in all areas of the lower Patuxent. There are plenty of croaker and white perch in both the Patuxent and Potomac.

Flounder are being caught in the Patuxent between marker number 5 and 3 on the edges of the drop offs and in the shallows. Cornfield Harbor has flounder, as do most of the usual locations in the Bay.

Rockfish are up the Patuxent on the shore line for lure casters and trollers. Some big rockfish up to 25 inches were hitting surface plugs amidst breaking blues and Spanish mackerel last week near Cove Point.



Charlie Carter with blues, Spanish mackerel, and rockfish trolled up near Cedar Point.



Daniel Monje caught this huge 13 and one-quarter inch white perch in Harper's Creek, NAS Patuxent River.



Gary Turner caught these Spanish mackerel and bluefish in the mouth of the Patuxent near the Three Legged (Number 3) marker.



Glen Adams shows off his 24 inch Spanish mackerel that took a yellow, gold Drone spoon at Buoy 72. Two big red drum (40 lbs. plus) were hooked up too, and released.



James Fenwick leads the August Big Croaker Contest with this 21 and one-quarter incher caught on the middle grounds fishing with Patt Garrek on the Miss Patt.



Natalie, Mike, and Dale Mumford, and Betty Jean Crink trolled small spoons in Cedar Point Hollow for these Spanish mackerel.



Paul and Jack Rosert caught blues and Spanish mackerel near Point No Point.