



## **September 1, 2009**

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

Fishing is outstanding.

The croaker, which are normally diminishing by now, are still wide open in the Bay on the Middle Grounds. They are getting bigger (14 to 17 inches), and turning golden as they feed up to go out to sea in the fall migration. Smaller croaker (8 to 12 inches) are in the rivers in the drop off and holes in great numbers mixed with spot.

Catfish are in the upper Patuxent in the stretch from Benedict to the Power Plant in huge quantity and size. Some fresh alewife and muscle will allow great catches of catfish measuring from 2 to 20 pounds everyday, all day.

Spot are in the Patuxent on St. Leonard's Bar and Helen's bar in abundance, and vary in size from the smaller bait size to jumbos. The Potomac has plenty of small spot and croaker almost everywhere.

Spanish mackerel are plentiful all up and down the ship's channel in the main stem of the bay. Big concentrations of Spanish mackerel and blues are in the mouth of the Patuxent at the Three Legged, Little Cove Point (Buoy 77), Cedar Point and Cedar Point Hollow. Rockfish can show up in this mix most anytime. The rockfish came up in a big thrash Saturday evening at 77 for a solid hour. Greg Buckner on the Miss Susie limited out in three trolling passes on these fish (a total of 16 rockfish) that averaged 22 inches.

The rockfish are in the shallows on moving tides in the Patuxent and will strike at surface plugs and bucktails. Rowena Shields and her husband landed three big rockfish on poppers Sunday morning as breaking fish erupted at the entrance to Pearson Creek (Hog Point) on the falling tide. The cool weather will make this fishing better everyday.

Buddy Shue has landed 22 channel bass (red fish, red drum) so far this season. All of these are over the 27 inch limit and have been carefully returned. Buddy trolls big Tony spoons in gold (sizes 17 and 18), and goes looking for them. Many bottom fishermen and trollers targeting croaker, mackerel and blues have hooked these big predators only to be broken off or have their reels spooled. It is not uncommon to have all lines go down at once with these fish as they travel in big schools and are very aggressive. Smaller reds are in the creeks taking lures and bait intended for perch. One fisherman landed several this week in Town Creek off the Patuxent including one that measured 18 inches (a keeper).

Flounder are still very abundant in Cornfield Harbor and in most other familiar locations.

Largemouth bass, bluegill and pickeral will wear out fishermen in St. Mary's Lake. The quantity of fish one can catch is only limited by the stamina of the fisherman.



Chris Mashek with a 6 pound bass from a private pond (fish returned to the wild).



Gary Turner with a catch from the Three Legged.



Paul Rossi and Gordon Tylosfy caught these Spanish mackerel and blues at Buoy 77.



Rowena Shields used top waterplugs to catch these rockfish from the shoreline at Hog Point (NAS) on Sunday morning.