



## **September 22, 2009**

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

The rockfish are hot right now in the shallows. Reports of rockfish striking surface plugs, bucktails, and spoons in the Potomac and Patuxent came in all week. The rock piles in the mouth of the St. Mary's River are holding plenty of hungry stripers averaging 18 to 25 inches, but there are some whoppers well over 30 inches in the mix. The same is true in the Patuxent where early morning anglers are getting rockfish everyday off the NAS shoreline at fishing point and Hog Island. Big fish have spooled some reels and broken lines of experienced fishermen tossing top water plugs in eighteen inches of water. Trollers using small bucktails have found rockfish at Point Patience, Myrtle Point, Sotterly and Half Pone Point in the Patuxent. Trollers in the Potomac are doing well at Blackistone Island and in Cornfield Harbor.

This is prime time for rockfish to come ashore feeding on high tides in the early and late daylight hours, and will stay good until a frost or two and clear water drive them into the deep. A fine Indian summer will keep the fishing truly great until Halloween.

The Bay is loaded with bluefish. The blues are all sizes from 10 inches to 6 pounds and are very aggressive. The fish are breaking most everyday and all day just about everywhere. You don't need a boat to catch them as shore fishermen use pieces of spot or alewives on wire snelled hooks and get plenty. There are rockfish mixed with the blues on occasion in the breaking fish in the Bay.

Breaking schools of rockfish are found daily at Little Cove Point, Cove Point, the Gas Docks, and at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant.

Croaker fishing in the Bay is still excellent, and the cooler weather is bringing in good fishing in the daylight hours. The croakers bit all day on several days last week near Buoy 72. The fish are all good sized now ranging from 15 to 18 inches and love squid, shrimp and bloodworms. Their favorite meal of fresh peeler crab is now pretty much gone, but the bait shops have plenty of frozen peelers from the summer to keep them happy.

Spot, white perch, and croaker are plentiful in the mouth of the Patuxent at the Three Legged Marker and off the O'Club.

White perch are in the creeks eager to hit tiny spinner baits. There are plenty of under-sized puppy drum too.

Bass fishing is excellent in Saint Mary's Lake.



Rowena Shields caught this 27 inch rockfish on a surface lure at Hog Point this week off the beach.



Chris Goulart used a green and gold popper to lure this 30 inch rockfish at Fishing Point NAS off the beach.