

Paul DeFrancisco of Bridge Bait and Tackle in Salisbury had the stories of the week. Paul said that he went out to pick up some mackerel on the 9th and found himself in a huge school literally bouncing off of the side of his boat. He was unable to catch any of them, however, so he went out for striped bass using herring as bait. He and his friends went on to catch “about 100” striper to 39”, including “dozens” of keepers. While striper fishing, they hooked a 22” fluke on an 11” strip of mackerel. (Now that’s a fluke!)

Paul went out again last Friday, landing two dozen striper averaging about 32”. Among the striper was a 19” fluke, caught on chunked herring. A friend of his, Paul Murray, went out last Saturday, fished the outgoing tide, and picked up “a couple dozen” striper with only one bass **not** being a keeper.

Paul Hogg, of Crossroads Bait & Tackle in Salisbury also said that he had a good week fishing near the river’s mouth and landing striper to 39” along with “left over” snapper blues. Paul said that the bass were gorging on sand eels and that the water was warming up, driving the dogfish from offshore to the local beaches. Paul did manage to get out on the 9th for tuna, hooking (but losing) the first tuna of the year. Call Paul at the shop (978-499-8999) for charters on his boat “Hogg Tide”.

Paul Piraino of Newburyport Charters wrote: “(Doing) very well in charters. John Reynolds went out on a pleasure trip last night. Best fishing of the year. We took home a 36, 34 and 32. Threw back many between 28 and 32. Lots of smaller ones too.” Paul Piraino may be reached at 617-803-6315 for charters.

Kay Moulton of SurfLand on Plum Island said that there are “fish around”, but that the fishing had slowed for the larger striped bass. Kay reported seeing bluefish to 11 lbs., however.

George Charos of Captains Parties on Plum Island is going after bluefish on the half-day boat, picking up mackerel from time to time. George told me that the offshore fishing on the full-day boat is decent for cod and haddock, with the pool fish being “in the twenties or low thirties”. George said that the dogfish had “lightened up” offshore. Please give Chris or George Charos a call at 1-800-427-1333 to make your reservations.

Captain Rick LaPierre of the Yellow Bird wrote (on July 10th): “Good fishing today, we started out in the deep water again and kept working east. By the end of the day we were 34 miles from the dock. We picked at the cod and haddock in the am. and slammed the big pollock the last hour of the trip.” Please call 1-888-234-3531 for Yellow Bird reservations.

Finally, Paul Weiner (of Go Fish in West Newbury) said that the fresh water fishing was slower but would improve when the weather cooled down. Paul Weiner may be contacted at 978-363-1867 for clinics in fly-fishing as well as for guided trips on the Ipswich River or to local ponds.

As always, I thank Kay and Martha Moulton, Paul and Mike Weiner, Paul Hogg, Rene Vigneault and the local sport-fishing captains for their forecasts and news. If you have your own stories, please call me, John Altson, at 978-499-9972 with your news, recipes, and stories Better yet; send them by e-mail to altson@us.ibm.com. I’d love to hear from you. This column is available, along with other good fishing reports, on www.surfcaster.com.

Have a great weekend!