

It's still pretty darn good fishing.

Rene at Bridge Bait and Tackle in Salisbury called it "awesome"; he had just weighed in a 41 pound, 47 inch striped bass – caught at the mouth of the river on fresh herring. Rene said the bluefish were "in and out", with some showing up on Joppa Flats where the striper fishing was "real good". Rene said that the mackerel fishing was "finicky" and that the flounder fishing (just outside and along the beach) was still very good.

Kay Moulton at SurfLand said that the fishing was slower and spottier, although "lots of fish" were still around. Kay, in addition, reported very good flounder fishing.

Richard from Crossroads Bait and Tackle in Salisbury said that the striper fishing was slower because of the bluefish being around. Paul Hogg had two recent charters where, trolling off of Breaking Rock, he had a good mix of schoolie bass, some keeper bass, and quite a few bluefish.

Ryan, from Captain's Parties on Plum Island told me that their fishing was "pretty good". Captains Parties is making afternoon trips for striped bass and getting a few keepers along with many schoolies – the bass trips are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday afternoons. The offshore trips, Ryan said, are still producing some haddock and a number of large codfish: Al Vovidio had a 20 pound cod and a 36 pound cod, while Ben Paquette landed a 43 pounder. Ryan said that the dogfish were "not too bad". Please give Chris or George Charos a call at 1-800-427-1333 to make your reservations.

Captain Rick of the Yellow Bird wrote about last Sunday's trip: "Absolutely beautiful day on the water today; there wasn't a ripple on the water the entire day. We had to soak em out today, and wait for the bite, and it paid off with a very nice flurry of fish from mid-day on. Young Lylie Warmsley (11 years old) took the pool with a twenty lb. pollock, I think she also had the second biggest fish on the boat. You guys better hope she doesn't come on tomorrow's big money marathon." You may call 1-888-234-3531 for Yellow Bird reservations.

As always, I thank Kay and Martha Moulton, Rene Vigneault, Paul DeFrancisco, Paul Hogg 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!