

Mike Hoska from SurfLand gave me the top story. Mike said that Stripers were “consistently” hitting at the beaches. Mike picked up a 30-incher last Friday and a friend of his, Stan, picked up a 36” bass on the same day. Mike said that the stripers were hitting Storm Lures (or clones) as well as white bucktails. Along with the stripers, Mike said, there were actually some good-sized shad caught off of the beaches – these were “stacked up” against the jetty.

Mike Hoska continued with the upriver picture – Plenty of shad around (try the Rocks Village Bridge) for those using ¼ounce jigs with a “flutter”. Some stripers were being caught in the river from the jetties on down (try clams and jigs) , but the best fishing seemed to be on the beaches. Biggest bass so far: a 42” striper upriver at the Lawrence Dam. Oh, yes: Mackerel are still 15 miles offshore.

Paul DeFrancisco of Bridge Bait and Tackle in Salisbury reiterated that the shad fishing at Rocks Village Bridge was “really good.” Want flounder? Paul said that they were being caught (yes, with some skate) just outside of the south jetty. Many of his patrons were gobbling up the seaworms, so to speak, to try for flounder.

Mike, from Crossroads Bait and Tackle in Salisbury saw three keeper striped bass last week: One was caught off Deer Island, one near the Captains Lady, and one in an “undetermined location.” Mike suggested using clams or herring as bait; he said the herring are just beginning to move upriver.

Captain Rick LaPierre of the Yellow Bird wrote of his Friday the 13th trip: “We ended up ok today, we worked hard all day trying to put fish in the boat. The sign of fish and bait on the ledge was incredible, unfortunately you can't catch sign. We did have a good early bite of cod and haddock, but it tailed as the day went on. High hook was Jimmy Warmesley with 22 keepers, and John Oulette won the pool with a 30lb cod.” You may call 1-888-234-3531 for Yellow Bird reservations.

Ryan, from Captains Fishing Parties said that the haddock fishing offshore was still good. Ryan said that, in addition, they were picking up a few wolffish in the 10-12 lb. and increasing numbers of cod to 15-16 lbs. Please give Chris or George Charos a call at 1-800-427-1333 to make your 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 jaltson@comcast.net. I'd love to hear from you. This column is available, along with other good fishing reports, on www.surfcaster.com. See the striper ornaments at www.sportsornaments.com.

Have a great weekend!