

If you thought last week's report was good, wait till you read this one!

There are, again, plenty of mackerel in the water – from Breaking Rocks out to Speckled Apron. The mackerel, in turn, are keeping the big codfish and striped bass around.

Paul Hogg, gave me his report. When I called last Sunday, he had just weighed in a huge 51", 46 pound striped bass – Steve Feinberg had caught the monster, along with 22 other keepers, at the mouth of the Merrimack while drifting live mackerel. Nick Lefterious picked up a 46", 30-pound bass fishing Joppa Flats with chunk mackerel. Right now, Paul said, mackerel might be the best all around bait. Paul added that there are many small schoolies at Joppa which you need to work around – if you are fishing eels, use the bigger ones. One of Paul's customers went out to the 30-fathom line, six miles out, and pulled in a 42 lb. codfish! "All the haddock you want" are close to shore, said Paul.

Paul DeFrancisco of Bridge Bait and Tackle in Salisbury said that the fishing was still "excellent." Last Saturday, Paul drifted in the mouth of the Merrimack on the incoming tide for one hour and, during this time, had non-stop action – only two bass were not keepers, the largest was 42". Paul suggested filleting the mackerel for bait, cutting the fillets into strips, then inserting the hook into the tail portion of the fillet (where there is skin, not meat).

Mike, of Surfland on Plum Island, said that he weighed in "lots of 20-pounders." Mike suggested using clams as bait while fishing the end of the outgoing tide along the beach or at the sand bar. Mike said that Sluggos were working well at Joppa Flats and added that the bluefish were beginning to make their presence known – chomping the leaders of the striper fishermen.

George Charos of Captains Parties said that fishing was "great." When I called for my report last Sunday, they were still cleaning fish at 6:30 PM! George reported a fair number of large cod - to 43 pounds, last week. George said that haddock were in close to shore (the closest he has seen in 40 years). "Mackerel fishing", he said, "is in full swing." Please give Chris or George Charos a call at 1-800-427-1333 to make your reservations.

Captain Rick LaPierre wrote his Yellow Bird report for June 10th: "We had another great day of fishing today. The weather was great and the fishing was better. The catch again was a nice mix of haddock, cod and pollock, with many of the cod in the teens and twenties." You may call 1-888-234-3531 for Yellow Bird reservations.

Kate Yeomans e-mailed last Sunday's Erica Lee report: "From Saturday's horror show, I had no intention of traveling to the Ledge right away. We stopped short in an area where some market-sized cod were caught, set our clams down and instantly boated a 28-pound cod. Not five minutes later, a 24-pounder was on my deck. Then, with early morning smiles, we headed out to the Ledge. We drifted all afternoon and caught about 40 fish in all, including more market cod, several 15-pound pollock, and large haddock. Hey, everybody's got to eat sometime!" Please call 978-463-9425 for your charter reservations.

As always, I thank Kay and Martha Moulton, Rene Vigneault, Paul DeFrancisco, Paul Hogg, Kate Yeomans, 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](mailto:jaltson@comcast.net). I'd love to hear from you. This column is available, along with other good fishing reports, on [www.surfcaster.com](http://www.surfcaster.com). See the striper ornaments at [www.sportsornaments.com](http://www.sportsornaments.com).

Have a great weekend!