

**“I love you, pogie”**, a great song from “Pogie and Bass”...

Indeed the (6” – 8”) pogies are in for snagging and for use in catching big striped bass. Kay Moulton of SurfLand on Plum Island told me of a 53”, 41-pound striper. Steve Smith caught it while drifting a pogie in the river. Kay said that many small bass were also around in the river with a few “up front”. Kay advised that you’d need a boat to get to the bluefish off of Plum Island.

Paul Hogg of Crossroads Bait and Tackle in Salisbury was also enthusiastic about the pogies; he thinks that they might compensate for the scarcity of herring. Paul said that you needed to “weed through” the many schoolie stripers to get to the big ones; he suggested trying offshore in deeper water or using live eels at Joppa Flats at night. Paul concluded by suggesting deep trolling for blues along Plum Island or at Halibut Point.

Paul DeFrancisco of Bridge Bait and Tackle in Salisbury landed a huge 52-pound striper while fishing tinker mackerel “at an undisclosed location.” Paul caught the beast, along with three other large keepers, while drifting tinker mackerel on the surface. Paul went on to tell me about “great bluefishing” from the MR Buoy down to High Sandy (Plum Island).

Chris Charos of Captains Parties reported good bluefishing and “excellent” striper fishing. Chris said that the blues were “in and out” and that he was getting lots of action with schoolie bass. The boats were getting as many as 7-10 striped bass keepers per trip – the largest being 47 inches. Offshore-wise, Chris said that they were getting large pollock, to 27 pounds interspersed with some nice codfish. Please call 978-462-3141 for reservations.

Captain Rick LaPierre’s Yellow Bird report follows: “Last couple of days have been pretty good fishing, we have been drifting around Jeffries picking away at the haddock and pollock, not a kill, but very steady fishing. Today was much slower, probably due to the fact that we were unable to drift. There are small bunches of fish all across the ledge and drifting has been the most productive.” You may call 1-888-234-3531 for Yellow Bird reservations.

Kate Yeomans e-mailed the Erica Lee report for July 23rd: “Ahhh, full moon fishing at its best! On anchor, first thing in the morning, the tide was ripping to the north, sending the fishing lines screaming into the anchor and off the bottom. Our 13-person charter could barely feel the bottom, let alone any groundfish crazy enough to try and swim against that! A porbeagle shark, on the jig, was the only catch. So I stowed the anchor for the day and motor drifted against the wind-- and the lines were straight up and down. We got into the large pollock that have been patrolling the edge of the ledge, along with haddock, a few cod, and some cusk-- forty fish in all. Thank God that only happens once a month!” Please call 978-463-9425 for your charter reservations.

I wrote last week that I’d given up on flounder. Here is what Dr. Lloyd Fielder reported: “... flounder fished for about an hour and a half (had to get to a family BBQ at 1). Got 4 keepers, including a 2-lb.7oz fish (17.5 inches). “ Wonder where they went...”

Finally, our fluking expedition... Oscar Boreth, Bob Kelleher and I went out last Sunday on Bob’s boat attempting to drift for fluke at a mid-day. Can you imagine what that was like, trying to drift on the edge of the channel on a busy afternoon? We caught: 4 small stripers, one lobster buoy, two “no wake zone” buoys, one channel marker, and no fluke. Bob entertained us by yelling obscenities at the yahoos who were ignoring the (new) no-wake zone.

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!