

Spots And Kings Biting Well



JAMES EARL LOWERY of Maxton, like others at the Holden Beach Fishing Pier Saturday morning, found the fishing to his liking, with both spots and whiting biting.

BY DAWN ELLEN BOYD
This past weekend was good news for fishing buffs all over the South Brunswick Islands. After a week of catching little or nothing, fishermen were finally rewarded for their patience. Outside, the kings were biting. In the surf and inlets large fall spots were being reeled in at an excellent rate.

Some fishermen are attributing the good catches to Hurricane Gloria; others claim it is because of the full moon. In any case, many agree it is the best fishing of the 1985 season thus far.

Here are the reports from area piers and marinas:

Holden Beach Pier

Holden Beach Pier representative Gil Bass said this was a "real good weekend."

Fishing has picked up off the pier considerably, and people are catching more flounder, spots and whiting.

Tony Lyle even caught a 51 pound amberjack off the pier this past week.

Bass thinks the improved fishing could be in part because of Hurricane Gloria. "It cooled the water off somewhat. Before the storm we weren't catching anything, but we're catching a lot now."

Ocean Isle Pier

"We are catching spots, flounder and blues same as usual, but more of it," said Curtis Williamson of the Ocean Isle Pier.

Williamson reported that fishing has picked up since the storm. Saturday and Sunday were both excellent days.

"It was the best weekend we've had this year," said Williamson.

Sunset Beach Pier

King mackerel were the talk of the pier at Sunset Beach.

Johnny Hill reported that 18 kings were caught between Sept. 25 and 29. They ranged in weight from 12 pounds to 32 pounds.

Two local fishermen caught some of the kings. Dick Tarleton of Seaside reeled in two, and Bill Turner of Sea Village development caught two, the largest weighing 32 pounds.

Fishermen were also catching flounder, spot-tails, and above average size yellow-bellied spots.

Hill said, "Fishing has improved since the storm quite a bit."

Inlet View Marina
"Things are looking better," said Joe Furr of Inlet View Marina. "This weekend was pretty good."

Wade Byrd of Lumberton, Bob Nebower of Winston-Salem and Joe Buie of welcome each caught two kings apiece.

"Everybody's trying to find the kings for the Southport Tournament," said Furr.

Furr is predicting the fishing will get even better soon. "I believe the storm will improve fishing some. We're supposed to have a cold front coming in soon—I believe that will help too."

Hughes' Marina

Spots, croakers and puppy drum were the main inside catches according to Allison Hughes of Hughes' Marina.

Outside, a few kings and Spanish were brought in.

Hughes doesn't believe the storm improved fishing. "Everybody thought it would, but it flopped. Not a lot was caught."

Tripp's Fishing Center

Large fall spots are big news, according to Joyce Land of Tripp's Fishing Center at Shallotte Point.

George Sellers and his family of Shallotte Point caught around 70 pounds of spots using hook and line on Sunday.

People were also catching flounder and speckled trout in the inlets.

Land also reported that one boat came in Saturday morning with approximately 100 pounds of mullet caught in a gill net.

Jim Suggs of Sunset Beach and Tommy Norris and John Giles, both of Whiteville, had a good weekend of outside fishing. They brought in an 11-pound king, two Spanish, five trout, and about 50 pounds of spots.

Land said, "The full moon and the storm had a little to do with the fishing. The last full moon in September is usually when the spots start showing up."

Captain Pete's

"It's the best spot fishing of the season," said Jesse Hayes of Captain Pete's.

In the surf fishermen were catching whiting and blues as well.

Hayes reported that as soon as boats could go out after the storm people started bringing in king mackerel, the largest being in the 20-pound range.

"These kings are a real good promise for the sport fisherman," said Hayes.

Ocean Isle Marina

DeCarol Williamson took first place in a local king tournament sponsored by Ocean Isle Marina.

The winning fish weighed almost 20 pounds.

"It was just a little friendly competition," said George Crisp of Ocean Isle Marina.

According to Crisp, everybody was catching some fish this past weekend.

The kings were offshore, and net fishermen were doing very well too.

In the surf, people were reeling in blues.

"Fishing seems to be on the up," said Crisp.



Sifting For Bait

A wire basket came in handy for David Allman and Vickie Wise of Mount Holly Saturday at a local beach as they sifted for soft-shelled mole crabs to use for fishing bait. "I hear they're catching some good-sized whiting with them," said Allman.

Towns Regulate Net Fishing

BY SUSAN USHER

Fall fishing isn't limited to hook and line at local beaches.

Fishermen who seek quantities of fish rather than the sport of the quest often turn to net fishing.

While allowed on all three beaches in the South Brunswick Islands, the rules and conditions governing net fishing vary considerably from beach to beach, with the most rigid rules governing sport and commercial net fishermen found at Holden Beach.

Vehicles may not be driven onto the strand, even to load or unload gear, at Ocean Isle or Sunset beaches, report those communities' respective town clerks, Alberta Tatum and Linda Fluegel.

Fishermen who are willing to hand-carry their gear are welcome to fish on either beach as long as they obey other local and state ordinances.

Fishermen are allowed to drive their vehicles onto the strand at at Holden Beach, said Gloria Buffalo but only to unload and then load gear. Vehicles must be parked away from the strand in between these tasks. If the vehicle is used solely for this purpose a strand vehicle permit is not re-

quired, she said.

But numerous other regulations must also be followed, including a ban on net fishing from Jan. 1 until after Labor Day.

Those using gill or haul seine nets on the beach must have written permission from the owner of any private property used for storage, anchorage or any other purpose.

They also must:

- Not leave nets unattended for more than 24 hours, except in inclement weather that prevents pulling of the net for removal of the catch.

- Anchor lines along their length, using restrainers just below the high water mark, so as to keep from posing a tripping hazard for pedestrians;

- Attach reflectors to each post or restraint so it is readily visible to pedestrians and shore patrol;

- Remove fish or crab remains and other debris from the beach, leaving it in a "clean and sanitary condition."

More information on regulations pertaining to fishing in coastal waters is available from the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries in Morehead City.

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This Week's Tide Table

Day/Date	OCTOBER HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Thursday 3	11:15	11:27	5:04	5:36
Friday 4	11:54	—	5:42	6:18
Saturday 5	12:03	12:40	6:23	7:09
Sunday 6	12:53	1:35	7:12	8:08
Monday 7	1:54	2:35	8:12	9:11
Tuesday 8	3:00	3:38	9:17	10:13
Wednesday 9	4:08	4:40	10:22	11:11

ADJUSTMENTS
SHALLOTTE INLET (Bowen Point)—add 10 min. high tide, add 28 min. low tide.
TURBS INLET—subtract 19 min. high tide, subtract 12 min. low tide.
LOCKWOOD FOLLY—subtract 29 min. high tide, subtract 12 min. low tide.
LITTLE RIVER—add 3 min. low tide.
BALD HEAD ISLAND—subtract 17 min. high tide, subtract 11 min. low tide.

Tourney Purse Is To Double

The purse for the Arthur Smith King Mackerel Tournament at Little River, S.C., will be doubled next year following cancellation of this year's event because of Hurricane Gloria.

Tournament officials said Friday that rough seas and high winds made conditions too dangerous for boats to go out.

The event was scheduled for Thursday and Friday fishing, with an awards day Saturday. A total purse of \$270,000 was offered.

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