

Fishing – Winter Tips, Memories and a Month Off

By Richard Seale

It is hard to predict what fishing in December might be like when you're trying to make an early deadline, but perhaps it will be O.K. if recent fishing history is an indicator. The last part of October was especially good, with calm winds and seas and beautiful sunshine. The species of fish that were supposed to be in our waters were present in the sounds and in the inlets.

John Furman, Bill Steenland, Tom Graczewski, Danny Griffis and several anonymous fishermen reported some good to great catches of blues, grey trout, speckled trout, legal flounder, spots, and "above slot" puppy (red) drum. Tommy landed a 33-inch drum on light tackle with special fishing memory. The fishing sites ranged from Bogue Inlet channels, to surfcasting, to Bogue Sound holes, Turning Basin holes, and the rock jetty at Cape Lookout.

All in all, it was a time to have fun, enjoy the water and weather, and catch fish. The trout in the Turning Basin seemed attracted to jigged Sting Silvers with a small piece of "Gulp" bloodworm or real shrimp on the treble. Castmaster Lures were very effective on the surf blues and inlet drum. And as suggested in the last article, the mullet set nets in the ocean jammed the fish up and made for some fast and furious catching, as opposed to fishing! I hope you got to see the huge numbers of fish splashing around the net which was set right in front of PIKSCO's Memorial Park the last week of October.

So after all this "should have been here yesterday stuff," what is there to do in December? That is a hard call. The first week of November has seen a long nor'easter and water temperatures have started down. So here are some "guesses." False Albacore should be in the ocean if you can find a calm day. These tuna are a hoot to catch on light tackle or a flyrod. Most folks catch and release these fish, but they can be made quite edible by "bleeding" them when

caught. This procedure calls for cutting the head off right away and hanging the carcass by the tail over the side to drain the blood out. Once you are home, cut the fish into steaks or filets, clean well with water and soak overnight in milk before oven or BBQ grilling. These procedures make the meat almost as good as yellowfin tuna meat. You can also steam the meat into cooked tuna and make a good tuna salad meat out of it. If you do freeze any of this fish's meat, first soak it overnight in a bowl or zip-lock bag of milk, drain off that milk, wash the meat off in water, and add fresh milk into the bagged meat and freeze. I would suggest using the meat within three months.

Of course oyster season is open and there are many three-inch legal Bogue Sound oysters to be harvested. It is hard to beat a pot of steam opened oysters with warm butter or cocktail sauce into which the meats can be dipped! The fall "Wife and Knife" parties we celebrated oyster season with in Beaufort County, N.C. are wonderful memories. The cold evening air was filled with steam and the smell of steamed oysters. Plywood sheets on sawhorses were stacked with frequently replenished piles of steamed oysters. The scene was one of happy faces and voices of men and women, all toting oyster knives, going from pile to pile of steaming Rose Bay oysters. Flickering lantern lights or temporary bare bulb electric lights lit the scene and the party was often under a big tent. Yes, there really are some "good old days." A similar event here in Carteret County is a mullet BBQ.

Unless something highly unexpected happens, I think I will skip the January *Shoreline*. In the dead of winter, good fishing lies are hard to come by. But if you hear a good one, please let me know so we can share that one, too. Happy Holidays and remember the clams and oysters do not migrate!

At the Library

The library has a lively assortment of books on crafting and cooking to help you prepare for the holidays. In the crafting section, check out *Better Homes & Gardens Holiday Decorations You Can Make*, *Soft Crafts for Special Occasions* by Stephanie Wargo, and *Crafts & Keepsakes for the Holidays* by Martha Stewart. In the cooking section, check out *Entertaining with Regis and Kathie Lee* and *The Diabetes Holiday Cookbook* by Carolyn Leontes, Debra Mithcell, and Kenneth Weicker.

Join us for Preschool Storytime held each Thursday at 10 a.m. and every other Wednesday at 10 a.m. Wednesday, December 3 and Thursday, December 4 will be featuring "Ho, Ho, Ho!" Thursday December 11 will be "Santa Lucia." Wednesday, December 17 and Thursday, December 18 is "Happy Holidays!" Preschool Storytime is for ages 3-5 years old. Programs are with Ms. Brita.

In December, the Art Gallery at the Bogue Banks Public Library will feature the very colorful abstract acrylic paintings of Edgecombe County, North Carolina native Teddy Wemberley. After living in such diverse places as Bermuda, Alaska, and California, Teddy returned to Pine Knoll Shores where she has worked for many years in real estate and has been an active volunteer

EMT. Teddy's technique is to paint the background and let God guide her hand and brush on the canvas. She calls her paintings "Conversation Art." Everyone sees something different than the names given each piece. Enjoy and let your mind and eyes see something interesting for you.

The display case will feature the works of three talented crafters. Jordan and Paul White will exhibit their beautiful etched-glass pieces and Mandy Copp-Wilson will show her wire and glass "sun catchers" and decorative wine stoppers. Plan to join our gallery artists at the public reception on Friday December 12 from 3 to 4 p.m. in the Art Gallery.

Want to learn more about the latest bestsellers? The library offers NoveList, a comprehensive online service through NC Live. NoveList is a fiction database that provides subject heading access, reviews, annotations and much more for more than 135,000 fiction titles.

The library will be closed from December 24 through December 26 for the Christmas holiday. It will reopen on December 27. The library's regular hours are Monday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information you can call the library at 247-4660 or go online to <http://carteret.cpclib.org>.

Christmas Eve Luminaria

By Yvette Bannen

The Pine Knoll Shores Garden Club is preparing for its traditional Luminaria display on Christmas Eve. This year's display will be dedicated to the PKS World War II veterans and the PKS widows of World War II veterans. Luminaria will be placed on Mimosa Boulevard down to and including Brock Basin as well as on Beechwood Drive down to and including Hall Haven.

The garden club invites residents to join the display. Kits, consisting of eight candles and bags, will be on sale for \$5 at town hall after the Christmas parade

on December 6 until December 22.

Donations are appreciated to help pay for the candles and they can be in the form of memorials. Donations can be dropped off at town hall for the garden club. Volunteers are always welcome to help set out the Luminaria on December 24, to light the candles at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve, and pick them up on Christmas morning. This is a fun activity to share with visiting family and friends. Call Mary Hudak at 247-2168 or Yvette Bannen at 240-1528 if you are able to lend a helping hand.