

Brighter Outlook for Disciples of Isaac Walton

Favorable Weather Conditions Promise Better Sport for Hook and Line Artists As Time Draws Nigh to Get Rod and Reel From Camphor Bag. National Campaign for Protection and Conservation of Fish and Game Will Improve Angling Pastime.

(By H. WILLARD SHANER)
With the unusual spring-like weather during the past month and what is known to the seafaring man as an "open winter," followers of Isaac Walton are anticipating an early opening of the fishing season this year.
Up-to-date the ocean water temperature has probably established a new high record and this points well toward an early migration from Southern waters of salt water game fishes.
Under normal conditions probably the first edible fish to nibble at the bait of the anglers is the flounder which usually makes its appearance early in April digging itself out of a muddy winter bed. They are caught in the backwaters.

The croaker follows shortly after the flounder, usually migrates from Southern waters during the new moon of April. This school of "finny tribe" is called the "advance guard." It is comprised of hardy fish and falls easy prey to the net, for the reason that the fish have a slight film over their eyes and swim blindly into the fish traps.
The second run, known as the "main body" of croakers, inhabit these waters during the new moon period of May and at the same time the king fish and first run of weak fish usually arrive.

During the month of June the entire group of visiting fishes, numbering more than 100 different species, will have arrived here and under normal weather and particularly water temperature condition the majority of fishes prevalent in these waters spawn during the month of June.
Surf anglers and salt water fishermen recall with sad misgivings the rather barren fishing season last year which scientists attributed largely to the unusual low water temperatures which prevailed early in July and throughout the entire summer and early fall months.

Most of the fishes that inhabit our coastal waters thrive in water temperatures at 68 degrees Fahrenheit and upward, particularly the weak fish, croakers, king fish and kindred species. Last year coastal water temperatures reached an unusual low point of 57 degrees and rarely exceeded 65 degrees.

This condition has been explained as being due to the off-shore wind that prevailed last year blowing the surface water out to sea and letting the cold water in shoreward. The calendar was made for mankind and the fish doesn't know whether it is June or December. What governs their activities is the temperature of the water and the supply of live bait and marine vegetation.

This theory was perhaps substantiated by the unusual number of striped bass caught along the Jersey coast last year from Seabright to Cape May. The striped bass being known as a "cold water" fish and apparently seek water temperatures not exceeding 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

The National Sportsmen's Association, especially fishing clubs, have made considerable progress during the past year in their campaign seeking more protective Federal and State laws for the protection and betterment of both salt and fresh water game fishes.

A determined drive of a national character against water pollution is being successfully waged by the angler. Closer cooperation and a better understanding between the commercial and the sport angler for the conservation of fish has been established.

Many State laws have been passed in all parts of the country for the purpose of conservation of life in general have been enacted. A Federal anti-pollution law which makes it unlawful to pollute coastal waters through oil and oil refuse has been passed.

This Federal law, however, made no provision against the pollution of inland waters and streams through industrial waste and sewerage and it is likely that a Federal law will be sought to combat with this condition which has polluted more than 85 per cent. of the lakes, rivers and streams of this country and is a serious menace to health and is destroying fowls and fishes in vast numbers.

Sport fishermen have apparently learned their lesson and have ceased the senseless clamor in seeking State laws for the prohibition of pound-net fishing. What is really needed is a sensible regulation between the commercial fishermen and the sportsmen.

There are 156 pound-nets licensed in this State, one hundred and fourteen of these nets being located in the Atlantic Ocean from Seabright to Cape May. These nets present an almost unbroken trap along the entire ocean front of the South Jersey resorts and make it exceedingly difficult for fishes to make their way into the bays which they seek during the spawning period.

Could and Southern

MUD HOLE!!!

GREETINGS

FROM

THE MUD HOLE GANG

JOSEPH H. ROBERTS
NORVAL CHIRES
FRANK JACOBS
R. D. BUCHOLTZ
BERNARD BODEK
HERBERT LURIA
FRED WEIGMAN, Jr.

GEORGE M. GAUL
GENE BUDETTI
RAYMOND A. KELLY
J. M. HARBISON
CARROLL B. ATKINSON
JOSEPH A. HERMES
M. BERMAN

H. W. SHANER

We can always tell you about
THE BIG ONES
That * * * * Got Away!

Anglers Catch Sword Fish

After a thrilling forty-five minute battle with a marlin sword-fish, which is believed to be the first caught off the Jersey coast with rod and reel, H. Willard Shaner, of the Anglers Club, and William B. Westcott, of Atlantic City, succeeded in bringing home the prize. The fish was caught 11 miles from shore and gave a spectacular exhibition of high jumping until finally captured.

Several of these creatures were sighted off Barnegat Ridge and the anglers are planning to go after them. It is the theory that these finny denizens follow the gulf stream northward and then sheer off their course.

Shaner and Westcott are having the fish mounted and will present it to the Anglers' Club for the trophy room. The catch was 7 1/2 feet long, weighed 89 pounds and measured 26 inches in girth. In luring the fish the tarponno teaser and long strips of cut bait were used.

Bowman-Hanf Lead Casters

Ocean City Boy Has Best Average—Local Youth Has Longest Heave

The Junior tournament surf casters of the Anglers' Club of Absecon Island scored heavily in the events conducted by the Ocean Fishing Club yesterday.

In the main event the average of three casts; the gold watch, first prize, was won by Ralph Bowman, of the Ocean City club, with an average of 290 feet. Young Bowman was hard pressed by Arthur Hanf Jr., of the Absecon anglers, who turned in average of 297 feet three inches, which won the silver watch.

George Becker, of the same club, was third in this event with 277 feet nine inch average. Other local boy casters to win prizes in this event were Elmer Einwechter Jr., George Fox and Toby Greco.

In the event calling for the longest of three casts Arthur Hanf Jr. was the winner with 335 feet six inches. This gave him the Ocean City Title Company silver loving cup. Ralph Bowman was second with 307 feet seven inches. George Becker was third with 299 feet two inches.

This tournament brought together boy surf casters in the east and the competition was keen and exciting.

CATCHES RECORD BASS



L. A. CHRISTIANSEN

With the thirty-four-pound battling champion of the sea, which he caught in the surf at Margate City after a fight of thirty-five minutes. His prize was the biggest sea bass ever seen on Absecon Island by the oldest inhabitants, according to members of the Anglers' Club at Margate City. The heart and liver of the fish have been preserved in alcohol and are being sent to the United States Bureau of Fisheries at Washington to determine whether any national or world record can be claimed for it.

The Anglers' Club of Absecon Island

ANNOUNCES

MR. HAROLD G. LENTZ, WORLD'S CHAMPION

IN EXHIBITION CASTING

Savannah Avenue Loop—Sunday, April 8th at 3 P. M.

Cordial invitation to all

Mr. Lentz's record—463 feet 11 inches