2003 ARCHIVED FISHING REPORTS

DECEMBER 14, 2003  
The end of the 2003 season is upon us and Block Island Fishworks would like to thank all our customers and friends for a fantastic season. The striper fishing was without a doubt EXCELLENT, bluefish were plentiful, plenty of sharks, and a late run of tuna kept offshore guys happy. The number of large fluke, seabass, and scup was a promising sight. But I am asking Santa to send for more Bonito and Albies closer to the Island next year!  
  
We plan on being open for business in May next year - plan your trips early for choice fishing times. We will be attending four fishing shows in 2004 - *The Fly Fishing Show in Marlborough MA Jan. 16-18, The Greater Philadelphia Sport Travel and Outdoor Show Jan 21-25, the World Fishing and Outdoor Expo in Suffern NY March 4-7, and The New England Saltwater Fishing Show March 5-7.* Stop by the Block Island booths and say hello.  
  
We will be carrying a new product lines next year including Albright Fly Rods and Reels, Temple Fork Rods, St. Croix, Triple Fish Line, Tsunami Lures, Lucky Craft Lures, and hopefully Hab's and Tattoo Custom Plugs. We hope to release a mail order catalog in 2004 as well. We will no longer carry Redington due to the buyout by Sage and a negative change in some policies - but I will continue to assist customers with Redington warrantee issues (the LAST Brakewater 11/12 reel is on EBAY for 2 more days if anyone is interested...)   
  
Our Fishing Tournament will be one week earlier in September and we expect co-founder Mark Northup of Sandy Point Fly Leaders to be in attendance. Our website has been updated with the info and check out the photo page for 2003 highlights.   
  
On be half of our staff, Guides, and Captains - THANK YOU FOR THE 2003 SEASON AND HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY.  
  
Tight Lines!  
  
Capt.Chris Willi ~ 'Julia Ryan'  
Capt. Matt King ~ ' Hula Girl'  
Capt. Mitch Chagnon ~ 'Sakarak'  
Capt. Steve Miller ~ 'Storm Petrel'  
Capt. Eric Gustafson ~ 'Rooster'  
Capt. Greg Snow   
Capt. Larry Constantine  
Mate Ravi Banerjee

**Friday October 31, 2003  
The fall fishing has been good all around with a decent run of bass this week from the beach and boat.  Several 30# class fish caught primarily with live eels, one 40# early in the week on the same from the boat.  Really big tides this week and mediocre weather.   The annual migration of 4x4 beach rigs and all night anglers is upon us with alot of fish caught but  hushed as to were they are.  The fact is Block Island is 3miles by 7miles ~ there are no 'secret spots',  just favorite spots, if your willing to hike the rocky shoreline you *will* find fish.  Needlefish in the HABS variety and Superstrikes look to be working well - I lost all my HABS in one week - hopefully my shop will carry them soon.  Working colors have run the spectrum - Parrot ( green/yellow) slammed them on night but not the next.  Pink/White - Black/Purple - Amber - Antique White have all worked.  Big (7"+) shallow swimmers are another choice.  Slow fished lures appear to be taking more fish.  Fly fishing is still strong in the backwaters of the Great Salt Pond and beaches.  Big classic patterns in bunker colors have been working with dark patterns at night.  Did some bottom fishing this week as well and big hit scup ad sea bass at SW point that were simply huge - these scup looked like hubcaps...  This weekend should be very nice so take advantage and get out and fish.  If you want live bait during the fall Twin Maples has it but call before you come for prices and availability - he can run out of eels quickly - Fishworks will not be open but you can call me if you need something.  We will do night eel trips this week if anyone is interested - 6 person max...   Good Fishing!**

Sunday October 19, 2003  
There are plenty of Bass around the Island with a 50lbers taken last week on a live lined Scup and a 36 trolled up by the Hula Girl.  Early morning and night fishing will get you keeper bass from the beach or boat.  The albies and bonito are all but gone but there has been red hot action at Montauk and the west wall at Point Judith.  Large sea bass have been around the Island for the past two weeks - 3 to 5 lbers!  Scup as large as frying pans as well.  
Offshore action was good for the beginning of October with several Yellow's, BFT's, and albacore taken by Island boats.  Mako's and two swords were also taken in early October.    
This is the best time of year for fishing on Block Island as there is good fishing and plenty of elbow room!  Our boats and guides will be operating into November if you want to head out.

WED. October 1, 2003   
Well the Albies seem to be hitting hard in Montauk and Narragansett Bay but have not turned on hard here?! Plenty of bait though. We have had a few good days chasing some around New Harbor and the Channel. Bass are plentiful - most in the 15-20 lbs range. Black, parrot, or pink needlefish and 7" pink or black Bombers are producing. The offshore guys are getting Yellows, albacore, and BFT - many are traveling 30+ miles out looking for temp. breaks - but some are having success in 69degree water. Fly fisherman are finding action in the backwaters at night and dawn. Charleston Beach and Sandy Point are also good right now - big flies working well. Below are the results from the Tourny this past weekend..

We were finally blessed with forgiving weather for the Tournament and welcomed the 40 participants that fished hard during the weekend. Sixteen fish were weighed in with five prize winners. Over 60 fish were released that did not meet our size minimums - many caught by fly fishing - however, not one qualifying fish was caught on the fly! Plenty of fish just small ones - not characteristic of Block Island . Everyone had a great time and we thank all that came out to fish and also thank our generous sponsors below. Most importantly over $700 was raised for the National Children's Cancer Society.

RESULTS:   
    Bass / Boat / Spin Rob Browne 24.77lbs

Bass / Boat / Bait Charlie Gustafson 24.38lbs

Bass / Beach / Spin Leo Orsi 16.06lbs

Blue / Beach / Spin Durbin Wells 9.2lbs

Blue / Boat / Bait Matt King 8.95lbs

\*\*\*\*Tourny T - Shirts are still available for $15 - includes shipping....\*\*\*\*

Thank you to all our SPONSORS: Block Island Fishworks, Twin Maples, Island Sport Shop, Edwards Marine, HAB's Custom Plugs, [Data Sport Inc.](http://www.datasportinc.com), Frenzie Lures, Hula Charters, I Fly Rod Holders, Saltwater Edge, Linesider Fishing Apparel, Fin and Feather, Block Island Grocery, Budweiser, Yellow Kittens, GR Sharkys, Block Island Boat Basin , Smugglers Cove.

Wednesday Sept 10, 2003  
Fly Fisherman are enjoying bass in the channel in the early morning and scattered Bonito schools by boat during the day.  Peanut bunker have joined the silversides and sandeels making for a nice buffet.  Flex Cord sand eels and white rabbit candies / deceivers / half and halves are working.  Beach bound plug anglers are sticking to Southwest Point and coves on the South East and Old Harbor area - amber, black, and purple are favorite plug colors.  After last weeks swell many boats did well on the South Side of the Island chunking and trolling.  There were Mako, Yellow fin, and Blue Fin taken offshore by Capt. Miller on the Storm Petrel.

Friday August  30, 2003  
Bonito and Albies are here in decent numbers all around the Island - most are being taken on the small metal lures.  The recent edition of On the Water has a good article on fishing for blitzing Bonito and Ablies with some tactics which will prove useful if fly fishing for these tunoids...  The experience so far is fussy fish hitting small (1/2") bait - the 'injured' presentation seems to work best.  Silversides are the bait present now.  Bass are still around and the beach action is starting to pick up in the early morning hours.  Killer sea bass and fluke action has been the predominant report from our captains with Clayhead, Old Harbor Point, and Charleston Beach doing well this week.  A couple of 38lb stripers took the tube and worm from the 'Hula Girl' this week as well.  
We have our Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament on September 26, 27, and 28 - check out the tourney page if your interested.  We need SPONSORS - any tackle, gift certificates, or other prizes are appreciated - this all benefits the National Children's Cancer Society.  HAB'S custom plugs has joined our sponsor list last week.  Thank You.

Friday August 22, 2003  
Well frigate mackerel have appeared in New Harbor with the bonito with them...  large silversides have also come in as the bait source.  Deadly Dicks, Maria's, and Swedish Pimples work well as do the small yozuri crystal minnows.  Mitch on the Sakarak got some nice Fluke this week and Matt on the Hula Girl managed a 38lb bass on one of his many trips.  Shore fishing has concentrated on Charleston Beach and the CG Channel with anglers scurrying for their first Bonito... Once this front passes we should get into a full on bite next week, the consistency this week just wasn't there.  One night live eels worked well the next it was clams...  but the fish are still around.  Offshore water temps are 74+ just 10 miles off the Island.  The pursuit of Giants has begun by Island fisherman but none brought to the dock yet.  The summer is almost over meaning Fall fishing is around the corner - Block Islands finest time of year...

Thursday August 14, 2003      
The August bass fishing is much better than last year but the fish have moved off to deeper water.  Beach bound anglers can still get fish at night  and early A.M..  Our charter captains are having good success with tube and worm and live eels.   The fluke and  sea bass fishing is still good as well with good size fish caught up and down the West side.  Our offshore fly fishing trip on Tuesday yielded Dorado and large Blue sharks - great fun for fly fishing, the one mako of the day was on conventional gear and a whole squid (pictures on the photo page).  A staff trip on Wednesday had another small Mako and several Blue sharks.  The Tournaments in the first week of August were plagued with bad offshore weather - the largest tuna didn't break 50lbs.  Wahoo, bluefin, and dorado were also caught.  No bonito or albies have hit the surface yet...  it's about that time for them to heat up and we hope they appear soon.

Thursday July 31, 2003  
The action has slowed a little inshore but the past few days have been good.  Capt Matt King on the Hula Girl and Capt Steve Miller on the Storm Petrel are both getting fish in the 20-30 lb range.  Capt Mitch on Sakarak is reporting good fluking and nice sea bass around the Island.  The promising Bonito sightings have not fully developed but Capt Mitch did get one on an umbrella - we just haven't seen any surface action yet.  Paul Caval on the Kahuna boated a white marlin early in the week and hooked 3 others.  the Storm Petrel also boated some longfin albacore and dorado this week.  We have two tournaments coming up next week - the J&B Tri-State Shootout and the Block Island Billfish Tournament - I will bring you a report on this next week - Tuna, Shark, and, Wahoo were all caught last year.  On the fly fishing front we are still in bass and blues from shore but not as plentiful - the boat action is better with early morning action the best.  Black flies 3-5" are best at night right now.  Sandeels and silversides are still the flies to use but concentrate on the depth you are working - many fish are staying deeper - particularly on the South side - but the East beaches have produced during the day in shallower.  
One customer this week forgot to raise his tailgate on his truck and lost two nice fish - both close to 40" - as he headed home....  being a small Island it was a matter of time when another customer came in and told me his 'luck' - two keeper bass flopping around in the road!  I told him it was the really high tides we have...    He took them home and filleted them up for him and his guests bragging on how easy the fishing was on the Island.  Well the guy who caught the fish (we will call him Callum) called the Police the next morning to report the theft of two fish (one of the stranger calls our Police have had) - well within 24 hours of said fish caught both parties were in contact and all that was wanted was the weight of the fish - which were never weighed - but they did have skate in their bellies which was the whole point of this story...  any good skate flies out there?

Tuesday July 15, 2003  
Once again we had some big fish taken this week. The Capt. Matt King aboard the Hula Girl whacked em hard with a 50lb 6oz bass taken by customer Steve Cozzolino from Jersey (check this picture out on the photo page)...  the next morning his customers get a 45, and two in the 30's!  Capt. Matt has his tube and worm technique perfected and he is keeping his people real happy - this is the first 50 taken on BI this summer!!  Lots of large fluke have been taken in and around the channel with sand worms, sand eels,  and smelt being the bait of choice.  We took some new comers to saltwater fly fishing out this week and were successful with several 30" to 36" bass - all hitting sandeel colors and patterns.  The easiest and most successful fly is an Easy Body sand eel pattern -  use pearl easy body, flex cord or similar tubing material - some greenish flash tied in one end, run the hook through the other, tie off the head and add some eyes - run an olive marker down the back and your done.  One bluefin was taken on the fly last tuesday as well....  and their are reports of bonito in the New Harbor - let get ready for some reel screaming good times.....

Wednesday July 9, 2003  
Another couple of slobs were weighed in this past week.  Most notable was Pete Alarie's 43 pounder on a surface plug just after sunset in skinny water from the his boat.  He was fishing with guide Greg Snow who scouted a school of big bass earlier that day and put Pete on the fish (see photo on photo page).  Capt Larry Constantine put his customer on a 45 lb bass using a snake, followed by a 30 and a 20.  Large bass are here - let's see if they stick around.  Light tackle anglers are having plenty of action on the south side with bass from 30-34" with bluefish becoming a little annoying - yet still fun.  Baby bluefish seem to be the quarry for some of these bass and the holographic bluefish colored bomber is working.  The fly fishing has been good in early morning form the beach and boat.  We had several trips with larger bass hooked but not landed.  They are shying away form small patterns and prefer the large 6"-8" bunker/herring patterns on the south side and sand eels on the west.    We have had great weather the past week - I hope we stay this lucky!

Sunday June 29, 2003  
This week was fantastic for fishing with good weather, cooperative fish, and eager anglers.  Never mind the number of bluefish around - the bass have come in strong and hungry.  Anglers from the boat and shore are having tremendous luck with sluggo's and bombers but the hefty fish this week hit needle fish.  Yozuri's, pink bombers and rainbow trout sluggo's were money at the North rip all week at dusk.  Flies of choice were large sand eel patterns and olive deep clousers fished with sinking line.  Notable catches were Dan Seligson with a 20lber on 10lb test at Black Rock, a 40lber caught by Rob Casino on the South West side from the beach, and Jake Hall with his first fluke at the Coast Guard Channel.  Check these photo's out on our photo page.

Tuesday June 16, 2003  
Holy Cow!  We've haven't seen this many bluefish in a long time...  little 2-6lbers have ravenged the New Harbor entrance all week and larger fish have appeared off the jetties in Old Harbor.  Lots of fun, especially for the youngsters.  The West side of the Island had some nice fluke - Capt Matt King of Hula Charters brought two to the boat measuring 23" and 28".   A few bass over 20lbs were also taken on the West side with large needle fish.  Bass have had small squid in the bellies as well as sand eels.  Huge tides, huge currents, and hoards of bait have made the Great Salt Pond very fun and productive this week... especially in the evenings as long as the tide was moving.

Call the shop at 466-5392 or stop in for daily reports

Saturday June 7, 2003  
Good numbers of fish have arrived and are being taken from the beaches around the Island.  Harbor Blues and schoolie bass are feeding heavily on schools of sand eels.  6" all black Bombers, smoke Kalins, Yozuri's, and Fin S's have all worked this week.  South East, South West and North point are all holding fish.  Calm nights have made for some exciting fishing as many of the fish are right on the surface.  Most luck has been had on the incoming tides with the action shutting off at slack tide.  The fly fishing has picked up with bluefish chomping off their share of flies and leaders. Sinking line has proved successful in getting down to bass lurking below.    
The weather seems to be slowly improving along with the fishing! Stop in the shop or email for daily updates if your heading out!

Sunday June1, 2003  
After a long, lousy spring, fish are finally here in decent numbers and within striking distance with light tackle and those fly fishing.  Bluefish and bass have congregated on the South side and up to the North Rip and are being taken with light tackle on soft plastics like Sluggo's in alewive and shiner colors.  Our fly/spin trip yesterday produced several bluefish and bass on the fly and light tackle.  The largest was 20lbs using a 6" Sluggo.   Fly fishing was successful  using a 2/0 baitfish pattern with a black back, white kinky hair body, some pearl flashabou, with a large eye.  Fish have been taken in the great salt pond on the high tides as fish come in to forage in the inner ponds.  The larger charter boats are having success in the usual locations like SW Point and the Ledge.  Snakes on wire line are working - as well as umbrella rigs - nothing new here.  
If you headed to the Island email, call, or stop in the shop on Ocean Ave in New Harbor for the latest report.  We are currently working on getting our scale certified for RISAA tournaments... more to follow.