2002 ARCHIVED FISHING REPORTS

November 12, 2002
November has brought some larger fish to the Island with a couple over 40lbs caught so far.  15 - 20 pounders are about average right now.  The bait has all but left the inner ponds and the winter population of seals are already showing up.  The action has not been as red hot as past years  - some nights live eels wouldn't even produce.  But putting in the time will get you fish.  Bucktail jigs with pork rind has been successful.  On the fly; large eel and bunker patterns are getting bites.   Most success from the beach has been at dusk and through the night.  We should have nice bass passing through all the way into December so head on out before it gets to cold!
-CW

Oct 19, 2002
The weather has been a real pisser - I had to break out the surf rod and stow the fly gear for a few days as it blew 20+ for a week.  But we have had some nice mornings with bass and ablies still being taken from shore as well as the occasional bonito.  The North Light has been popular lately.  Eels at night are regularly catching 20lb bass around the Island. Bunker and silversides are still in the inner ponds and the Great Salt Pond.  The Fall migration will bring larger fish accessible from shore through November.
*FROM Capt Mitch on the Sakarak:*
This week has been plagued with high winds and bad weather. It seems that this Easterly wind doesn't want top give up. On the days we did make it out the fishing was very good, yielding plenty of green bonito and a sampling of blue-fin tuna. Striper fishing has very good when the weather has co-operated and bluefish have invaded the entire south shore and are accompanied by false albacore and even a few green bonito. One fellow fishing from Georges wall, also known as the Gallilee breach way wall landed a ten pound greenie.   Hopefully the weather will settle down and the Fall migration will get underway once again. Fishing should go well into November this year with some stragglers lingering till December. We'll be fishing right through then. -GOOD FISHING  CAPT. MITCH

Oct 1, 2002
The Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament was a success despite the forecast for bad weather.  Just about everyone was stuck on the beach until Saturday morning when a couple boats made it out.  All species were caught this year with seven anglers walking away with some nice prizes - see the [tourney page](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CBI%20Fishworks%5CDocuments%5CMy%20Web%20Sites%5CBI%20Fishworks%20Web%5CTourny%20pages%5CTourneys.htm) for the full report.
With the crowds gone and plenty of time to fish we have found that  all the popular points on the island are holding fish.  As long as the weather holds up we should have a very good fall.  When fishing the Island remember the Island is small enough that you can find fish if you look around.  The favorite question in the shop is 'where should I go?'  Well the answer is 'anywhere there's saltwater' - but you'll have to fish it for more than thirty minutes and if it's not 'hot' then try the next spot.  On an Island 3miles X 7miles - its not hard - but you have to look and fish.  Saturday had bass, blues, bonito, and F. albacore inside the pond. Sunday was a good day at North Light with bass and bluefish feeding heavy.  The peanut bunker are 4" now and big patterns work.  Let the fly sink below the bait and give it a 'crippled bait' retrieve.  Capt Pete and Capt Chris headed to the mudhole on Monday and found 25+ boats chunking.  We were very happy to find some eager false albacore on our first casts, each over 10lbs - no school bluefin though.
FROM CAPT MITCH:  Well, here I sit on a Saturday again, because I canceled prematurely.  The weather isn't anywhere as bad as they predicted, although the wind howled last night for quite awhile, quitting about four am. None the less son Chris is out mating on the Jackie C so I guess it wasn't that
bad.  The bonito are still in the mud hole although they have slowed down a little since my last report. Hopefully a few nice days will get the action going again.  Striped bass are getting better by the day with some great fishing to be found all around the Island on most of the favorite areas. Sea bass are also a great bet right now with some fish pushing the four and five
pound mark. We don't see that too often.  I still have open days and will available right through the month of October. If there is only one or two of you let me know and maybe we can slip you in on a Wednesday day when I routinely take out Friends and get as little fishing in myself.
GOOD FISHIN
CAPT. MITCH

Sept 22, 2002
The Inshore action has been hot and cold - getting colder as the full moon approached but shots for Bonito and F.Albacore came when the tide is running hard through the Cut.  Harbor blues are in the pond and have provided some fun action if you can draw there attention from the loads of peanut bunker  - something we have not seen in years.  Bass are being taken from the East beaches and some in New Harbor in the early morning.  Mark Northup of Sandy Point Fly Leader Co. visited his home turf for his brothers wedding and managed to get in some solid days of fishing.  On Tues (9/17) Capt. Pete Farrell took Mark, his wife Jill, and me to Montauk for the afternoon bite - and it was ON FIRE!  Albies, bass, and blues were on the surface and the action was great fun - we will have pictures posted soon.  Each of us landed (and broke off) our share of these hard fighting fish.  Capt Pete is on the Cape this week and we are getting ready for the Tournament weekend.
From CAPT MITCH of the SAKARAK:   Well the Fall run of bluefin tuna has finally gotten underway inshore, or should I say within the easy grasp of the Sakarak. Tuna have showed up south of the Island on the 700 line and along the 825 line in other places along with a healthy dash of Atlantic bonito ( green bonito) If you like catching these small speedsters, now is the time. They can easily be taken on the fly when they are in the chum slick as they have been this week. Light spinning or conventional tackle is another option.  The other notable occurrence this week was the arrival of hordes of
extremely large sea bass around the Island. I'm talking three and four pound fish. The largest was taken yesterday by a south County Elk on their yearly trip. Mr. Bush, known affectionately by his  Elk brothers as Bushy took a 5lb 2oz fish off southwest ledge. A major celebration was undertaken at the annual pig roast held at the Elks lodge.By the end of the evening I think had grown to a respectable thirty or so pounds.  Striped bass has up and down this week and definitely down today after
the full moon last night. this should improve though by the middle of the week.  With tuna, bonito, striped bass, large sea bass and slimmer porgies all around in good numbers, the next week should be an interesting one to say the least. The only problem I'll be having is trying to make up the minds of my customers what to pursue.
    See you all next week.
GOOD FISHIN
Capt. Mitch Chagnon

Sept 4, 2002
Some traditions are meant to be broken and the traditional crappy weather for Labor Day is one of them. Six days of east wind - 20-30knts - is enough to piss anyone off. We had gusts to 40 in the Great Salt Pond. It all ended with a nice little thunder storm. The only good thing is the amount of rain we got which should replenish the ponds. Anyway... Capt Pete and I got out for a scouting trip today and found all four fall species here - bass, blues, bonito, and albies. There is an amazing amount of bait - baby bunker and siversides - loads of it. Have you ever seen the Air Jaws special - White Sharks breeching as they maul little seals? Well the blues were doing just that - straight up through the middle of a bait ball and getting airborn. The bonito would barrel through occasionally with the bass scattered about. This is the first time in awhile that the fish have been on the surface with birds working. The fall looks like it should shape up to be a lot better that July and August for fly fishing - September and October are the best months to come out to the Island. Capt. Mitch Chagnons Sakarak report below sums up the rest of the Block Island scene. All those interested in the BLOCK ISLAND INSHORE FISHING TOURNY should email us ASAP - Tight Lines - CW
FROM CAPT MITCH ABOARD THE SAKARAK:
Well, true to form the Labor day weekend saw northeast winds once again. It seems this happens every year at least for two of the three day weekend. Since Labor day is also the true beginning of my offshore season I have found myself sitting here at my computer instead of off-shore watching a spread of tuna baits. In any event, the inshore fishing is starting to come alive once again, with new arrivals of false albacore and a few Green bonito. Don't know where the action will move to after the six days of Northeast wind quits but, I'm sure someone will stumble on them within the next few days.  Bass and bluefish are all over the bay and the South shore, Sea bass and scup are also all over the place along the South shore s well as around Block Island. few Fluke are also still around the Island in few spots and along the south shore in 60-70 feet of water. News from the canyons and past the sixty fathom edge is scarce, since the weather has been out of the East.  We still have some openings for the upcoming month, if anyone is interested. Hopefully I'll have some better news next week regarding the
offshore scene.
GOOD FISHIN
CAPT. MITCH

8/12/02
Lets get right to it...  The fishing is hard this week - no question - but bait has appeared in the harbor which is a great - the Bass have been working the entrance on the little stuff and have proven to be difficult to catch.  The South side and the North point are producing from the beaches in the early AM or very late PM with the daytime best from a boat.  Then Bonito have made their official appearance with Capt Pete Farrell and client landing the first on the fly for the season.  Frigate Mackerel are also in the Great Salt Pond - they fight like a mini Albie and are great fun on Light Tackle.  J&B's Tackle Tri-State Tuna Tourny is going on right now stationed out of the Block Island Boat Basin.  The majority of boats coming in tonite - the offshore report will be updated...  Here is Capt. Mitch Chagnon's words of wisdom for the last two weeks...
    8/11/02     For the better part of the week, the Sakarak stayed close to the
Island. The Northerly wind we had dampened any offshore prospects, and
the results from the wind made Saturday and Sunday both very hard for
the customers to swallow. Both days we set out  around the horns and the
Butterfish hole only to find a very dead ocean. We marked fish in a few
places and even saw a few on Sunday but the action there was
non-existent, at least for us.
    Striped bass fishing  has good for the most part, with the very best
we could ask for occurring on Thursday night for Dave Pacia and his crew.
Drifting eels across the North rip produced every drift with many of the
fish going over the 40" mark. Sea bass and scup have also been moving
in in greater numbers.
    Hopefully the warmer weather and the upcoming change in the moon will
put the off-shore action back in the lime light. Striped bass should
stay good and bluefishing should also be a good bet.
GOOD FISHIN
CAPT. MITCH

8/3/02    Sorry I haven't posted a report for awhile ,but I have been out on
Block Island on a working vacation, so to speak. On the fishing scene, I
really can't overemphasize how good it has been. With such a short run
to the fishing grounds each day we have been fishing non-stop over the
past two weeks. Inshore we have had excellent luck with the striped bass
and bluefish as well as some great bottom fishing for sea bass and
fluke.
    Off-shore, we have continually hit pay dirt with bluffing to 85 pounds.
Most of the fish have been either in the twenty pound range or in the
forty pound range, indicating that we definitely have two groups of fish
now. The beginning of last week we were catching mostly sub legal and
barely legal fish. By Tuesday that had changed and we got into some
biggest fish, never going farther South that the 43750 line. A few
Yellow Fin and some bigger blue fin have been around the 14700 x43700
and just West of the Dump. We have had oceanic bonito and Atlantic
bonito also from the 800 line South.
    Hope you all have a great week. See you out there.
Capt. Mitch

7/26/02
Do you know how hard it is to fly fish in a 15-20knot breeze?  The past week has been nothing but East wind and rain.  Early in the week no one left the dock due to the weather.  Those that managed to get out did have success on the bottom bait fishing.  We had a few kids trips this week catching big scup, sea bass, and fluke.  10 year old James Balser  reeled in his first striped bass with us on Thursday.   Capt. Pete Farrell managed a few small bass on a scouting trip this morning at the rip.  The Butterfish have shown up in Old Harbor and some bait has made an appearance in New Harbor.  Another 50lber was hauled in South of the Island on an umbrella rig last week - big fish are around and in deep water.  We have a new green crab pattern and butterfish patterns we will try this week as the 'bad' weather should pass today.  We finally got in the new Storm Soft Plastics  - and they work great, Mullet color is hot right now.  The offshore report will be delayed until we have news how the weather effected the grounds...

7/20/02
Bass and Blues have moved to striking distance from the shore in  good numbers.  Success has been reported all around on fly and spin.  Needlefish and Bombers are working for surf casters and small baitfish patterns on the fly.  Mitch of the Sakarak sent the following report:
The week went reasonably well with great weather nd good fishing.  Fished everyday with the exception of Friday.  Most trips concentrated on striped bass and blues. Both have been in great supply with some bigger fish moving in during the middle of the week.  We made two brief foray's offshore on Wednesday and Thursday but didn't  go where we should have.  Large schools af ABT  had invaded the area  around the claw and 31 fathom hole. Good signs of tuna were also seen  South of coxes on Monday by the KAHUNA  14378/43770  on his way home.  The SAKARAK  concentrated on the area around tuna ridge 14475/43750 to
just below the Island 14550/43750. We caught a few tuna both days. Most  wee thirty to forty pounds with Thursday day seeing a mixture of thirty  pound fish and small sub legal bluffing. 27"-28" Tagged a couple each day.

7/13/02
The fish are hungry this week as anglers from the beach and boat are all reporting success - and the fish aren't as finicky as the last two weeks.  Mitch Chagnon said this new moon should turn it on and he was right.  Greg Snow of Snow Fly charters had a great mornings this week catching fish from shore - he landed a 37" this morning.  Gurglers have been working as well as long flatwings.  A 50lber was caught trolling early in the week by Bill Gould on the G Willie Makit, and Bill also caught the first bonito of the season trolling the south side.  Steve Miller of Storm Petrel has kept all his clients happy all week with 20 and 30lb fish.  A few of us were out on Tuesday night and found a bunch of bass sipping on the surface on the little tiny shrimp/brine/crustaceans  - all efforts were fruitless as we had nothing that even resembled what they were eating.  The first reports of tuna offshore are in and we are trying like hell to get out with the flyrods.   Hopefully by the next report we will have a tuna story...

7/6/02
A busy week here on Block Island as the 4th of July brings out boats and people in droves and the weather was fantastic.  We had great trips this week - Paul Koopman and two friends, Mark and Martin, jumped on our boat for a perfect morning at Southwest Point.  Martin caught his first bluefish and striper that day - all caught on camera - using the ever popular Sluggo.  Paul hauled in one that pushed 32" on the money fly - Bonito Magic.  Mark got his striper at the rip with one of his own ties.  At one point we had all three rods bent over with fish on!  This was a great morning of fishing.
July 4th week is also Lou Eagle's annual trip to Block Island.  Lou fished with us four mornings in a row and did well on the beach with some of his own fly patterns landing several fish from 22"-30".
The following party boat report comes from Mitch Chagnon Capt of the 'Sakarak:  My mid-week report isn't the most encouraging, but after all the fantastic fishing we have had this your it seems like the bottom has fallen out. Most trips saw a mixture of striped bass, Fluke and bluefish. We had to work hard to make the day but the fish are still  there. I'm sure the fishing will improve when we go past the new moon.  School tuna and a few giants have been spotted on the offshore grounds, right on schedule. A few albacore and small yellow fin also made their way into the fish box of a few anglers. Capt. Alex Petrucci and a couple other boats found some fish at the dip and the West side of the Hudson.  Off to the East there is still a lot of good water coming. Usually the first good off-shore catches show up this week just ahead of the new  moon (new moon July 10th) - Good Fishing - Mitch

7/1/02
Back from Chicago... all I can say is ouch!  My liver will never forgive me!  The wedding was a HOOT and Mark and his lovely bride Jill are off to the Canary Islands.  Capt Pete and I did make an attempt to locate some fishing - it was a slimy creek feeding the golf course and it held some carp - we think... after spotting a dead, bloated raccoon, and getting scorched by the 95 degree heat, we decided there was better fishing in the bar - and we were right.   Anyway...
Back to the Island - the first trip of July was at 4am this morning.  A 10kt breeze at 4am isn't the best sign for fly fishing but Capt Paul Koopman, a guide from Rowayton CT visiting the Island,  handled the weather like the experienced guide he is and landed a 26" Bass with a Bonito Magic fly.  If you haven't fished CT email Paul at koop@optonline.net for a trip.  Our Capt's have a busy holiday week ahead and are sure to have some good reports!  Tight Lines...

6/24/02
A few of us are off to Capt. Mark Northup's wedding in Chicago so let me get this report in...
Crustaceans is the theme of the week.  If you have a crab pattern and are around the island - us it.  The charter boats report crabs and lobsters in the bellies and tailing fish have been reported in close - early morning.  Fish can be sighted on the flats but spook easy due to the increased boat activity in the harbor.  The weather has been fantastic lately with early morning the best time to fish.  Capt. Mitch Chagnon aboard 'Sakarak' had great success this week with fish from 32-48lbs. then a slew of bluefish the next day - anything to bend a rod is great fun. Capt. Steve Miller on Storm Petrel had three fish in the 30lb class this morning.  Troy Milstead spearfished a 44" 31lb bass yesterday - his biggest yet.  And for those who frown upon spearfishing - let me say this,  spearfishermen give the most accurate report of fish presence along the shore and *most* are not hacks,  they are a great source of information for fly and spin fishing from the beach.  Another good source of info are the lobstermen - if you know one get on his/her good side and ask questions.  As someone who did a little bit of hauling for a lobster boat, I can tell you we see alot through the course of 200-300 pots.  If your plugging success is still with the all black stickbait, sluggo's, and the 'Kobe' popper.  The conditions are prime for a  worm hatch tonite or tomorrow.  Start at 10pm and fish till 3am  - I have a 7:15 ferry to catch tomorrow and I'm still going fishing tonite!

6/19/02
This was 'guide night' as Peter Farrell of Blockhead Charters, Chris Willi of Block Island Fishworks, and spin expert Jodi Harvey headed to the North Point in an impromptu 'fish off.'  An evening sunset bite was on and proved to be exciting action as each drift gave us hits and fish. Jodi fished a black stickbait that fooled five fish  - the biggest being 12lbs.  Pete went with the brighter colors and got one to the boat.  Willi had a 8" flatwing that enticed several strikes with one boated.  All in all, not bad action for an hour or so.   With the score 5-1-1, the men in the boat lost - costing us the drinks at Dead Eye Dicks.  The fish have arrived so let the summer begin.

6/17/02
The fishing has turned on as the water has warmed up and the cold weather moved out.  The rough weather did beat the shoreline up bringing in fish to chomp on the bait and crabs caught in the mix.  20"-36" fish have been taken on the fly with sand eel and silverside imitations working best.  Our charter captains have taken bigger fish, 20lb-36lb, on trips this week.  The nooks and crannies of the west side of the island have produced and the North Rip has been good for plugging - as long as other boats don't put the fish down.  If you make it to the Island stop in the shop for the most current report and the latest arsenal for fish on the Island.

We at Block Island Fishworks send our sympathies to the family and friends of Kenneth Schwam who died this past week while guiding on the Vineyard.  This can happen to any of us so take the proper precautions and stay safe this season!  Click here for the story [Martha's Vineyard Guide Dies.](http://rd.bcentral.com/?ID=27088&s=12361343)

6/10/02
Bait has appeared around the Island in larger numbers bringing more fish close to the shoreline.  Plugging around rocks and structure on the West side has produced fish in the 32"-36" range and those fly fishing prefer the surface flies like sliders and gurglers.  Spearfishermen are reporting larger schools with larger fish on the South side coinciding with the steady increase of fish being caught from the beach.  This next week should see the start of the Block Island season!

6/4/02
Fish are being taken on the fly sporadically from the outer beaches and inner ponds.  The flies of choice are the Bonito Magic (sand eel / silverside imitation)  and *skinny* epoxy sand eels.  Mid-day fishing is mediocre so concentrate on dawn and dusk, and try to play the tides in your favor.  The word is Narragansett Bay is still going strong with squid as the primary bait and the worm hatch over in Point Judith was very good.  Our Charter Boat Captains are reporting success trolling around the Island - concentrating on structure and depth, with medium sized bass and bluefish being taken.

5/27/02
The first stripers were taken on the fly late this year.  The fishing was done at 1am on the outgoing tide with sand eel patterns.  Size ranged from 26" to 8" - that's right - 8"!  Light tackle enthusiast, Jodi Harvey, hit two stripers casting from the East side of the Island, and the Charter Boats report Bass and Bluefish around the Island.  We expect it to heat up in the middle of June - with good report coming from Narragansett Bay, Point Judith, and the Cape and Islands