

SPORTS

Rockfish season opener nears

The countdown to next Friday's opener of the fall rockfish season is underway, fish of legal size appear plentiful — and prospects for catching keepers by jigging appear better than any time since the moratorium was lifted six years ago. Trolling and chumming shouldn't be bad either.

Meanwhile, catfish remain abundant in much of the upper Chesapeake — some as far down as West River and below, but Norfolk spot continue conspicuous by their near absence in many of their familiar haunts.

What spot there are certainly can't be classified as jumbos — and

FISHING FORECAST



By BILL BURTON

the best of them appear to be on the Eastern Shore side. Can the wet summer be blamed for disappointing spot and Spanish mackerel runs? Who knows, but fishing for both is far below what it was the past several years or more.

Thankfully, catfish have filled much of the void for bottom fishermen. No one can recall when it was better in the upper bay proper — which doesn't mean the tributaries aren't loaded with them.

They're plentiful also in the Potomac where at Swan Creek near Fort Washington, Carol Fraley of Thurmont caught a 36 1/2-pound blue channel cat, a new state record. It was 40 inches long, had a girth of 26 inches and grabbed a cut bait fished on 14-pound test line.

Meanwhile, as lower bay anglers also miss the Spanish mackerel, which had been plentiful for several years, much of that slack has been picked up by sea trout. And as the rockfish opener nears, many anglers are turning to that species on a catch-and-release basis, just getting tuned in how to take bigger fish once catch and keep fishing starts. The rundown:

1. One of the rockfish exceptions. The bigger landlocked variety are in hiding, but those of several to 8 pounds remain. Best bait: bet largemouth shiners. Crappie fishing couldn't be better, and nice yellow perch here.

2. Catfish galore at Triadelphia and Rocky Gorge Reservoirs.

3. Good white perch'n deep at Prettyboy.

4. White perch deep, crappies in the coves, and weed bed bass'n turns up some lunkers.

5. Catfishing couldn't be better, not bad for smallmouth bass either.

6. Blues, mostly of a pound or two are throughout this region, mostly on the Eastern Shore side. White perch at the traditional lumps, but not as good as it was. It couldn't last forever. Catfish everywhere.

7. Another spot for blues, use red or natural surgical hoses. Green is also good. Much jigging is done in this sector and many of the fish will meet the 18 inch minimum once the season opens. Use the traditional feathered jigs or metals also work nicely especially the new Yo Zuri Sardine of high sheen metallic color. White perch scattered. Pretty much the same at the Dumping Grounds.

8. White perch and some keeper rock have moved into the Patapsco. Not bad fishing.

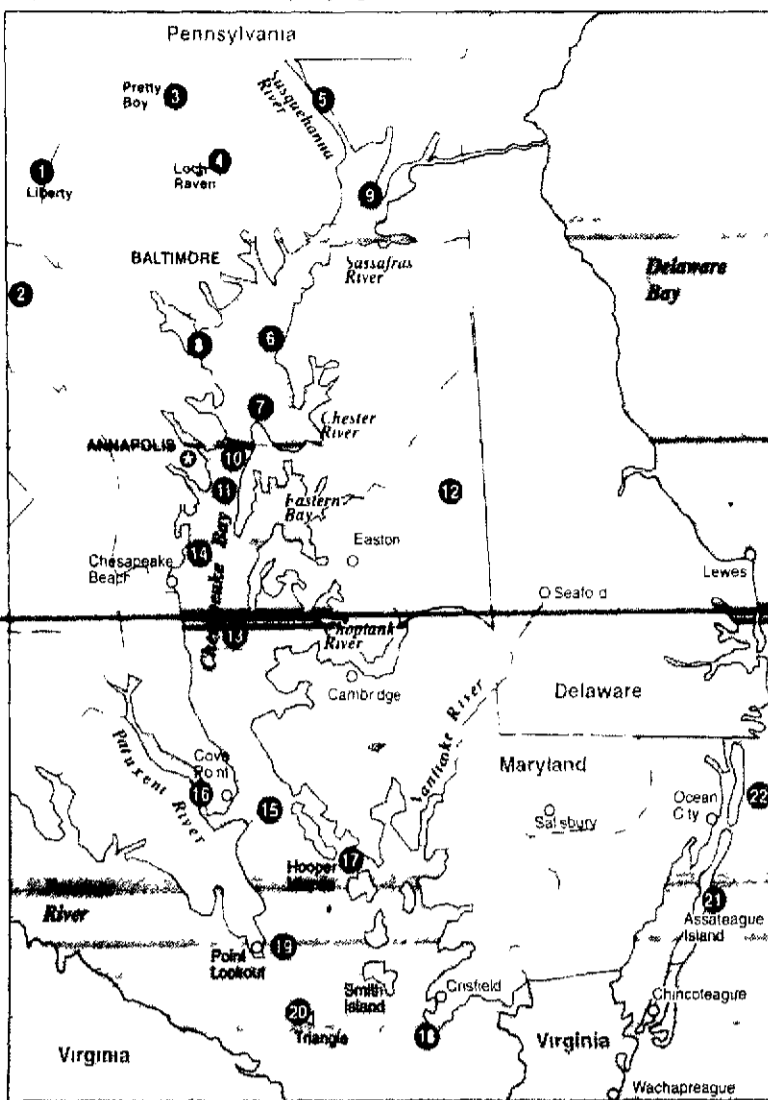
9. The Susquehanna Flats has many catfish and is surprisingly good for bass. Pennsylvania BASS Federation's recent tournament here had 68 entrants who caught 229 bass and the average was an astounding 2 pounds 9 ounces. Best catfishing at Hawk Cove, Tolchester and Turkey Point.

10. Some big white perch at the Bay Bridge also an occasional spot and of course rockfish. Jigging works here. Just above the bridge try perch'n at Seven Foot Knoll, Podickorv and Snake Reef.

11. There's chumming for rock at Hacketts though it isn't quite as good. Some blues also here and for them roll small spoons on long

Bay fishing guide For the weekend of Aug. 24-25

Numbers indicated below correspond to regions described in accompanying column



bridge has perch and small blues some of which can be taken on Blue Fox or Mepps Spinners. Catfish in the rivers and tributaries. Some spot, perch, small blues and of course catfish at Matapeake.

12. Nothing wrong with Wye River crabbing some perch here also.

13. A lot going on at the mouth of the Choptank. Bluefish are active and most in the region on the Eastern Shore side say from the Diamonds to the C&P Buoy, use red or natural hoses, also more sea trout are moving in, hardhead fishing is slackening off and check the area out for rock.

14. The West River area has catfish, some nice perch, occasionally spot — and late day can turn up a few hardheads, which seem anxious to depart the bay.

15. Generally, this is as far north as the Spanish mackerel get there are also rock and blues. Hardheads getting scarce. Rock and blues scattered throughout the area, maybe some trout and flounder.

16. White perch inside the Patuxent, maybe a few spot and croakers — and small blues.

17. In the Hooper/Honga complex, it's some hardheads more trout and flounder — a good fall trout fishery is building up.

18. Southern Tangier area has a great mix of sea trout and blues, a few mackerel and flounder fishing at times can be great.

19. Pier fishermen at Point Lookout get some smaller rock, blues, spot, hardheads, maybe a trout or flounder. Better to the southeast.

20. The hottest spot on the bay, so what's new? Rockfish, Spanish mackerel, sea trout, flounder and blues, good and still getting better. You can't go wrong at the Mud Lead Middlegrounds, Triangle and such. The cobia aren't making their hoped for showing, but everything else is.

21. Not much in the surf at Assateague, maybe a few small kingfish, rock and blues or occasional trout, but the back bay has flounder.

22. Inshore, the flounder fishing remains fairly good, but it takes culling for flounder. Good for rock and sea trout at the Route 50 Bridge at night. The inlet jetties turn up better rock and trout, blues come and go inside the inlet, where there are also some tautog. Some hardheads still in the back bays. A pretty good summer, it is.

Offshore, marlin fishing is better. Big dolphin, and only yellowfin tuna can be kept — there are reports of dead bluefins released. The feds have now tightened all bluefin keeping from New Jersey north. That's locking the barn after the horse has been rustled. Hopefully restrictions will be tighter off North Carolina earlier next year to insure we can fish 'em longer.

City readies for 10-mile run

It's always held on the hottest muggiest day of the year. It has some of the meanest, most challenging hills this side of the Shenandoahs. And yet, every year, runners from across the Eastern Seaboard clamor for one of 4,000 coveted spots in the Annapolis Ten Mile Run.

Go figure. Maybe it's the premium handed out to the runners — this year, each finisher will receive a long sleeve Coolmax jersey embroidered with the Annapolis Ten Mile Run logo. Or maybe it's that the race has been touted for several years as one of the top races in the country by *Runner's World* magazine.

Whatever the reason, the Annapolis Ten Mile Run is a wonderful opportunity for the city to showcase its charm and hospitality to 4,000 runners and their families. And as race director Dick Hillman notes, 10 miles of city roads in Annapolis receive a makeover for the race — trees trimmed, potholes repaired and streets swept.

Although every effort has been made to notify neighborhoods and churches of the event, some motorists may be inconvenienced by road closures during the race. But who's driving?

Not the runners, who will likely brave horrendous heat and humidity to run 10 challenging miles. Notes Hillman, "I would say that since we've had nice weather all summer, the one bad day will be Sunday." Now, is that any way for a race director to think?

Race weekend actually begins on Saturday, with the Race Expo and packet pickup at Anne Arundel Medical Center's Jennifer Road campus. New this year will be more than 25 exhibitors of complementary medicine, also known as alternative medicine. Complementary medicine includes such time honored healing philosophies as yoga, acupuncture and massage.

In addition to exhibits on complementary medicine, the race day expo also will include demonstrations of orthopedic, chiropractic and cardiac services, and a number of other exhibits of food and clothing.

The complementary medicine expo will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The larger expo — as well as packet pickup — will run until 5 p.m.

Those interested in the two for one dinner coupons offered by area restaurants are urged to pick up their packets early, as these coupons usually go fast.

Race day number pickup will be held at the stadium from 6 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. There is unlimited parking.

RUNNING



By GABRIELLE deGROOT

at the stadium, but runners and spectators are encouraged to come early, to avoid the traditional backups on Route 50 and Rowe Boulevard.

The race will benefit the Healthy Community Fund of Anne Arundel Medical Center. Over the years the run has contributed over \$100,000 to cardiac programs at the hospital and the American Heart Association.

A worthy cause, an awesome expo, terrific camaraderie — I guess those also count as reasons the Annapolis Ten Mile Run has become so popular in recent years.

But the real reason, I suspect, was revealed in last Sunday's *Washington Post* fashion column. It seems that sweat is "in."

RACE RESULTS

Dog Days of Summer 8K, August 11
 Overall men: Matt Smith 24:42, Edmund Burke 25:43, Robert Rade wick 27:15.
 Overall women: Carole Rosasco 31:32, Rose Malloy 33:25, Jennifer Sullivan 33:41.
 Boys 14 & under: Josh Dorsey, 34:46, Dave Walser 38:24, Justin Gooding, 39:07.
 Boys 15-19: Steve Hedgepath, 28:15, Ryan Stevens 28:41, Brian Miller 29:21.

Girls 15-19: Amanda Schmidt 36:29, Mandy Hope 43:02.
 Men 20-24: Michael Morton NA, Thomas Berzansky 29:06, Falk Hohmann NA.
 Women 20-24: Kristy Hope 34:28, Mary Norton 38:16, Wendy Schuh, 44:17.
 Men 25-29: Paul Walters 27:34, Jaime Dick 27:51, Mike Bronson, 28:08.
 Women 25-29: Kirsten LaClair 37:16, Christy Das 38:12, Beth Sherry 39:09.
 Men 30-34: Steve Egolf 27:21, Jeff Regelman 27:27, John Povelones, 29:56.
 Women 30-34: Ann Roberts, 37:38, Sherri Risher 39:28, Beth Mills, 41:04.
 Men 35-39: T'was Brillig 28:24, Mark Rosasco, 28:45, Steve Donahue, 29:19.
 Women 35-39: Cheryl Bagdasian, 41:41, Eileen Scanlon 42:32, Eileen Martini, 42:47.
 Men 40-44: Dave Webster, 28:21, Spark Rogers 29:17, Paul Serra, 30:08.
 Women 40-44: Sue Briers 35:48, Mary Lang 39:05, Marie Friedland, 40:21.
 Men 45-49: Don Scarborough, 31:51, James Stine 33:21, Eric Gyaki, 34:05.
 Women 45-49: Elizabeth Williams, 39:30, Jackie Crowe, 44:32, Regina Miente, 55:21.
 Men 50-54: John Kirkpatrick, 30:32, Clyde Villemez, 32:02, Bill Arnold, 34:21.
 Women 50-54: Danalee Green, 37:52, Linda Simpson, 45:48.
 Men 55-59: John Pitarra, 31:59, Fred Shanklin 36:07, Bill Derr 38:25.
 Women 55-59: Ardis Henderson, 57:12.
 Men 60-64: Paul Barrette, 36:54, Edward Karlson, 41:01, Lee Norman, 41:58.
 Women 60 & over: Tami Graf 39:43, Yvonne Aasen, 49:25.
 Men 65 & over: Ray Blue, 40:58, Brad Chapman, 43:03, Denzil Pritchard, 43:09.

Please send race announcements and results to Gabrielle deGroot, c/o The Capital, P.O. Box 911 Annapolis, Md 21404. Results also can be faxed to (410) 268-4643.

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