

Fishing Reports/Photos

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Capt. Jack's Curse

Capt. Jack wasn't too fond of our big fish adventures and has put a curse on me....in more than one way. Seriously, Jack and I get along great and I have a mountain of respect for him, but he has hexed the Down East boat and we haven't caught a big fish in the last few days.

It probably had more to do with the rising water and temps on Sunday, but our big fish have moved and I haven't been able to find them. The fishing is still really, really good with opportunities of 100 fish half days, but we've been unsuccessfully hunting the big ones and have been squeaking out 30-50 fish half days. The stripers that we've been catching have mostly been keepers with several non-keepers in the 23-26 inch range, but we haven't put a big one in the boat since last week.

Tomorrow is the last day of the keeper season, but we'll remain up here for the next two weeks, shifting to more fly fishing and topwater action. There was a pretty good spawn two days ago but the big spawn and the best topwater action is still to come. The river will be a lot less crowded with more fly rodders and less run and gunners who don't know how to idle without making a wake.

I've heard some frustrating folks who haven't been having good luck trying it on their own.

Two pieces of advice:

- 1) Hire a guide to learn how
- 2) If you aren't catching fish, move.

We had a good morning up in the rapids this morning and went down to check out the zoo where not much was going on. We idled past all of the anchored boats and started a drift, quickly catching 20+ stripers all on artificials, with 6 nice 21 inchers.

On the coast, it sounds like the puppy drum and trout are firing off as well as some really good early reports for the cobia. I can't wait to get out after them and we still have a few openings for the best of the season, the last two weeks of May and the first two weeks of June.

posted by Capt. George Beckwith at 10:22 PM

Friday, April 24, 2009
Another big fish day



Congrats Robby on this nice 24 pounder
posted by Capt. George Beckwith at 8:42 PM





posted by Capt. George Beckwith at 9:14 AM

**Thursday, April 23, 2009
and the big fish have arrived**

We released 3 over 27 inches yesterday, including a nice 20 pounder. Today we caught the biggest striper that I've ever seen on the river, 47 inches and 47 pounds.

posted by Capt. George Beckwith at 8:36 PM

**Monday, April 20, 2009
OK, now they're here like they should be**

All it took was an 80 degree day.

posted by Capt. George Beckwith at 6:07 PM

**Sunday, April 19, 2009
tough fishing this weekend**

I sure could have used some river herring today.....tough fishing. I just don't understand it, perhaps the boat traffic, but it seemed like there were more fish here when I started last week than were here this weekend.

Yesterday was the typical Saturday zoo, but we were satisfied with 30 fish from above the rapids. All of them were "keepers" or "in the slot". We kept 6 nice 21 1/2 inchers, but no BIG bites. The best part is that we fished all morning and only saw 2 boats. One of them had their lower unit ripped off of the bottom of the boat and needed a tow.

Today things were not as crowded and I had some "fly guys". We fished downriver, hoping to find some numbers, but we only beat down about 25 fish this morning, all on artificials and flies, but man it was tough. I never saw any really encouraging signs. I'm taking tomorrow off to let them recover. We should get another charge of fish any day now.

Today we would occasionally find a little patch of fish, but it didn't take long for the bait fishermen to anchor up and occupy the hole. It was hard to get a good drift.

Things are really going to take off any day now and those 100+ half days will be here.

To put things in perspective, I would be tickled to death to catch 55 stripers in two days on the Neuse, but very dissapointing here.

That's the latest.....oh, I can't help but brag on the guys on The Dragin Fly. The last three days:

44 sailfish, 37 snapper, 3 dolphin, 8 aj's and a 300 pound blue marlin.

Bite was way out there so they spent the night on the Furuno Reef last night, that's where they caught the snapper and aj's. Wish I were there this weekend.

posted by Capt. George Beckwith at 9:54 PM

Thursday, April 16, 2009

If anyone had doubts about the big fish being here...

...I wish that I could take more credit for this fish, caught by a good friend, actually my first charter customer back in 1994, Rick Goines. Late this afternoon Rick was fun fishing with another guide friend of his Mike Shearin on the Roanoke River, just drifting shad minnows with everyone else when this gal hit. She bottomed out a 30 pound Boga Grip.



On the Down East boat, we had a good morning, catching close to 70, then we took the secret weapons and went looking for a fish like Rick caught, we didn't catch anything close, a few fish in the slot, but nothing over 27 inches.



Also a pic that was left on the camera from one of the last days in Costa Rica.



posted by Capt. George Beckwith at 7:57 PM

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

This is what we're gonna be looking for.....



posted by Capt. George Beckwith at 9:18 PM

crazy schedule, secret weapons

We're pulling out all the stops this year in hopes of killing some big stripers. Capt. Ray, Capt. "Ponytail" and I will be traveling the country picking up a variety of live baits to try this year.

There shouldn't be any problem catching the regular sized ones, there seem to be plenty of them. The time to get 'em is NOW!!!! They are definatly here.

I will be away from the computer for a day or two, the best way to catch me is at 252-671-(FISH)3474

Openings for the Down East Guides is changing daily, drop us a line and we'll get you out on the water. The Roanoke water levels are perfect and it's looking like it's going to be a great year.

posted by Capt. George Beckwith at 8:59 PM

Friday, April 10, 2009

This is the report you've been waiting for....

...first day up on the Roanoke today. We started at 8:30 am with anticipations of a good day of shad fishing. It didn't take long to get in the meat, catching over 100 shad in just a couple of hours. With plenty of action, we started looking for any stripers that may be in the area. First cast and first keeper of the year. We found two little patches of fish and caught about 40, including 6 nice keepers. A lot of fish are moving up and every day should get better and better. Those 100+ fish days are going to happen ANY time. All the fish that we caught were on artificials.

In hind sight, we should've stayed with the stripers when we were catching them instead of getting greedy and looking for a bigger body of fish. I'm heading back to MHC to drop off the dogs....Shamrock just cannot stop attacking fish, eating them head first if he gets ahold of them. Although this is a problem, it's nothing like the gas that he has afterwards. Ruby just lays there and sleeps, either she is going deaf or in her old age, 15 this week, she just

doesn't listen anymore.....she can still hear a pack of nabs being opened.

My openings for this season are: April 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 22 1/2 am, 25 1/2 pm, 26, 28 1/2 pm, 29 1/2 pm and May 4 1/2 pm, 5 1/2 am. If none of these work for your schedule, we can get you on the water with Ray or one of the other Down East Guides.

Keeper season is in April only.

posted by Capt. George Beckwith at 5:02 PM

Tuesday, April 07, 2009
killer trout bite

Capt. Ray had a great day last week with the trout, catching 30 keepers in just a couple of hours, about half of them were really decent fish. He has since duplicated that success two times.

posted by Capt. George Beckwith at 11:57 AM

my last two fish...

The last two fish that I've caught have both been on a fly rod.....10 foot sailfish and a 10 inch trout. Both spectacular in their own ways.

I'm heading up to the Roanoke this weekend, still a few openings during the keeper season that ends in April. We'll have some reports from the river coming soon. Sounds like there are already some little "buck" stripers showing up.

Meanwhile, down in Costa Rica, some green water has moved in, making the sailfish a little tough. I just got this pic from Mauricio who rode a long with a group this past week. They caught 4 sails and on the way in, this big grouper.



Got a few "office days" this week.

Also trying to put together a trip to Argentina in June or July. The folks that we use down there are great people and do a fantastic job. Things are a little slow and are offering some discounts and promotions. If you ever wanted to go, this is the year. Also, kids hunt doves for free.

posted by Capt. George Beckwith at 11:45 AM

Wednesday, April 01, 2009
back in the states

I'm back in the states and getting geared up for the Roanoke....I have to admit, it is quite a change going from what we've been catching to what we're gonna be catching. The water levels look just right for a great striper season.

Meanwhile in Costa Rica, the guys are still catching 4-10 sails/day. There has been a little "green water" that has showed up and making finding clean water and the fish a little difficult, but they're still making the day.

posted by Capt. George Beckwith at 3:31 AM