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## FISHING REPORT

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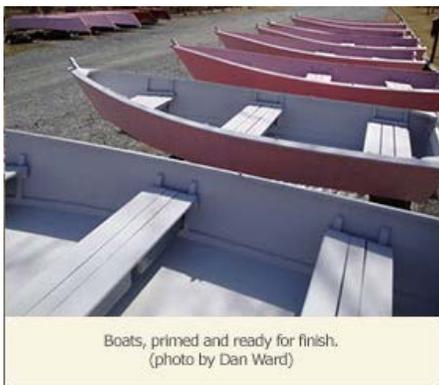


### Report from Fletcher's Cove - Ides of March 2011

Welcome to a new season in a place of old tradition. Fletcher's Cove is poised to open in this Spring of 2011. Good riddance to the cold, dark winter. Hello to robins, crocus and forsythia. The hard earth has finally thawed, and late winter rains have washed away the salt and the soot while swelling the buds. A few more fly-bys of the passing season can be expected, but one can hope that the balance has shifted towards balmy days and a green landscape.

Fletcher's has just experienced a minor flood. The level at Little Falls gauging station reached 10.88 feet on Saturday (a site-specific level relative to "normal" spring height of 4 to 6 feet), which puts the river in the entrance roadway and picnic area of the park. This situation is a serious nuisance, which requires back-breaking work to package-up and move, by heavy rope, our entire dock. It is also quite normal for the upper tidal Potomac. Many of us old river-rats believe that a timely rush of turbid water sends nature's text-message to the anadromous fish... *it's time to come upstream for your annual get-together at the tide line.*

We hope to open for rentals on, or about, the 26th of March. (Keep in mind that river rentals are always subject to proper water and weather conditions.) By that date, one can hope that herring, white perch and hickory shad will be bunching up right out from Fletcher's landing. Reports from downstream of abundant perch at Marshall Hall sound promising. And I saw my first Cormorant diving for a meal in the cove just a couple days ago.



Most of our classic tile-red boats are ready; the oars are newly stenciled; supplies are being stocked in the store; and, like chefs seasoning the stew, we will add the finishing dashes, dollops and pinches over the next couple of weeks. As always, Fletcher's will be the main vendor for the D.C. fishing permit one needs here if you are 16 to 65 years of age. We have a good selection of basic tackle, including shad darts from several producers.

One last piece of advice. Don't be a "Johnny-come-lately." If you hear about good fishing at Fletcher's (or anywhere else) you've probably missed it! Look to the whole experience. If you feel it is a good time to go fishing, then it probably is. Even in this age of

texting and tweeting you can not expect the fish to wait for you. Act on your intuition. The rewards go to those who are out there, taking a chance and soaking it all in.

For the type of fishing opportunities Fletcher's offers, please click on the ['archived fishing reports'](#) tab and pick a year and date. You will then gain a better frame of reference.

We hope to see you soon by the Potomac!

Dan



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[Check out Dan's article on Fletcher's Cove in this month's issue of \*The Buzz\*](#)  
(pages 11-12)





"Early season fly-fisherman, Fletcher's Cove"  
(photo by Dan Ward)

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