

ARCHIVED FISHING REPORTS

Fletchers Cove Fishing Report, March 30, 2006





As many of you are aware, Washington is experiencing the driest March on record. As the pollen and dust tickle our nostrils and put a haze on our cars, the old Potomac runs gin-clear and with a lazy flow that is quite bizarre for this time of Spring. A good healthy drink of rainwater would be most welcome right now.

The blossoms of cherry trees, daffodils and redbud serve as beautiful natural markers telling us that low water or not, the migratory fish are in the river and it is time to hit the banks or hop into a boat to do a little fishing.

Fletcher's Cove is the perfect place to jump-start your angling journey of 2006. Hickory Shad, Striped Bass, White Perch and Herring are making their appearance in the particularly calm, green water off of Fletcher's. D.C. fishing permits, bait, tackle, boats for hire and advice are available off of Canal and Reservoir Roads in the idyllic spot that has been a fishermen's Mecca for generations.

The rowboat fleet at the boathouse is growing week by week as freshly painted, new boats arrive from the craftsman shops of Alexandria and Kent Island. In the short run, it might be wise to fish on the weekdays if possible. The fishing is usually better and the experience a little more peaceful. Often in the Spring, just plain "rowing for fun" is discouraged as the current is too strong. This year, until considerable rain arrives, feel free to rent one of these uniquely designed and fun to row boats for some upper-body exercise, fresh air and beautiful vistas.

News from today includes scattered catches of Hickory Shad and perch. The store at the boathouse has one of the most complete selections of shad darts to be found anywhere, so fork-up some cash and get your stash... dart collecting is a healthy addiction. Also of note was the catch today by Mike Alper, a boathouse fixture and old George-Towner. Mike works hard at his sport, and is the consummate sportsman, scrupulously following the regulations and releasing most of the fish he could otherwise keep. He's the kind of fisherman who takes you to school if you have the patience to watch for the technique and subtlety of it all.

Point to remember... the fishing is just getting started. There is a good three months of prime fishing ahead. That being said, don't wait until someone tells you how great the fishing is to give it a try. Fishing you read about is a literary experience of the past. What you need is an angling experience of the present! As stated earlier, the river will benefit from some rain and stronger flow. If the water is a little colored, it usually improves the fishing. But as with the stock market, don't try to time your outing perfectly. Disappointment is usually hiding in the shadow of a perfectionist.

If you haven't done so, for a sense of perspective from last year, check the "previous fishing reports" button on the site. Happy angling!

Dan

