



Gary Sloan's Fish Stories

Hello and welcome to our first issue of the year. Unless you have lived in a hole with ground hogs, how can I continue without a reference to this year's version of winter. I believe Mother nature kissed us on the cheek in appreciation for our tolerance over the past couple of harsh winters. We can only hope it continues into an early spring. I always harp on the impact of weather on fishing. You might ask what does weather mean to fishing? It means only everything. The best striper fishing can occur on a rainy and howling Northeaster. Those same conditions can crush many other types of fishing. I believe one benefit from this warm winter will be an early start to the spring run of fishing. Warmer ocean waters will bring the bait into our area followed by the migratory species of fish. The only thing left for us is to wait for Big Brother (National Marine Fisheries) to tell us what, when, and how much fishing we can do according to their crystal ball of regulations, questionable data, and a misguided agenda. We have come a long way from when President Hoover stated "Americans believe they have a divine right to unlimited fishing, inherited from ten thousand generations of free fishermen." President Bush Sr., known for his love of fishing and the inability to catch them, was obviously an environmentalist at heart. Even gentlemen President Jimmy Carter became a committed fly fishermen. He stated "The trout don't give a darn if

you are President or a local farmer. It's a disciplinary thing to do." Over the years, I supported the fisheries service and their regulations. The last several years, I have come to question much of what they put forth on recreational fishing.

Looking ahead, fishing for the offshore species, like cod, can be accomplished by boat and decent weather. March should see the beginning of some stripers in the surf and back bays. Surf clams will be the bait of choice. Winter flounder can be caught also using clam and a small hook. Red sinkers and rice in a chum pot can help produce more fish. What they lack in size they make up for in taste. The surf will improve and start producing stripers when the water temperature ranges in the mid to upper fifties. April brings some weakfish and bluefish in the latter part of the month. The Mackerel history is based on an Easter time frame, but they have been so inconsistent the past few years. The early season can be difficult to figure so check with your local Bait and Tackle shop or a knowledgeable friend. I am hoping the drum season will be early and better than last year. These fish look like a prehistoric creature. They give a good fight on light tackle and are good table fare. The down days due to winter refusing to let go, can be great for cleaning and fixing the tackle. (which you should have done last fall) I'll vouch for the difficulty of reverse engineering of maintenance failures. At times, I have made procrastination an art form. While on vacation in Florida, I caught a glance of a real funny bumper sticker.

It said, "Even Jesus had a fish story." We had a few stories ourselves while fishing in the Keys this past winter. Now is the time to plan your future Fish Stories.

God Bless,
Gary Sloan,
North Wildwood, NJ

tides roll in... tides roll out

		March			
		(Eastern Standard Time)			
		High		Low	
		A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	Thu	1:24	1:56	7:53	7:36
2	Fri	2:28	3:03	8:56	8:39
3	Sat	3:31	4:05	9:53	9:40
4	Sun	4:27	4:59	10:44	10:37
5	Mon	5:18	5:47	11:29	11:29
6	Tue	6:05	6:32	12:12	12:12
7	Wed	6:49	7:17	12:19	12:54
8	Thu	7:34	8:01	1:08	1:36
9	Fri	8:18	8:46	1:57	2:20
10	Sat	9:05	9:33	2:47	3:04

		April			
		(Eastern Daylight Time)			
		High		Low	
		A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
11	Sun	10:53	11:24	4:39	4:52
12	Mon	11:45	5:33	5:43	
13	Tue	12:18	12:43	6:33	6:40
14	Wed	1:20	1:49	7:37	7:45
15	Thu	2:28	3:03	8:46	8:55
16	Fri	3:39	4:17	9:54	10:05
17	Sat	4:47	5:23	10:57	11:09
18	Sun	5:47	6:19	11:52	
19	Mon	6:38	7:06	12:06	12:41
20	Tue	7:24	7:48	12:56	1:23
21	Wed	8:05	8:26	1:42	2:02
22	Thu	8:43	9:02	2:24	2:38
23	Fri	9:20	9:36	3:04	3:12
24	Sat	9:55	10:10	3:42	3:45
25	Sun	10:31	10:44	4:20	4:17
26	Mon	11:08	11:20	4:58	4:50
27	Tue	11:45	11:58	5:38	5:26
28	Wed	12:27	12:27	6:21	6:06
29	Thu	12:42	1:16	7:11	6:55
30	Fri	1:34	2:16	8:07	7:54
31	Sat	2:35	3:22	9:07	9:00

Moon Phases	
Full Moon	8
Last Quarter	14
New Moon	22
First Quarter	30
Perigee	10
Apogee	26

Moon Phases	
Full Moon	6
Last Quarter	13
New Moon	21
First Quarter	29
Perigee	7
Apogee	22

- Best Times for Fishing**
- One hour before and one hour after high tide and low tide.
 - During the "morning rise" after sunrise for a spell and the "evening rise" just before sundown and the hour or so after.
 - When the barometer is steady or on the rise. But even during stormy periods, the fish aren't going to give up feeding. Smart fisherman will find just the right bait.
 - When the breeze is from a westerly quarter rather than from the north or east.
 - When the water is still or rippled, rather than during a wind.

~Taken from the Farmer's Almanac