Hello and Welcome!

Don't look now but the 2011 summer season will soon become recent history. As a local resident I always looked upon Labor Day weekend as the official end of summer. I know that officially the calendar has it occurring later in September. Here are a couple of signs for the locals to note the end of summer. The lonely Tuesday morning drive after the Labor Day weekend to the boat. An empty Wawa screams out (it’s over). Suddenly swallows are lined up on the electric power lines on Kennedy Drive. The few people on the beach in the morning are the beach cleaners. Dried brown leaves have come out of hiding in the Maple tree and started the assault on your beautiful green lawn. An initial sighting of the first tumbleweed. OK I am getting carried away.

Fall fishing has a unique feel to itself. The slower pace of life on the island allows everyone to squeeze a little joy out of a day. The cooler nights seem to rekindle the energy and boost the spirit. It also brings Bluefish to the surf looking for the bait balls of Mullet. I always get a little melancholy and reflective in the fall with the reality that the promise of spring has passed and the summer colors begin to fade. The first contact with a Striper brings back the memories of great fall Striper fishing and suddenly the melancholy ebbs away like the tide. The summer blue ocean loses its deep blue color to the fall greenish brown mix and the many migratory species begin to school up for warmer waters.

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A tip of the hat to the offshore crowd. If there was ever a summer to be an offshore sport fisherman this was the summer. The Tuna bite has been incredible. The consistency of action offshore happens maybe every 20 years. The spread of Dolphin inshore have made it a frequent catch at the reefs, while Flounder fishing. We are banking on a Cobia before the end of the year.

The Sea Bass and Flounder have cooperative most of the summer and should continue into the fall. Keeper ratio’s have been up and down but the action has been consistent. Tautog fishing should also improve into the fall. Croakers and Weakfish have disappointed again this year. They should school up outside Hereford Inlet in October and give us plenty of action. The Flounder season continues thru September hopefully keeping the fluke anglers interested. Mother nature for her part has blessed us with pretty nice weather this summer. We can hope it will continue into the fall.

This is the year you should DVD the Eagles football games and enjoy those beautiful Sunday’s in the outdoors, fishing in the surf, bays or oceans. Share with family or friends a wonderful relaxing day in nature and give yourself a warm memory for a cold day this winter.

God Bless,

Captain Gary Sloan,

The Adventurer, Wildwood, NJ

A Fisherman’s Prayer: “KEEPER”
I pray that I may live to fish
Until my dying day: And when it comes to my last cast.
I then most humbly pray
When in the Lord’s great landing net
And peacefully asleep
That in His mercy I be judged good enough to keep.

CAPTAIN GARY’S
Fall Fishing Report

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