

# CONNECTICUT FISHING REPORT

by Bob Sampson Jr.

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stuff he bought for his first outing in many years. One day this summer, while aboard *Playing Hookie* with Bill, he told me that when he first got back on the water, the old-style diamond jigs, even though they were heavier, eight to twelve ounces, would “hang up”, as he stated it, in the fast-moving tides in the Race and not sink anywhere nearly as fast as the lighter, back-weighted, holographic, modern jigs that need only weigh half as much.

The day we fished together, Bill was effectively getting to the bottom with six-ounce blade-style jigs during an incoming moon tide, when in the old days he'd have been cranking up 10- to 12-ounce Diamond Jigs. By combining good tackle and his heightened sense of feel, Bill has become very adept at “squidding” bluefish from the depths of the Race. Squidding is a vertical fishing technique that is basically dropping a lure to the bottom and cranking it up through the fish, either from top to bottom or stopping and dropping it back through the depth range where fish are marking on the recorder screen. It takes skill and energy.

I saw Mr. Sirois picking a few blues when

the 10 or 15 boats within sight were doing absolutely nothing. This guy has mastered deep water vertical jigging and was a pleasure to observe and talk with on a cool “bluebird” day in the Race late last August.

Mr. Sirois told me he loved being in the riled waters of the Race in the hands of an “ex-teacher/school principal” who gave him concise instructions and warnings when needed, such as when wakes from other boats were on the way. He said the essence of reclaiming his passion for fishing is achieved when he's cranking that jig up from the bottom and it's stopped dead by a hungry, hard-pulling bluefish. I give this man all the credit in the world for what he's does on a weekly basis. He is a good example for others who may have similar desires to overcome whatever handicaps they may be dealing with.

Stripers always hang around a little later in the season than the more warmth-loving bluefish. As the season runs from the often warm weather of early October to the cold temps of late November, the space between pulses of bait and predators that are migrating south becomes larger, to a point where there

may be larger holes than fishable schools, so angling in general becomes more hit and miss.

When it's good, it can be incredible; when it's bad, it can be awful. Late November/early December is the time when “the Fat Lady sings” an end to marine angling.

Look for some of the last great striped bass catches of the year to take place in the region's striper Meccas located in the waters from Newport to Block Island, Montauk Point and back to Plum Gut, the Race, Fishers Island and the Watch Hill Reef Complex. If any records fall, it will most likely occur during the month of November when the last of the giants make their way back to their wintering grounds. It's never completely over for those who want to continue to catch striped bass. During November and December there will be striper fishing opportunities associated with the run of Atlantic herring in western Long Island Sound and tens of thousands of bass will move into the wintering grounds of the Thames River, where they will create a fishery that lasts all winter as long as the ice cover doesn't freeze boats off the water.

## High Tides For October 2008 Bridgeport, CT

Oct 1	12:56 AM	1:10 PM	Oct 16	12:20 AM	12:36 PM
Oct 2	1:36 AM	1:49 PM	Oct 17	1:08 AM	1:25 PM
Oct 3	2:16 AM	2:29 PM	Oct 18	2:00 AM	2:17 PM
Oct 4	2:58 AM	3:12 PM	Oct 19	2:56 AM	3:15 PM
Oct 5	3:44 AM	3:59 PM	Oct 20	3:58 AM	4:20 PM
Oct 6	4:34 AM	4:51 PM	Oct 21	5:06 AM	5:31 PM
Oct 7	5:29 AM	5:48 PM	Oct 22	6:16 AM	6:42 PM
Oct 8	6:26 AM	6:45 PM	Oct 23	7:22 AM	7:50 PM
Oct 9	7:20 AM	7:39 PM	Oct 24	8:23 AM	8:51 PM
Oct 10	8:11 AM	8:31 PM	Oct 25	9:16 AM	9:44 PM
Oct 11	8:57 AM	9:19 PM	Oct 26	9:03 AM	9:31 PM
Oct 12	9:41 AM	10:05 PM	Oct 27	9:46 AM	10:14 PM
Oct 13	10:24 AM	10:50 PM	Oct 28	10:27 AM	10:54 PM
Oct 14	11:07 AM	11:34 PM	Oct 29	11:05 AM	11:32 PM
Oct 15	11:51 AM	-----	Oct 30	11:42 AM	-----
			Oct 31	12:10 AM	12:20 PM

### High Tides For Other Locations:

City Island	+0:17	Stamford	+0:03	Madison	-0:21
New Rochelle	-0:04	S. Norwalk	+0:09	Essex	-0:05
Mamaroneck	+0:12	Housatonic Rvr	+0:26	Saybrook Pt	-0:31
Cos Cob	+0:05	Milford	-0:08	New London	-1:45

Times are approximate • Not responsible for errors

#### Moon Phases



## High Tides For October 2008 Sandy Hook, NJ

Oct 1	9:45 AM	10:01 PM	Oct 16	9:13 AM	9:44 PM
Oct 2	10:24 AM	10:43 PM	Oct 17	10:00 AM	10:37 PM
Oct 3	11:05 AM	11:28 PM	Oct 18	10:53 AM	11:37 PM
Oct 4	11:49 AM	-----	Oct 19	11:54 AM	-----
Oct 5	12:17 AM	12:37 PM	Oct 20	12:42 AM	12:59 PM
Oct 6	1:09 AM	1:27 PM	Oct 21	1:46 AM	2:03 PM
Oct 7	2:02 AM	2:20 PM	Oct 22	2:50 AM	3:07 PM
Oct 8	2:57 AM	3:15 PM	Oct 23	3:53 AM	4:09 PM
Oct 9	3:54 AM	4:12 PM	Oct 24	4:53 AM	5:10 PM
Oct 10	4:49 AM	5:06 PM	Oct 25	5:49 AM	6:04 PM
Oct 11	5:40 AM	5:57 PM	Oct 26	5:37 AM	5:52 PM
Oct 12	6:26 AM	6:44 PM	Oct 27	6:20 AM	6:36 PM
Oct 13	7:08 AM	7:28 PM	Oct 28	7:00 AM	7:16 PM
Oct 14	7:49 AM	8:12 PM	Oct 29	7:37 AM	7:55 PM
Oct 15	8:30 AM	8:56 PM	Oct 30	8:14 AM	8:35 PM
			Oct 31	8:51 AM	9:15 PM

### High Tides For Other Locations:

Atlantic Highlands	-0:10	Red Bank	+1:16	Seaside Heights	-0:03
South Amboy	-0:04	Manasquan Inlet	-0:13	Sea Bright	+1:15
Belmar	-0:35	New Brunswick	+0:31	Beaverdam Creek	+2:29

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