

# Weakfish, Sea Bass, Porgies and Plaice Biting in the Waters From Seabright to Fire Island

## WEAKFISH BITING; GET YOUR TACKLE!

Every Jamaica Channel Has Fish—To Scatter in Fortnight.

### BAIT, HOOKS, RIG, TIDE

In all the channels of the bays surrounding New York, including Great South Bay, Hempstead Bay and Jamaica Bay on the south shore of Long Island and in Princess Bay on Staten Island, schools of weakfish are found.

Weakfish have been late in arriving because of the coldness of the water, which kept back the spawning time, but with the advent of warm weather weakfish are taking the hook freely in the various local waters.

In Princess Bay and the Kills weakfish have been particularly late in coming, but now that the fish have struck in at Sandy Hook, schools will soon work their way into these waters in great numbers.

The channels of Jamaica Bay have been particularly productive of late, although there are off days when for some reason or other weakfish cannot be induced to take the hook. The most tempting shrimp, shedder crab, or worm seems to make no appeal to them.

### Unique Channel Names.

Now is the time to catch fish in the channels of Jamaica Bay, particularly in the shallow channels, for within a fortnight doubtless the fish will spread all over the bay.

Near Goose Creek are such famous weakfish grounds as "The Bend," "Butt's Draw" and "Roger's Drain." "The Bottles," the "Shell Heap" and "Valentine's Point" are easily reached from the Point.

From Canarsie it is but a short row to the "Pumpkin Patch," "The Camp" and "The Cinders."

Recently a famous weakfish spot was closed when Barren Island Drain was filled in. The channel, Island Channel, Stouboey Channel, Yankee Channel, Broad Channel, Beach Channel, False Channel, Irish Creek, the Cellars, the Cartwheel, the Pot, Black Wall, Silver Hole, Slip Meadow.

### Bait, Hooks, Rig, Tide.

A man who averages a fishing trip once a week in Jamaica Bay offers these suggestions to the tyro fisher.

As to bait, hooks, rig and tide he uses to lure weakfish.

Bait—Try any of the following: crabs, spearing, shrimp, bloodworms, salted livers, white worms, minnows, porky, surf mullet, menhaden, pearl, bone and cedar squid. For chum—Shrimps, chopped Lafayette's, sea robins, hard clams, horse mussels.

Hooks—2 to 4 Kirby-Sprat or Aberdeen, 5 to 7 Kirby-Limerick, 4 to 5 Carillie.

Baited hook attached to end of line with a three or four foot double-gut leader, no sinker, allowing it to drift with the current. If current is very swift, split shot. If fish are not feeding on the surface, use light sinker (one ounce) attached just above the leader with float. If fishing deep, heavier sinker (2½ ounces) should be used.

Tide—Half tide, ebb tide in deep water; flood tide, shallow water; high water slack.

### George Kane's Suggestions.

George Kane of the Lexington Fishing Club, which has its headquarters at Goose Creek, Jamaica Bay, offers these suggestions to those who would like to catch weakfish and have never tried because they were not sure how to fish.

Mr. Kane says to this class of fishermen: "Don't start until the tide is half up, about three hours before high water. Just before high tide it is best there. Return to the boat a quarter of eight, as you will have to chum to be successful. Put about two dozen shrimp on the seat of your boat at a time."

Hit them with the palm of your hand so they can't jump away to one side or into the water. Otherwise some other fellow might get the benefit of your chum. Only throw one over at a time, about one minute intervals. When you catch your first fish you can chum a little more freely to hold them.

Attach a small weakfish hook with three-foot leader to the end of the line. Don't use sinker or squid. Let it run 100 or 150 feet of line and keep jigging.

The proper way to jig for weakfish is to give your line a sudden jerk. Having no sinker attached, it jumps to the top of the water. Then by letting the slack go quickly the bait settles almost to the bottom.

Naturally you have the advantage of fishing at all depths, top, midway or bottom. The advantage of fishing at a depth is that you can see the fish might be running either over or under his hook.

If the fish are hungry you can put a white worm on the hook, leaving about two inches of the tail hanging free. Put one or two shrimp on the end or point of the hook.

If the fish are just for fun or sucking the bait (being well fed), place one shrimp on the point of the hook, changing to the smallest sized hook on one's hook. Weakfish hook that can be procured.

Early morning, if the tide is right, is the best. If you have not the time to stay all night, toward evening is next best, but they will bite any time of day if they are good and hungry.

### Early Fishing Trips Popular.

Captain Fred Wrege of the M. J. R. II, of Sheepshead Bay, instead of going out at 8 A. M. is now leaving at 6 A. M.

"These early trips are more productive than those of the afternoon," says Captain Wrege, "and I think my fishermen would prefer the two hours earlier start. On Thursday, for instance, the high hook was on the M. J. R. II, had 53 sea bass."

## NOW IS THE TIME TO CATCH THE PLAICE

Locally Called Fluke—Found From Seabright to Fire Island.

### HOW TO PREPARE IT

Plaice—or, as most fishermen prefer to call the fish, fluke—are biting in the waters from Seabright to Fire Island and in all the bays that surround New Jersey, Staten Island and Long Island. It is a hot weather fish.

John P. Baumeil, who fishes practically every Sunday during the summer season, believes the best way to get fluke is as follows: One three foot leader attached to a spreader or swivel, and a swivel placed on the line at the sinker, putting one small black-fish hook with cord snell at the end of the line.

One hook of the same size should be put about eighteen inches from the first one, or in the middle of the leader.

The use of the spreader does away with the snarling of the leader, and the one swivel near the sinker does away with the kinking of the line at the sinker.

The putting on of the kills is a very essential part of fluking. Mr. Baumeil pushes the hook through the kill about one inch from the tail, or through the lips. If this is tried he is sure good results will follow.

His catch usually is larger than others, because of the careful study he gives to rig.

### Herman Brand's Observations.

Herman Brand is another fisherman who has made a study of the fluke. Here are the results of Mr. Brand's observations.

"Fluke fishing as a sport is considered generally to be a few notches lower in the scale of salt water angling than either striped bass fishing or catching the fluke."

"A sinker only heavy enough to carry the line to the bottom should be used, and the leader fastened to the six inches above the sinker."

"Live kills are the bait mostly used, and the method of putting them on the hook that is usually recommended is to hook the kills through the lips so they will swim naturally, but the majority of Jamaica Bay fishermen put a kill on the hook by inserting the point of the hook into the back of the kill near the dorsal fin, and then pass it along under the skin toward the tail as far as the bend in the hook will permit, then again push it through the skin to clear the barb."

### How to Hook Killie.

"Drifting is the method of fishing for fluke that is productive of the best results, but on occasions sometimes are caught while fishing at anchor."

"While the boat is drifting with the tide the angler is fishing practically in the clear, for a current will create a friction from a current on the line of bait, therefore the killie on the hook can swim about as if entirely free, and even if hooked, in the hook will be able to bubble up, as is the case in all fish fishing."

"When the baited rig is out and is being trailed along, its distance from the boat is the best method of catching, so that a fluke when hooked can display his resistance to capture to a better advantage."

"This process of fishing for fluke a killie when impaled on the hook through its lips looks more attractive than if hooked through the skin of the back, because of the action of the tide, but the chance for a capture is not so good when a fluke strikes, for sometimes a fluke will strike short, especially if the killie is over three inches long."

"When fishing at anchor and using a light sinker it will be noticed that when the rig is out for a short time the pressure of the current against the sinker will cause it to drift, and when this occurs enough line should be paid out until the sinker again rests on bottom."

"This process of fishing can be repeated until the spool on the reel is empty, then the line is reeled in and cast in another direction. Fluke do not always bite with a fierce fight when hooked, but the same can be said of some varieties of game fish, the name of which alone will often cause an angler's imagination to magnify their struggles for freedom."

### How to Follow Strike.

"Fluke, when angled for in Jamaica Bay with rigs and with methods as described above, will usually show enough resistance to capture to please anybody. When a fluke takes the bait the strike should be followed up with a gentle jerk of the reel, followed by a steady pull firmly and to rouse the fish into action."

"They can be caught in all channels with a sandy bottom. Drifting or trolling is the best method of catching. During the incoming tide they swim along the edges of the channels in quest of food. On the outgoing tide they seek the deeper water."

"The best time to fish for fluke is successful in these waters for fluke is a leader from three to four feet in length (a piece of fishing answers the purpose), fastened to the end of the line with a Kirby-Limerick hook fastened to the end of the leader and another a foot from it."

"In drifting or trolling the long coil of line should be collected on the line, leaving the bait on and near the end of the long leader clear."

"In using these long leaders do not allow the lead to go to the bottom too fast, because then the leader will go down parallel with the line and become entangled."

"Use heavy sinkers, according to thickness of line."

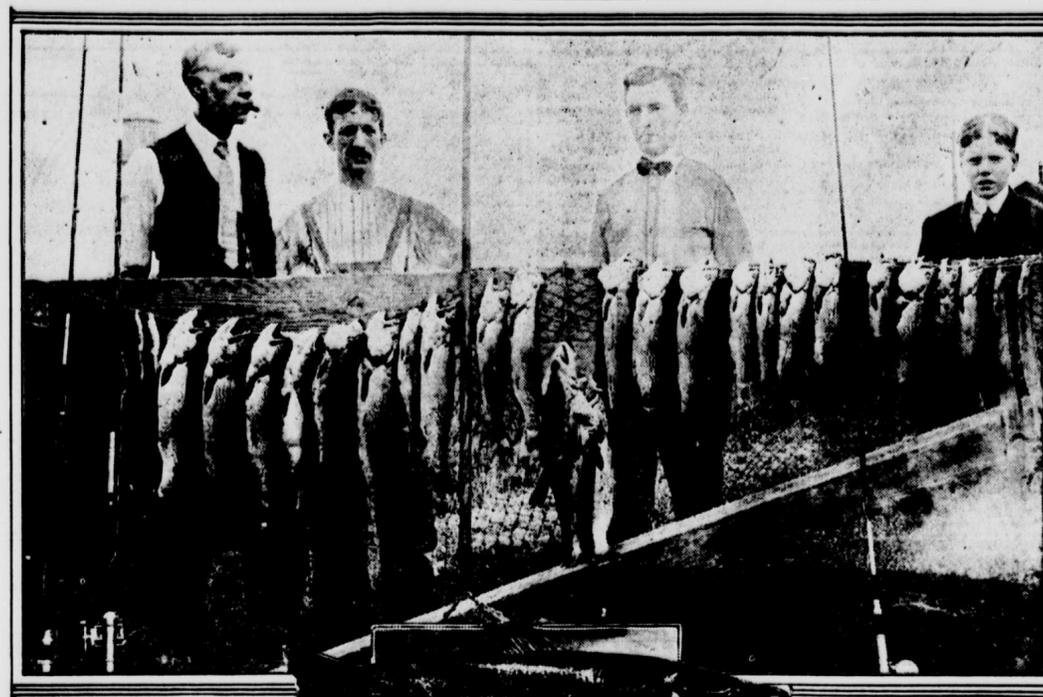
"When baiting with kills, spearing, hermit crabs, menhaden, etc., the leader will go down parallel with the line and become entangled."

"When baiting with kills do not allow the hook to pierce any vital parts. Put the hook into his back, using a jig when I catch the most successful in these waters for fluke is a leader from three to four feet in length (a piece of fishing answers the purpose), fastened to the end of the line with a Kirby-Limerick hook fastened to the end of the leader and another a foot from it."

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### How to Put Spearing on Hook.

"The proper way to put a spearing on the hook is to cut the belly open well down to the tail, remove the gut, then pass the hook through his mouth, drawing the snail in after it as far as the loop; push the hook in on the side of the backbone in the cut so it will come out of the back about one inch from the tail, then take hold



Handsome marked weakfish taken in Barnegat Bay, the largest fish in the catch taken on cotton thread. The three men who advocate light tackle for weakfish and who made the catch are Messrs. Harry Conster of East Orange, Edward Stone of Newark and Raymond Helkap of Leonia, N. J.

Below, the kind of trout they get in the Catskills—8 pounds in weight, 20 inches in length, caught at Calvo, N. Y.

## BASS ON CRUDE TACKLE.

Instances of Big Fish Taken With Heavy Equipment. Honey Carque has caught black bass on crude tackle and does not agree with Henry Desseure that only the finest of equipment will land the fish that Professor Henshall called "inch for inch and pound for pound, the gamest fish that swims."

Mr. Carque writes to THE SUN as follows: "On July 6 Henry Desseure had an article on black bass in THE SUN, stating that a farmer boy with a bent pin and a line 4 feet long and a body of water with land on all sides, it only becomes necessary to look in four directions—first north, and then take some object due north of your fishing spot and remember it, such as a big tree, smokestack or building."

"Then look due east and fix upon another object, and your good fishing spot will be at the intersection of imaginary lines drawn from both those points."

"If you desire to be doubly sure you can sit on objects due south and west, but any two objects ninety degrees apart will be sufficient to fix a point."

"It is assumed that you are seated in a boat directly over the spot you wish to mark, hence it is easy to take 'shots' due east and south or north and west. Any two are sufficient."

## WILL SHAD TAKE THE HOOK?

Answered by Catch of W. E. Simmons in Nissequogue. The Professor writes to THE SUN as follows: "William E. Simmons, a well known angler and writer on fish and fishing, says shad will take the hook and that he can substantiate his statement."

"He says that on Thursday, June 29, he landed two shad with worm bait fishing in the Nissequogue River, near Smithtown, L. I."

"Mr. Simmons hooked several other shad, but they got away. He is now sure that shad will grab worm bait, and will put up a fierce fight."

"He was not successful with flies, but he knows a friend who landed a shad on a fly."

"It will be remembered that Commodore B. M. Kurtz of the United States League has all along held the belief that shad could be landed with a hook properly baited to suit the taste of that delicious fish."

## Fluke at Long Branch.

Fluke and blackfish are biting at Long Branch, where the following catches follow: A. G. Skeels, 39 North Fifth avenue, Long Branch, 46 fluke; John Drone, 38 Water street, Perth Amboy, 32 fluke, 1 blackfish, and Mrs. J. Stebert of Deal Beach, a 4 pound fluke.

## No Ill Effects From Storms.

The very heavy winter that Berk shire Hills had during January, February and March would have had effects upon game, was the belief of hunters. However, the present indications are that game has suffered no ill effects.

## Majority Vote Fluke.

Fishermen in the Whittby on Monday caught fluke, sea bass and blackfish. A suggestion was made that a variety of fish might be taken at Sandy Hook. A majority voted "fluke" and the captain complied with the request. Quantities of fluke were taken there.

## Who Has Seen Skiff Adrift?

E. E. Kottenbach of 619 Lincoln avenue, Midland Beach, Staten Island, asks: "The SUN to aid him in finding his twelve foot skiff, which drifted away from Midland Beach on Wednesday night last. Mr. Kottenbach says his name plate is on the stern of the boat."

## New Yorkers Take Fluke.

Fishing at Freeport, L. I. in Great South Bay, on Thursday, Mr. and Mrs. Pahrenhorst, Mr. and Mrs. Muller and Mr. and Mrs. Schiller, all from Park avenue and Ninetieth street, caught 105 fluke, weighing 250 pounds in all.

## Undersize Bass Taken.

E. Roche of 74 Pine street writes that fishermen who are not familiar with the law are taking small striped bass, six and seven inches in length, from the Hudson at Riverdale.

## WOMAN BETTERS TARPON RECORD

Mrs. Ashby Jones Takes 210 Pounder in Caloosahatchee River.

### FISH FOUGHT ONE HOUR

Year by year women are taking more interest in angling, and the catching of a record tarpon by Mrs. Ashby Jones of Gloucester, Va., in the Caloosahatchee River, Florida, shows to what degree of expertness woman has arrived.

The SUN on Friday recorded the taking of a tarpon weighing 210 pounds, 7 feet 5 inches in length with a girth of 3 feet 7½ inches, by Virginia's most noted woman angler.

Mrs. Jones fought her fish for an hour before it was finally brought to gaff, and without question her record fish will stand a long time before it is approached by any woman angler, or even by man himself.

This is the record tarpon of the Florida 1916 season, and the Fort Meyer Tarpon Fishing Association in giving Mrs. Jones honorary membership and the club's gold button did everything within its power to show its appreciation of good sportsmanship.

### Record Raised Five Pounds.

Mrs. Jones' tarpon is five pounds heavier than the tarpon taken in 1893 by Mrs. George T. Staggs of Kentucky, now Mrs. T. J. Bachmann. Mrs. Bachmann's fish weighed 205 pounds and required eighty minutes in order to be secured after she had to offer to the fish at Boca Grande, Fla., won much praise when the fish was exhibited at the World's Fair in Chicago. Five million people viewed the fish.

The first time a woman angler is Mrs. J. Turner-Turner of London, who took eight tarpon in the Florida waters in one tide.

Miss Hampton, a daughter of Gen. W. Hampton, is also a noted tarpon angler. In one day she caught fifteen tarpon. Miss Blanche Tanner in one tide came close to Mrs. Turner-Turner's record, she landed half a dozen fish.

### Chicago Woman's Big Fish.

In the waters of Aransas Pass, Texas, Mrs. W. H. Lark of Chicago holds the record for tarpon taken on light tackle. Her fish was 6 feet 2½ inches in length, weighed 180 pounds, and was taken at Boca Grande, Fla., which insists upon the following conditions:

The line must not exceed a standard size, must be of wood, consisting of a butt and tip, and to be not shorter than six feet over all. Butt to be not over eighteen inches in length. Tip not less than five feet in length and to weigh not more than six ounces.

There must not be more than twelve inches of line doubled back of the tip and length of leader shall not exceed 100 feet.

Anglers competing for membership or prizes must submit their tackle for inspection to one of the measuring committees before they are allowed to fish.

Anglers must bring fish to gaff unaided, and the fish must be reeled in. A broken rod, either before or after gaffing, disqualifies the angler.

Fish must be measured at the wheel by a member of the measuring committee, and recorded.

Membership is open to amateurs only. Tarpon fishing by sharks during landing will be disqualified.

By tip is meant that portion of rod from outer end of rod to point where same is assembled at butt with tip fully seated.

Gold buttons are given for all tarpon over 5 feet 6 inches, and silver buttons for all fish over 4 inches and over 100 pounds.

Women who have taken the coveted gold buttons include: Mrs. Ditz, Mrs. S. S. Boyd of Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. Frank Grace of San Antonio, Texas; Mrs. J. J. S. O'Mara of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Silver buttons have been earned by women as follows: Mrs. A. Carter, New York; Mrs. M. C. Carter, Port Aransas, Texas; Miss Ella Lewis, San Antonio, Texas; Mrs. J. C. Steadman, Beaumont, Texas; and Mrs. J. D. Wilkerson, Beaumont, Texas.

Mrs. B. H. Jones of Fort Worth, Texas, holds the Aransas Pass record for tarpon taken in any one day. She captured six fish.

### Women Take Giant Fish.

There are five clubs in America to which women are admitted to competitions, but when it comes to the actual membership on the taking of big fish (tarpon, sea bass, white sea bass, bluefish and other more or less known members of the finny tribe).

The first specifications of the Tuna Club of the Light Tackle Club, or in the Texas waters under the auspices of the Aransas Pass Tarpon Club, or in New Jersey in the tournament of the Ashbury Park Fishing Club, it does not keep them from fishing.

For Mrs. A. W. Barrett of Los Angeles has to her credit a black sea bass of 47½ pounds. Mrs. E. N. Dickerson of Providence, R. I., has a 35 pound sea bass, and Mrs. J. C. Cornor of Colorado Springs, Col., 116 pounds.

This 216 pound tuna caught by Mrs. Dickerson is next to the largest tuna ever taken on light tackle. The tuna was 4 feet 10 inches long, weighed 216 pounds, Mrs. W. E. Strupp of Huntsville, Ala., 116½ pounds; Mrs. F. S. O'Mara of Avalon, Cal., 135 pounds; and Mrs. J. C. Cornor of Colorado Springs, Col., 116 pounds.

### Donnelly's to the Front.

Three members of the Donnelly Association on July 4 in the Grey of Sheepshead Bay caught 45 sea bass.

## SEA BASS BITING OFF JERSEY COAST

Rattlesnake, Elbow, Knoll and Rocky Hill Famous Grounds.

### SEA BASS PLAYED 'POSSUM'

Sea bass are biting in the waters on the northern coast of New Jersey, and on the grounds of Long Beach. The most famous grounds along the Jersey coast are known as the Shrewsbury Rocks.

One spot on this ledge is called Rattlesnake, another is called Elbow, and another is known as Knoll. The Shrewsbury Rocks are from close in shore at Seabright to three miles out, on the coast, making a ledge of rocks 30 feet from the sea face.

Other grounds of these "banks" are called Nigger ground, the Knoll, Long grounds and the Staten Island grounds, which are furthest to the southward.

The sea bass grounds off Long Beach are known as the bass grounds. No bass grounds, except Staten Island and Newark grounds. Near by are the Florida wreck and the Stone Pile.

Sea bass fishing is one of the most popular among salt water fishermen that New York has to offer.

Many amusing stories are told by fishermen about the sea bass, because where one fisherman seeks weakfish, his dog will go fishing for sea bass. Sea bass fishing is for the tyro.

Here is a story of a sea bass that played 'possum, as it is told by a man who has been fishing for sea bass.

"On the Titania one day," he says, "at the England Banks, a large black sea bass was hooked and landed. The fish was so big that it was necessary to cut a hole in the boat, but the hook tore out and the sea bass fell back into the water, striking so hard it must have been killed. It floated on the surface and made no sound, but it was not dead. The fish was immediately caught by a net by one of the crew and turned over to the angler who lost it in a tub he had in his cabin."

"A few minutes afterward the fish must have recuperated, for it jumped out of the tub, struck the water and swam on board, striking the water hard enough to stun it again."

"The deckhand immediately caught the fish in the net, and the fisherman who had lost and recovered it, did not complain about the death of the fish, for no more accommodating angler could you find on any boat that goes to the banks than on the Titania, but is a passenger entitled to the prize if he does not land the fish on deck?"

Peter P. Alnor of 314 West Nineteenth street once landed three sea bass on two hooks. "This is how it happened," he says.

"I was fishing from the Cape Cod humpbacks on my line, with two other lines, one being snail under the humpbacks, and the other being a snail. The line became twisted around the third one. I had all I could do to get the three aboard, but landed them all. The fish were all good."

### The Sport's Gold Piece.

Henry Weston, who has been fishing for sea bass, has a gold piece which was a reward for his services in the capture of a sea bass.

"This was my first sea bass," he says, "and I was well pleased. It was a temperate man, though he was fond of a sociable drink, and he was a good sport. He was also a good sport, and he was a good sport. He was a good sport, and he was a good sport."

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HIGH WATER FOR LOCAL ANGLERS FROM JULY 9 TO JULY 16												
Sandy Hook (The Horseshoe)			Princess Bay			Jamaica Bay			Governors			
Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
July 10	2:21	1:08	2:26	1:11	3:10	2:10	2:15	2:10	4:50	5:20	3:11	3:54
July 11	3:31	3:08	3:26	4:13	4:16	4:53	3:09	4:49	6:18	6:18	4:14	4:49
July 12	3:38	6:08	4:43	6:11	6:23	5:53	4:20	5:25	7:59	8:25	5:13	5:48
July 13	5:32	7:34	5:27	7:36	8:13	7:49	6:54	7:58	10:30	10:30	8:30	9:15
July 14	6:36	8:46	6:31	8:51	9:11	9:21	9:00	9:16	11:00	11:00	9:26	10:14