
Subject: : Stream Reports

Topic: : New Jersey Surf (Island Beach State Park), Ocean Co, NJ, 9/22-23/2010

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Northeast surf fishermen traditionally regard Autumnal Equinox as the beginning of the "fall run" when striped bass and other game fish go on a feeding spree along beaches. In particular, along the Jersey shore there is a predictable mullet run in Sept that can produce great surf fly fishing for bass and blues in very shallow water.

These southbound migrating mullet are typically about 6" long and swim just under the surface.

With high hopes I hit Island Beach State Park, my favorite surf fishing destination in the Garden State. While not what I'd hoped for, at least there was some action on the fly rod. Water temps were in the upper 60s and slightly stained. Reports before the Igor swells were great with albies running the beaches and big blues mixed in. As is usually my luck - I shoulda been there last week. I saw no stripers or albies in 2 days of hard fishing.

Snapper blues (small fish under about 20") were however very numerous. Summer flounder ("fluke") were also numerous. Wed was too windy for FFing and I spent a lot of time untangling after wind ripped my running line out of my stripping basket. 25 knots from the south made for miserable FFing for a right handed guy. I shoulda spin fished. Thur morning I was up before dawn with the spin rod. Surf looked great (see pics) and bait was around but I caught only a herring on a teaser fly.

After breakfast at Betty & Nick's, it was back to fly fishing and off for the long hike down to the jetty making sure to bring more water than yesterday. The wind had shifted to a mild breeze from the northeast. Perfect. Sand eels were very thick in bowls and troughs in the beach structure visible at low tide. Terns and gulls were diving on 'em but game fish weren't visible. I did manage some small blues on a Clouser. Fluke were mixed in too and also liked the fly. Some guys fishing bait got some big ones but none I managed were much over about 16 inches. I got the same results off the jetty - steady pick of small blues and flatties. Many, when landed, spit up sand eels.

Mullet were visible from my perch up on the rocks but fewer than I would have hoped for with big moon tides and calming seas. Perhaps this might explain the lack of bigger game fish. Anyway, beautiful weather but no fish worth crowing about. Considering my luck fishing this year, at least I beat the skunk.

Attach file:

 **Beach Structure.jpg** (138.66 KB)



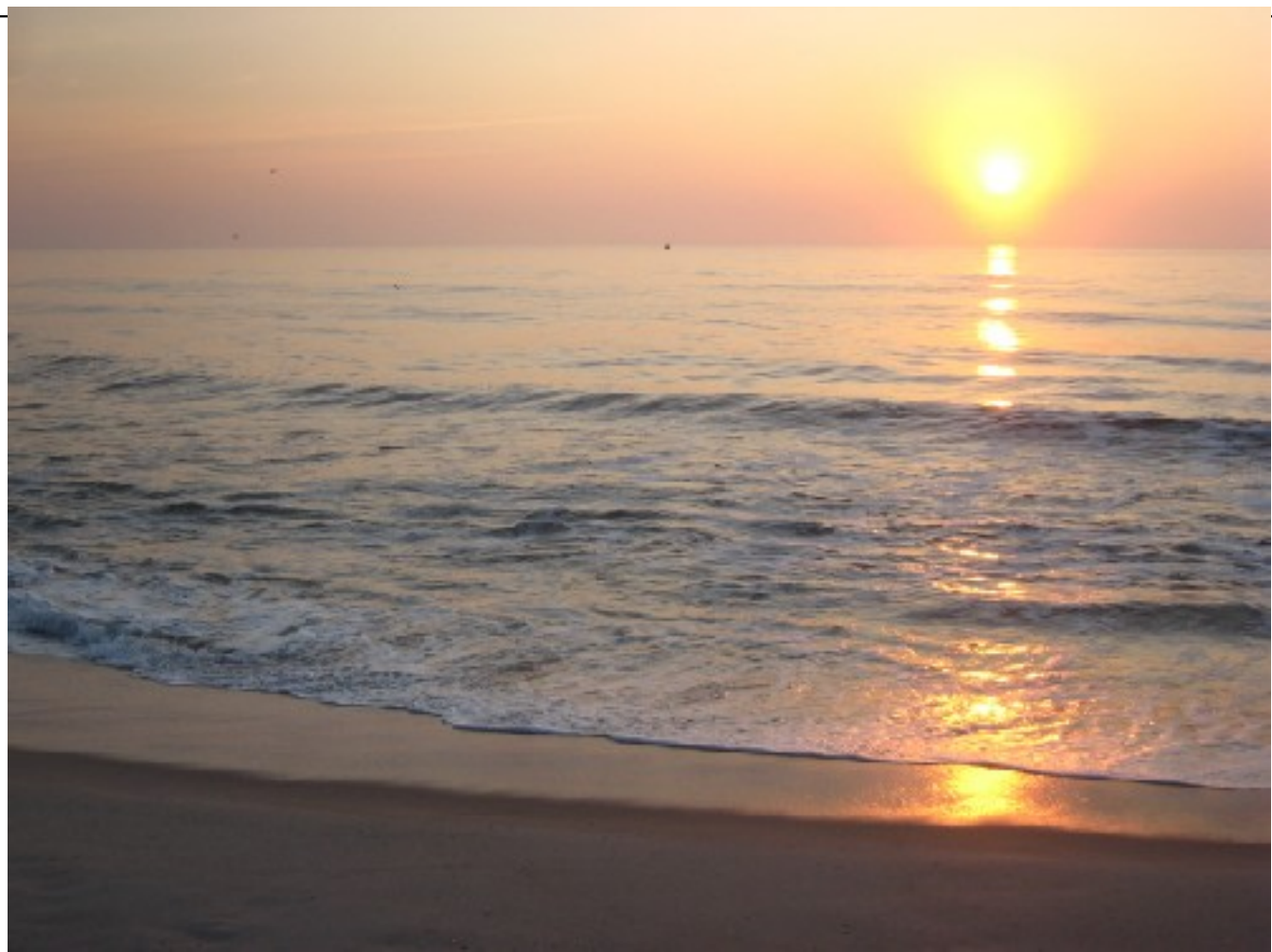
 **Diving Birds.jpg** (121.50 KB)



 **First Light.jpg** (91.96 KB)



 **Sunrise.jpg** (155.08 KB)



 **Sand Eels.jpg** (259.85 KB)



 Bluefish.jpg (137.24 KB)



 Fluke.jpg (245.17 KB)

