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Subject: : Stream Reports

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

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

Author: : Fishidiot

Date: : 2010/9/24 21:05:02

URL:

Mason,

By all means try surf fishing, esp if you live close to the beach. I'm often surprised by FFers in eastern PA who won't hesitate to drive 8 hours to fish steelhead but never bother to fish the salt although it's much closer. You should, however, be aware that inshore saltwater fishing - esp from shore or wading - is very hit or miss. You have to time it right. Prime season would be early May- mid June and mid Sept to mid Dec. An 8WT would be ideal for back bays and maybe out in the surf under calm conditions during summer. For the fall run, a 9WT would be better and I use a 10WT for surf and jetty. Personally, I'd even prefer an 11WT to a 9WT but, like trout fishing, rod weight depends a lot on personal preference. Surf fishing conditions, esp during prime time in mid to late fall, is rough gnarly fishing with heavy wind, crashing waves, big fish that are much stronger than similar sized freshwater fish, and powerful waves and current. I wouldn't recommend an 8WT in those conditions but it would be fine for many other salt water applications. Flies would be similar to what you'd use for freshwater bass fishing but in generally larger sizes and on salt hooks. I love tying salt water patterns although it's a much less sophisticated game than trout flies. You can make salt tying as complex as you'd like but run-of-the-mill flies for this game can be very simple streamers. I use Clouser Minnows for a lot of my surf fishing.