

THURSDAY Sep 21, 2023

BRGC Fishing Trip

**Captain Ian Keniston** and **Tyler Carpenter** ran the marathon trip today.

At 4:00 AM EDT the air temperature was 54°F, the sky was clear and full of stars, the wind was blowing out of the northwest at ten knots and the visibility over the ocean was excellent.

Ashore, it was another beautiful day with light wind, sunny skies and mild/warm air temperatures. The wind was light out of the northwest, the highest wind speed seen at 4:00 AM. Mostly, the wind was five or six knots after sunrise. By late morning, the wind had let go altogether. After noon, a southerly wind was established with wind speeds no more than five knots. The ocean along the shore was calm all day. The visibility remained excellent. The sky was mostly clear and sunny. The highest air temperature that I saw was 74°F. In Boston, Massachusetts (**Logan International Airport**) the high air temperature was 69°F (with a low of 57°F). The Concord, New Hampshire's high temperature was 74°F (with a low of 43°F). The high air temperature at the **Portland International Jetport**, Portland, Maine was 73°F (with a low of 50°F).

On the fishing grounds, the wind blew out of the north at ten to five knots, died out to nothing and then hauled out of the west at five knots. Seas went from a one foot chop to a flat surface. The air temperature reached a high of 70°F. The sky was clear and sunny. The visibility ranged to over twenty miles. The tide (current) was moderate yet again. The surface water temperature reached a high of 63°F.

Depite the excellent weather and calm seas, the fishing was just good. There were quite a few dogfish. The catching was very good to nearly excellent. Landings were very good. Most legal fish landed were pollock; there wasn't another species even close. Legal landings also included seven cod, eleven haddock, four redfish, eight cusk, ten white hake and a whiting. Released fish included over a hundred dogfish, six sub-legal cod, ten sub-legal haddock, forty-one small pollock and a thorny skate. Drifting was the method. All terminal gear worked well today. Bait caught the most haddock.

**Ian** couldn't tell me who was high hook. There were too many fish and way too much action. And there were really no standouts. **Erik Grove** (ME) won the boat pool for the largest fish with the largest fish, a 30 pound Maine state trophy white hake. This fish ties for the **Bunny Clark's** third largest hake this season to date. **Erik** also caught a 17 pound white hake and a 21 pound white hake. **Mike Schetter** (NY) won the boat pool for the second largest fish with the second largest fish, a 29 pound Maine state trophy white hake. This fish is the **Bunny Clark's** fifth largest hake of the season so far. The third largest fish was a 26 pound Maine state trophy white hake caught by **Mike Hall** (NY).

Other Angler Highlights: **Jeff Corey** (MA) started off the boat pool competition with an 11 pound pollock. He eclipsed this fish with a 20.5 pound white hake later in the day. **Jeff** also caught a 15 pound white hake. **John Spignardo** (NY) caught a 10 pound pollock, his best fish. **Tim Ryder** (NY) caught the largest pollock of the trip at 12 pounds. His biggest fish was a 16 pound white hake. **Marie Harding** (ME) landed a 10 pound pollock, her biggest pollock. She also caught a 22 pound white hake, her biggest fish today. **Nino Pierdipino** (NY) landed a 21 pound white hake, his best fish of the day. **Tod Benjamin** (VT) caught an 11 pound pollock, his biggest fish. He also landed the hard luck award t-shirt for losing three jigs.

I enjoyed seeing four donations come in from **Bunny Clark** anglers sponsoring me in this season's **Pan-Mass Challenge** today. Those donors and their donations included: **Jeff Corey** for a generous \$100.00, **Bob Bready** (NY) for \$30.00, **Phil Wilson** (TX) for \$40.00 and **Steve McGrath** (NH) for \$50.00. All these anglers donate to my cancer project on a regular basis. This certainly makes this more important to me. Thank you all for your support and thoughtfulness. I appreciate it very much.

I was involved in a joint meeting with the **Recreational Advisory Panel** (of which I hold a seat) and the **Groundfish Advisory Panel** (via Webinar) for most of the day today. Much was discussed with halibut, haddock and cod regulations. Other species were discussed as well but are not of a recreational concern. It seems we are headed on a very complicated path to manage the cod stocks. This since delineating four different cod stocks in New England/New York waters. To me, we have dwindled the cod populations down so low as to only reveal the resident cod. And, to me it seems, territorial cod will be genetically similar in similar areas. Why we need to manage these in such a (seemingly) complicated way is head scratching. We also talked about **Fishery Management Council** priorities and other aspects of management. I didn't get a lot out of this except that fishermen at these meetings

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always want more fish. And, of course, they are fishermen, mostly commercial fishermen. I just want the fishery to come back to the way it was forty years ago. Is this too much to ask? I think it is.

Today's New York contingent, eight of my regular anglers who were on the boat today, met for dinner at **Barnacle Billy's, Etc.** All wonderful people and anglers who I have entertained many times on the **Bunny Clark**, it was fun talking with them in the restaurant about old times and today's fishing. I call them **Mike Schetter's** crew because **Mike** is the original guy and has been with me the longest. Always great to have them here!