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## Beaches, inshore areas starting to fill up

Published: Sunday, September 10, 2006

The waters around southern New Jersey are cleaning up from the churning they took from Ernesto and windy and rainy conditions.

After the storm clouds cleared out and the winds settled, there are more than just hints of fall fishing co

Big kingfish invaded some of the beaches. Weakfish and croakers are gathered inshore. There are rep around the inlets and off the beaches. Ten-pound plus blues were caught off Long Beach Island.

Silver kings moved into Absecon Inlet on Friday morning, according to Noel Feliciano at One-Stop Tac O'Brien at Jingle's Bait and Tackle in North Beach Haven reported that Long Beach Island surfcasters kingfish on the incoming tide.

Another piece of good news is that weakfish continue to make a very decent showing in Delaware Bay around the area, and off the beaches.

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Tim Hand at Capt. Tate's Tackle Box in De strong at Bug Light, close to Pierce's Point Channel. Fresh shedder crabs are hard to works as bait for weakfish. Hand reported t bluefish and weakfish on pink Fin-S while v Cape May County.

Feliciano caught croakers and weakfish in mile off the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. He w mullet and clam. Fred Hynes at Riptide Bai said weakfish are located in the bays behin

John Grzymko at Fin-Atics in Ocean City h weakfish and croakers. He said to try the A the Elephant and off the Steel Pier in Atlan recommended searching a little farther of th

He used minnows and squid.

O'Brien reported bunker schooling off LBI. They showed up Wednesday and brought big blues with the O'Brien said surfcasters are plugging and bottom fishing with clam to catch a few stripers.

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The waters off Lucy have a lot of croakers, according to Nancy Cochran at Fish N Stuff in Ocean City. So move along the beaches.

The new Townsend Inlet reef, which just got an additional 450 tons of concrete and 300 reef balls, is all Avalon partyboat that runs from Avalon Fishing Center is catching flounder and croakers there, according to Dockside in Avalon.

Davis said the Buzzkill returned to Avalon Fishing Center on Friday afternoon from the Wilmington Canyon board. Hand also reported good wahoo catches with mahi along the heavy weed lines at the Wilmington here, too.

Just when you thought back-bay flounder fishing was done, another good catch surfaces. Al Rocks of E 5 on Friday in the middle of Great Egg Harbor Bay. He had five keepers, the largest 4.5 pounds. Rock artificials for flounder. He tried the bright red swimming mullet on a 1/2-ounce red and white bucktail, and

The Dolphin Dock Fall Striper Tournament starts Sept. 23 and continues to Nov. 18. This contest is known rounds like that's going to be more fun than ever.

Joan Barrett said they are planning to put up a tent on the property on Bay Avenue in Somers Point for live band. The tournament has three divisions: Boat/Delaware Bay, Boat/Local (other than Delaware Bay) 27-1730.

*Mike Shepherd is sports editor of The Press. His Shep on Fishing column and Hot Spot appear Thursday section, and Thursday in At The Shore. Call (609) 272-7180, fax (609) 272-7191 or email: mshepherd@*

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