

# The 2009 Obsession Charters Newsletter

## 2008 Was Quite a Year



Don Monroe from Maryland

First let me thank many of you, my lovely wife, my family and my church for the support and prayers this past summer. In June I underwent an angioplasty procedure for a 98% blocked mi-

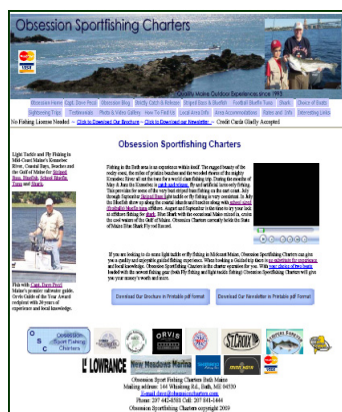
nor coronary artery. I'm doing great now and my recovery (other than an adverse reaction to my blood pressure medication in August) has been without complications. Barb has encouraged

me to lose weight and become more physically fit. Truth be known, I feel better now than I have in years. I'm still struggling with eating healthy but Barb is keeping me on track. Not to worry though, I'll still have those yummy Brackett's Market blueberry muffins for you during our onboard coffee breaks this summer. Beyond health issues, 2008 was a challenging guiding year. The

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## Website Redesign

www.obsessioncharters.com has gone through several redesigns since it's initial posting in 1993. The most recent redesign took place this past January. We've added a photo and video gallery and have restructured our blog (or the FLOG as we call it). Popular items like area attractions, recommended accommodations, tide info, weather info and directions are included on the new site. Check it out and let us know what you think!



## This Year's Newsletter:

- > The 2008 Season
- > The Coming Season
- > Website Redesign
- > How to Land More Fish
- > 2009 Rates
- > 115 4-Stroke For Sale
- > Striped Bass Management Update
- > Maine Saltwater Fishing License?



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### Striped Bass Victory at the ASMFC Winter Meeting.

While the striped bass harvest continues creeping ever so close to maximum allowable levels, commercial fishermen have proposed a potential 25% increase in their coast-wide quotas including the ability to roll over any quota underage's to the following year.

North Carolina, Massachusetts, New York, Delaware, Potomac River Commission and District of Columbia all voted to increase the commercial striped bass quota. Thankfully Maine DMR and several groups including the Maine Assn. of Charterboat Captains and CCA lobbied 6 other states

to vote against the proposal. Maine New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland voted "no" causing a tie and the ultimate defeat of the proposal. Though we were able to stop this effort, a similar one will be proposed again at the ASMFC spring meeting.

Striped bass is one of a very few Atlantic Coast fisheries management success stories. This is despite continued commercial fishing shortsightedness. Our marine resources are in fact public resources not commercial commodities. In Maine alone

recreational saltwater fishing is a \$48 million economic engine fueled by this precious public resource. Commercial fishing is necessary; it puts food on our families' tables. It should not however be allowed to do so at the expense of sustainability... Thank you to the Maine Dept. of Marine Resources Commissioner George Lapoint, Directors Terry Stockwell and Pat Keliher for their efforts to protect our striped bass stocks.



Greg Straut from New York.

### Fact or Fiction?

*As I write this on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009, its 14°F, there's 2 feet of snow in my yard and it was -9°F at sunrise.*



*I'm declaring, regardless of fact or fiction that it is "Cold enough to freeze the (cannon) balls off a brass monkey!"*

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. But how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of thirty cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem -

how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding/rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a "Monkey" with sixteen round indentations. But, if this plate was made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make "Brass Monkeys." Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass

indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, "Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey!" (And all this time, you thought that was a dirty expression, didn't you?)

So which is it? Truth or fiction?

E-mail me with your guess.

### Tackle Tips from Capt. Dave

I've found that leader and knot failures are the most common reasons for lost fish. There are five simple things that you can do to virtually eliminate this problem.

1. Pull test your knots every time you tie them! Even the very best knot tier will end up with a bad one from time to time.

2. Don't use extra twists when tying your knots if the directions specify 8 twists use 8 twists.
3. Keep your leader material stored out of direct sunlight and away from sharp objects. Sunlight degrades mono and fluorocarbon lines. A single nick in your leader could drop its breaking strength by 50%.
4. Remember that when you have a fish close to the boat or beach you

- have only a fraction of the line stretch that you had when the fish was yards away. Loosen your drag when the fish is close, rather than tightening it.
5. When leadering a fish be slow, steady and gentle. If the fish bolts let go of the leader and bring him back in with the rod.

Follow these 5 simple rules and you'll increase your landing dramatically.



## Saltwater fishing license in Maine?!!

There will be a bill in the upcoming session of the Maine legislature to create a saltwater fishing license. I have met with Maine Dept. of Marine Resources Dep. Commissioner David Etner and reviewed a draft of the bill. Should the bill become law here's what you can expect:

1. You will not need a fishing license of any kind while fishing with me or any other licensed Maine charter captain / registered Maine guide. We will have a "boat license" that will cover you.
2. The license (if passed into law) will not be in effect for this coming 2009 fishing season, it would start in 2010.

All the revenues from the Maine saltwater fishing license would be dedicated to these 6 stated uses:

- Resource and habitat enhancement

- Fisheries management research
- Land acquisition for habitat enhancement and public access
- Enforcement of marine law
- Education and outreach
- Promotion of salt water recreational fishing

I'll spare you an editorial on the justification for State saltwater fishing licenses. But let me just say that language in the most recent reauthorization of the Federal Sustainable Fisheries Act (aka; the Magnusson - Stevens Act) is forcing states to enact or amend saltwater fishing licenses. If states don't do so The National Marine Fisheries Service will mandate a federal saltwater recreational fishing permit that will cost between \$15 - \$25 annually... I could go on for pages but I'll save the details for our fishing trips together this summer.



Campbell Badger from Maine.

### Does your club or association need a guest speaker?

I'll be glad to come talk to your group about fishing here in Maine. I have PowerPoint presentations and videos put together on light tackle and fly fishing for striped bass and another on light tackle and fly fishing for sharks. I don't charge a fee for my talks but would accept donations toward a portion of my travel expenses.

## 2008 Was Quite a Year Cont.

downturn in the economy, \$5.00 a gallon gas, ever increasing taxes / government regulations, and below average striper, tuna and shark migrations tested this captain of 18 years. Many of you received e-mails and phone calls from me reporting that fishing was tough. Some of you were encouraged to reschedule or even on occasion cancel your trips. For me, doing the right thing by my clients / friends is more important than the balance in the check-book.

We did get some decent fish last year even with all the challenges. We had to change tactics, keep positive and work hard for them

but perseverance did pay off. We managed to land a few trophy stripers, some very nice bluefish and thankfully several big blue sharks in the 100 pound range. In reflection a challenging fishing season allows you to put things in perspective. A good day on the water is not always measured by how many fish you catch. The beauty of the day, the marvels of nature, the friendships and conversations that develop all make lasting memories.

So what's ahead of us for the 2009 fishing season? I've talked to biologists, fellow guides, fisheries managers and anglers along the East Coast. All indications are

that the below average season in 2008 was due to climate and water temperature anomalies which in turn disrupted the normal bait migration here in the North East. This changed the migration of stripers, bluefish, tuna and sharks. Specifically pertaining to striped bass, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey had above average fishing seasons. The general consensus is that we don't have a coast-wide stock problem. All indications are that with a predicted return to normal weather patterns and average water / air temperatures we will have a typically good fishing season in 2009. In fact I'm planning on it.

## Capt. Dave's top ten words of wisdom for 2009



Capt. Dave Pecci.

1. Eat healthy and stay active.
2. If you think its "just gas" and it lasts for two days, it's probably not... Go see your doctor!
3. Anything (except soy protein meat substitute) will taste good if you rub enough blackening spice on it.
4. Prioritizing is a "mind over matter" thing - if you don't mind, it doesn't matter.
5. We still live in the best country in the world.
6. Always remember the sun screen, sunglasses and camera.
7. Keep your hooks sharp and crush down the barbs.
8. One bad year doesn't make a trend.
9. Faith allows you to truly keep things in perspective.
10. Friends and family are our most precious possessions.

## 2008 115HP Yamaha 4-Stroke For Sale

### Available in September of this year -

2008 Yamaha 21" leg 115 hp 4 stroke outboard. It will have approx. 350 hours use. The retail price new was around \$9,000. Blue Book price is \$7,800.

Its yours for only \$7,600.00 plus Me. Sales tax. Comes with battery cables and mounting bolts only. You'll need to get your own controls, cables,

wiring harness and a prop. Also includes a factory transferable warrantee good until September of 2011. This is a great outboard, it pushes my Hewes 18' skiff at well over 40 mph, burns about 6-8 gallons a trip and is sooooo quiet. I can help with shipping and installation too. Call or e-mail me if you're interested... Capt. Dave



## 2009 Rates

- Morning 6-7 hour striped bass charter \$400
- Morning 6-7 hour Football Bluefin tuna charter \$500
- All day 13 hour Marathon striped bass or football bluefin tuna / striped bass combo (including lunch at an area restaurant) \$775
- Afternoon 4 hour striped bass charter \$300
- Afternoon 3 hour lighthouse and lobster trap hauling tour \$225
- Afternoon 3 hour inland waterway cruise to Boothbay Harbor \$225

For more info about Obsession Charters go to: [www.obsessioncharters.com](http://www.obsessioncharters.com)

## Obsession Charters

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