

Fishing Stories



Dawn & Tommy's Trip to Block Island

by Thomas Wood

As most married couples, Dawn and I like to take the same vacation time, and we usually choose August so we are able to spend the whole week on the water. We didn't have any plans this particular week, so I asked her if she wanted to spend a couple of days on Block Island. She said, "I tried to book a room on Block Island before, and couldn't, so if you are able to, I'll go."

First, I looked at the weather to decide if it would be safe to take our 24' center console, *Waiting On Dawn*, out the following afternoon. Then, I started to search for a place to stay. I tried searching the web, but had no luck. I let my fingers do the walking, and ended up with nothing but blisters from all the page turning and dialing.

I finally thought about AAA and gave them a call. AAA told me to call the Block Island Chamber of Commerce. The Block Island Chamber of Commerce keeps a list of the Bed & Breakfast places that have rooms available, even if it is for one night. I called and found a room for two nights, and at a reasonable rate. Dawn and I threw some bags together, and off we went to the boat ramp in Galilee.

The ride to the Island was nice with 3' to 4' swells. We anchored in New Harbor at approximately 4:30 in the afternoon, locked up the boat and gear, and boarded the water taxi to The Boat Basin. Another short taxi ride, and we were soon at the B & B. After checking in and freshening up, we walked to a nearby restaurant for dinner and a few cocktails.

The next day brought a beautiful, sunny sky. We started our day with a good breakfast, and decided renting mopeds to tour the island would be fun. Although, many roads are closed to mopeds, it is an entertaining way to see all the "major" attractions. After returning the mopeds, we had lunch and got ready to do what we went to Block Island to do - fish!

We found a bait shop with plenty of eels and some very good information on where to go fishing. We began and ended our trip at Black Rock.

It was our 3rd drift and Dawn thought she was caught on the bottom, but with no weight, and line stripping from her reel with

her bait runner on, I thought she might have a fish.

We use circle hooks so I told her to raise her tip up then lower it to the water; take her reel off bait running mode and wait till she felt pressure on the line. As soon as she felt pressure, I told her to set the hook. As soon as she set the hook, the pole bent over and line began stripping off her reel like crazy.

Fifteen minutes later, I was helping her net the fish. The striper was much longer than the 36" scale I have on the side of my boat.

While helping my wife, my pole was in a holder, with the reel in free spooling mode and the clicker on. It was at that point, with my hands full, and far from my pole, that it started ripping line. Before I could get to it, it stopped. Knowing I had lost my fish, I continued to measure hers and it was just over 48" long. I guess that would put it in the 30 to 35 lb class.

We set up for another drift with new eels on both poles. Dawn would hook up on the last fish of the night, a nice 36" fatty. This left the score at Dawn 2, Tommy 0. As the sun and temperature dropped so did our desire to stay and fish. After all, my wife just put two, nice fish in the box.

As we headed back to New Harbor, I had plenty of knife work to do, and ended up filleting the last fish by flashlight (those head lamps come in handy for this.) Now, with fish in the cooler, but empty stomachs it was back to land for food and sleep.

We woke up early so we could go fishing before heading back to Galilee. Dawn and I packed up, got a bite to eat and boarded the water taxi to our boat for the last time.

We fished the Southwest ledge, but with no luck. The wind started blowing up out of the NE, a little earlier than the weather man said it would, so, we began our slow and wet trip back to the ramp. Even though we only brought home two fish, it was an excellent trip and we can't wait to do it again this year.

Hope to see you out there.



One out of three boating fatalities is
a fisherman!
**LIFE JACKETS
SAVE LIVES!**



DID YOU KNOW?

Black sea bass (Protogynous hermaphrodites) change sex as they age. All small sea bass less than 8 inches are female. Fish between 8-12 inches can be either female or male. All sea bass 12 inches and larger are males.

