

ROFFER'S OCEAN FISHING FORECASTING SERVICE, INC.
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ROFFS™ FISHERIES OCEANOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS
FOR THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION UPDATED ON TUES. 18 AUG. 2009

The skies were very clear today so we are taking this opportunity to show a regional view that is not as big as the one sent Sunday but extends from the northern tip of the eddy to the waters east of North Carolina. Note that the eddy is not symmetrical and more egg-shaped and that the orientation is north – south. The southern side of the eddy is now hitting the Gulf Stream which may slow the rotation of water circulating clockwise around the eddy. This is important because when the eddy rotates further the southern side will be moving toward the Delaware – New Jersey coast and will push the water into the canyons which is a favorable motion that is usually associated with improved fishing action. It remains to be seen when the effect of this rotation will be realized in this fishing area, but it appears likely to start at the end of the week, perhaps as early as Thursday, but more likely Friday – Sunday. The Baltimore Canyon, Wilmington Canyon and Spencer Canyon areas should experience the stronger push of water into the ledges. The complicating factors now include how much of the rotation of the southern side of the eddy will be slowed by the Gulf Stream interaction and if the eddy become more compact delaying the push of the water westward. Presently most of the blue water from the Carteret Canyon to the Baltimore Canyon is meandering in a southwest direction, mostly parallel with the bottom depth contours with a minimal push into the tips of the canyon areas. The result is that fishing action is sporadic and spread over a wide area with the overall catch rate relatively slow. Over the Toms Canyon and Hudson Canyon the water is being pulled in a northeastward – offshore direction which usually is not associated with good fishing action except for the eastern sides of the canyon wall when there has been a stable water mass boundary like the east wall of the Hudson Canyon.

Note that there are no large filaments of new Gulf Stream water moving toward the Norfolk Canyon or Washington Canyon areas suggesting the fishing action is likely to remain associated with blue-green to blue water or green to blue-green water mass boundaries.

There is blue (79°-80°F) water from the Hudson Canyon to the offshore areas of the Washington Canyon and Norfolk Canyons. If you have any special areas (ledges, deep water wrecks, sea mounts, etc.) that have been productive for you under similar blue water conditions, then you should consider fishing these areas to catch the one big fish to bring to the weigh master.

Based on the weather information we receive from NOAA and elsewhere, it appears that the weather will be favorable for at least the next two days and probably through the end of the week. Hurricane Bill is forecast to be in the area of Bermuda Saturday morning and thus, is not expected to produce bad weather for fishing in this area based on the present information. We expect that there will be a rolling swell from this storm in the offshore waters. It remains to be seen how soon the surf will increase along the New Jersey coast.

Also today we will be sending a Quicktime movie via email showing the rotation of the eddy.

The bottom line: we think you should wait at least a day or two before fishing your last day of the tournament.

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Special

