

OFF THE DOCK

WITH D. A. MANN

~ Back to School ~

10/10/25

It's that time of year. The kids are back in school and the fishing is starting to take off. The "kids" that I am referring to are the Pompano boys and girls. The first signs of normalcy are returning to the Bay. The bus-stops from last year are now becoming the hive of activity that all fishermen look forward to each fall.

Those stops include several in Blackburn Bay: marker #'s 20, 19, 17 and 16. The bus is also dropping kids at #'s 5 and 6 just north of the Jetties; and, #'s 14 through 15 just south of the speed zone coming out of the Bay. The once active stops around the east side of Snake Island have been vacated for the time being. Once November rolls around, they should be reopened for the winter months.

Since the water temps are dipping into the 70's, the average size of the kids has also dropped. During the hotter days, they were averaging around 17" to the split and were not *schooling*. The kids riding the buses now are more Junior High size at 13 - 14"; but, they are more plentiful and actually resembling a *school*. Their bus rides the slopes and not dead-center in the channel.

So, Grasshopper, be patient. When you see the stop sign and the red lights blinking, slow down and start casting for you may just be surprised.

If I was any cleverer, I'd be a comedian on late night TV.