

OFF THE DOCK

WITH D. A. MANN

~ Blowing My Dress Up ~

10/8/26

I waited until 10am to venture out last Friday for the weatherman had a 95% chance of rain between 7 & 9:30. The night before, he predicted no rain. So, I was ready to head out at 7:30 and noticed the sky, rechecked the forecast, and decided to sit tight. I knew the Hurricane (Islahambadis – or whatever) was heading north through the Gulf disrupting the weather pattern.

Once in Roberts Bay, there was no way I could drift the Intracoastal. White caps and a ripping incoming tide would make it impossible. Plan “B”, go for some Trout and give the Pompano a day off. I headed into Blackburn Bay and took to the flats with a White paddle tail and started drifting – at 4 knots. By noon, I had six at 14.5” and one at 20” that I kept. The Bay now had two foot rollers and the wind was a steady 16mph. The Hell with this. I returned to Snake Island with the tide now slack thinking maybe I’d get lucky.

It was not to be. The winds were now coming out of the south and the tide was just turning starting to go out. I was protected from the wind but as the tide picked up, drifting was a pain. For the next two hours, I only caught Grunts, Cats, Ladies, and surprisingly, Lizard fish.

You could tell that something was off with the weather. The sky was an odd color; the clouds were odd shapes; and the water had an odd flow. Something was brewing. As the waves were breaking over the Jetties, I turned for home with a single Trout feeling pathetic.