

OFF THE DOCK

WITH D. A. MANN

~ All Puffed Up ~

11/11/25

All puffed up and nowhere to cast. The last week of October, the Ladies were out in force hustling anyone with an ample rod. The first week of November, the gals had decided that fishermen were boring mates and pretty much vacated the area. Puffers took their place. Almost every cast either snagged one on the belly or had one following my Willy all the way back to the boat. As cute and harmless as they appear to be, they are not what I was targeting. Their only endearing qualities are that they are not Ladies and your rig is still intact.

But with that being said, the Pompano were out in force. The hot spots were markers 14 through 16 going into Blackburn Bay and Bird Island east of Snake Island. When fishing the slow zone going into the Bay, fish the east side on an incoming tide and the west side on an outgoing. The Pompano are more prevalent on the slopes in 7 to 9 foot depths for the water temps have cooled off significantly. Same is true by Bird Island – fish the slopes. Incoming tide is better when fishing the channel going into Roberts Bay; and if the tide is outgoing, fish the entrance to Dona Bay back to the north side of Snake.

I heard reports that Pompano were being caught all the way to #21 in Blackburn; but, I did not fish that area personally. The average size of the ones I was catching was 16-18” to the split – big and fat.

I was a little “puffed up” myself at the end of the day.