

OFF THE DOCK

WITH D. A. MANN

~ The Blackburn Brothel is Back in Business ~

The Ladies are back in town. But not just any Ladies; these gals are bigger, slimier, and more aggressive. They hit hard and will take you for a ride. Be prepared to have your tackle chewed, your shorts (if you're wearing any) bloodied, and your palm greased. God help you if you let them into your boat. Blackburn Bay has gone sleazy; and, I hope you have an understanding wife.

With that being said, limiting-out on larger-than-normal Pompano is still attainable; but, it might take you all day. The Spaniards have also returned to the Bay and are chasing the Ladies. You'll know when you've found them for they'll slice right through your leader without a bump. Throw in the occasional Trout and you'll have a typical day on the Bay.

Mornings have been better than afternoons if you can handle the chill. The tides have been out-going and don't seem to making a difference. The Pompano still are not schooling so I would suggest moving frequently. Normally I prefer to drift the channel but I tried poling down on the edge and got better results. Try the east side in the Slow Zone between Markers 14 and 15; and the west side between 17 and 20. I have been going behind Snake Island in the afternoon on the incoming tide. I'll start my drift by Turner Key and let the current carry me past Snake, past the entrance to Dona Bay, and all the way to number 16. That last stretch along Bird Island has produced some 20+ inch trout. The Pompano have been right *beside* Snake.

So, Grasshopper, Chapstick everything, be patient, and have some fun.