

OFF THE DOCK

WITH D. A. MANN

3/27/25

~ Silence of the Lambs ~

Normally, I ease into the meat of the fishing report. I build up to a grand finale going through the casts-of-the-day. But, in this report, I'm going to put the meat first. Last Tuesday I caught a 17 inch Sheepshead on a Silly Willy in 8 feet of water by Bird Island. I was trying for Pompano as I was poled-down next to marker 16. I was shocked. The Pompano were being elusive; so, I moved over on the west side of Snake Island and let the wind drift me across the Intracoastal toward the mouth of the cut-through that leads to Lyons Bay.

Again, using my Willy, I was catching Whiting. When was the last time you caught Whiting in these waters? Over the past 15 years fishing these bays, I can count the Whiting on one hand. Amazing. With fishing, in general, over the past few months you have to be constantly on the move and innovative. The bite just isn't the same; so, try new spots and new techniques. I've been landing big Trout in deep water in Blackburn Bay. I watched a fisherman landing big Trout in 3 *feet* of water just before marker 20 on the east side. Again, amazing.

I finally did find some Pompano at slack high tide in the entrance to Dona Bay on the north side – in 5-6 feet. They are not supposed to be there. They were in the 17-18" bracket and fat. And, they fought like Hell.

I have not had this much fun playing with my Willy since my college days. Expect the unexpected and you'll be amazed at what bites.