

OFF THE DOCK

WITH D. A. MANN

~ Starbucks Bay ~

7/18/25

Once the tide changes from high to outgoing, the coffee starts to flow. Forget about catching anything in Dona or Roberts Bays for they go black in a hurry as the tide rips on its way out. East of Snake will be the darkest as the Bays converge trying to get to the Gulf. If you are of the *stubborn* persuasion, then switch to live bait or something with a scent for your Willy cannot be seen. The sheer quantity of fresh water exiting the Bays will darken the water four to five feet down pretty much eliminating the bite.

Lyons Bay is less affected allowing the Snook and Reds to see clearly. At a high tide, most docks have Snook and most oyster beds have Reds. But, if you are after the elusive Pompano, you have to go north. Don't expect to find them schooling or to limit-out in an hour – those days are long gone. You'll get one, maybe two, and that spot will go cold. Move. Stay in the deepest water in the channel. The more consistent spots are markers 17 and 21 in Blackburn Bay and the Intracoastal directly in front of Midnight Pass.

If your Willy aspirations are a bust, then, switch to a paddle tail (anything beige or gold seems to be the best) and head to the flats. The Trout are plentiful everywhere *if* you find a splotchy bottom (sand and grass) in 4.5 to 6 feet of water. The big boys like Spanish Point.

My advice: Keep your caffeine intake to a minimum.