

OFF THE DOCK

WITH D. A. MANN

~ The Entertainment ~

7/27/26

Last Friday, we were trying to find the fish. There was a lot of activity going on; but not of the “fishing” variety. But, it was a Variety Show with many acts vying for our attention. So, what’s a fisherman to do? Nothing you can do except sit back and enjoy the show.

The stars were a dozen baby dolphins, three Manatees, several spotted Rays, a Cobia, and a Bonnethead shark all performing at the same time. We were mesmerized as we repeatedly cast and jigged forgetting why we out there in the first place. Soon, our concentration went back to the task at hand and the Pompano were splashing in their ice bath; but, that didn’t keep us from looking around for the next act.

All the action was in Roberts Bay on the slopes of the Intracoastal between markers 12 and 15. This area has been consistently good over the past few weeks always producing medium-sized Pompano. Fish the slopes on either side for two reasons; 1st) the Pompano like good current and the slopes provide that faster moving water; and 2nd) you’ll be more out-of-the-way of those boaters who don’t like fishermen in *their* channel and rock you any chance they get.

After reviewing the reports over the last three years, the inshore Pompano get a little bigger in July and August. Permit will make their appearance inshore next month; Trout will get larger and the Reds will get huge. So, fishermen, it’s time to gear up, buy some extra Gatorade and adjust the attitude for the Big Boys are coming to town.