

OFF THE DOCK

WITH D. A. MANN

~ In Search of Greener Pastures ~

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The “black” water has been all consuming. For over two weeks, it has been the topic of conversation around the docks. Fishing is non-existent, as is swimming, walking on the beach, and even boat traffic is down to a trickle. No one wants to be out on the water. How did we get so spoiled? That’s an easy question to answer if you think back to the last time you went for a boat ride in the beautiful blue/green waters that usually surround us. Yeah, we’re spoiled. We’ve taken for granted what Mother Nature served-up for breakfast every morning. Don’t need a big menu when you want the same thing every day.

And then one day you venture out only to discover that the kitchen is closed. She’s standing on the dock serving a hot, black cup of Joe to all who pass by. Most patrons dump it over the side causing the waterways to grow dark and uninviting. Maybe she is teaching us a lesson. Maybe she is giving us a warning. Or maybe it’s just her time of the month. Whatever, we should pay closer attention to how we treat her; for if she ever leaves us, we’re screwed.

With all that being said, there are signs that the water is changing color to a shade of green and I’m hearing reports that Tarpon are schooling at the mouth of the Jetties, the Bull Reds are thick on the backside of the North Jetty, some Trout have returned to Blackburn Bay and the Snook are plentiful in Dona and Roberts Bays. The Pompano are still hiding.

It’s time to get back into the action.