

OFF THE DOCK

WITH D. A. MANN

~ Making MaMa Proud ~

8/24/26

Dads were always tough. The bars they set for their children were high – higher than the bars that were set for them. Mothers, on the other hand, were just the opposite – they loved you no matter what. When you failed to reach the bar, they were there to console you. When you surpassed the bar, they were the first to congratulate you while your dad was busy raising the bar a little higher. Dads were hard to please. Mothers were easy for they were not complicated; they just loved you for being you. Mother Nature is one of those mothers. She'll love you until you give her a good reason not to.

If you lose respect for what has surrounded you and supported you for your entire life, she'll teach you a lesson that you will retain for your *entire* life. It will give you nightmares. You will not overcome it until you reevaluate your approach to surviving (and thriving) within your environment. It's time to get right with the world. It's time to become aware of why you exist in the first place. And it's time to become *one* with your purpose on this planet. So, let's go fishing.

Want to make MaMa proud? Then, pick-up that piece of Styrofoam stuck in the Mangroves. Or educate a new fisherman on size limits and regulations. Or flag-down that rental boat flying through the flats leaving a dirt trail. Explain to him where the channel is located and that if you want to venture out into the flats, do it at an idle as to not destroy the seabed. When you see a turtle, a Manatee, or a dolphin swimming in the Intracoastal, stay close by until they are safely out of the channel and not in any danger from passing boaters. Or, get those tourists who are too close to a nesting Osprey to move away from the marker and take their photos from a distance. Yes, you'll be making your MaMa proud; and she'll notice that you are setting your own *bars*.

So, the next time you are on the water boating, sight-seeing, or simply fishing, do the right thing by Mother Nature. It's not rocket science and rarely requires any heavy lifting. You'll be a better person because of it.

Now, as a reward for making your MaMa proud, she wants you to know that the Pompano are biting in the middle of Blackburn Bay between markers 19 and 20; east of Snake Island in the middle of the basin; and, in Robert's Bay between markers 12 and 15.

If you don't catch any, it's your own damn fault.