

# OFF THE DOCK

WITH D. A. MANN

~ **Waiting for a Permit? Get One Online** ~

**8/4/24**

Anyone that tells you that they target Permit inshore is blowing smoke. The fact is that you never know when one will hit. I have caught them in the grass flats in five feet, in the channel in twelve feet, on a sandbar in three feet and under a bridge in a canal in a subdivision. *All* of them were a pleasant surprise. And I knew instantly what it was I had on the line. They pull like a Red and fight like a Pompano.

At the end of July, I was ready to admit that I had lost the Pompano touch. I couldn't find one, I couldn't catch one, and I couldn't even buy one. And then, magically, they made a grand entrance on the Snake Island stage and it was game-on. So, the first week in August I returned to the theater, bought front row seats, and waited for the show to start. I didn't have to wait long – first cast. Except the play had changed. As it turned out, it was now a Permit performance. All the Pompano were sitting in the back rows and were content to let their brothers take center stage. Over the next three hours, act after act of the play unfolded. The curtain came down gradually as the tide started to go out dragging a brown blanket of brackish water behind. The bite fell off to nothing.

During the three hour play, I landed seven Permit and no Pompano. I kept my limit of two (12-14 inches) and released all the others. My advice? Fish the perimeter on an incoming tide in 4-8 feet.

Going to the theater will add a little culture to your life.