

OFF THE DOCK

WITH D. A. MANN

~ Texas Tea ~

8/7/26

For those of you that frequent Albee Road, the WaWa, Wendy's, and the carwash, I'm sure that you've noticed the iced tea franchise in front of the Holiday Inn Express. It's the building with the empty parking lot and no one sitting in the drive-thru. It has been rumored (due to their lack of business) that every few days they have a pump-out service remove the unsold tea (and that would be all of it) and release it into Roberts Bay via the Higel boat ramp on the island of Venice (after midnight).

They advertise that their blends are all natural and environmentally safe. So, if you are fishing in Texas Tea Waters, try using some Splenda or lemon wedges for bait. Due to the large volume of product being released, the Tea Waters have migrated to all the surrounding bays creating a challenging environment in which to fish.

But all hope is not lost. If you are dock fishing with shrimp, you might be fine. If you are flats-fishing for Trout using paddle-tails, that may be more difficult. If you are Pompano jigging and staying in the deep water of the Intracoastal, you'll do fine. The Tea effect goes down a couple feet in most areas, so I'm assuming, the bottom is pretty clear. The fact that I'm still catching Pompano proves my point.

For the best luck, fish the center of the channel and try not to get run over. You'll have the most success in the northern part of Roberts and the southern part of Blackburn. The average size is 13-15 to the split. Be prepared for they are caffeinated and frisky.