

OFF THE DOCK

WITH D. A. MANN

~ The Mother Load ~

9/25/24

The light green waters are slowly returning to the Bays and the fish are following. (Of course, as I'm typing this, a hurricane is approaching and may reverse the landscape once again.) Lyons Bay has no fresh water tributaries and the clarity is excellent. Snook are hitting around the overhanging Mangroves in 3-4 feet and the Reds are around any oyster bed in the same depth. If you are seeking slot Trout, fish the west slope of the Intracoastal between markers 19 & 20 and 23 through 25. Tides are not making a difference. Roberts and Dona Bays remain too dark for me to even try them. If you go off the beach just south of the Jetties, it is full of bait breaking the surface. Big Blue Runners and Jacks are chasing it everywhere. Fun fishing for an hour; then, I want something that will look nice on my plate.

And that brings us to the "Load". I have been searching for a Pompano for 5 weeks without success – until yesterday. In less than an hour, I had 2 Permit and 4 Pompano. They all were between 17 & 20 inches to the split and fat. All caught east of Snake Island anywhere in that basin. High tide is the best. Add to that my three 17-19 inch Trout, and you have a Mother Load. Keep in mind that I released several Permits and a lot of Trout. I wanted to keep fishing but it was late afternoon. I had fish to clean, a boat to clean and gear to stow.

Gotta keep the wife happy. Just sayin'.