

SW FLORIDA FISHING

Bay fishing less windy

BY CAPT. SANDY MELVIN

Windy weather has been the norm for the past couple of weeks and puts a damper on the offshore fishing. It's not that the mackerel, snappers, grouper and amberjacks aren't out there and willing to bite, it just has not been comfortable enough for most fishermen to go.

One thing to be on the lookout for in the coming weeks will be tripletail. With stone crab season in full swing, there are lots of crab trap buoys out in the gulf to provide the surface shade these tasty fish love. Look for those post cold front days when the wind lays down and things begin to warm back up to see them sunning on top around the buoys. A live shrimp or a well placed fly is always a good way to catch them.

Backcountry fishing for snook, redfish, and speckled trout is still hot. The wind helps the bite back in the skinny waters and the islands block the wind enough that it's nice and comfortable fishing back there.

Don't forget to stop by Gasparilla Outfitters and sign up for the 28th annual G.I.F.T flyfishing tournament Tuesday, Nov. 21, to benefit the Boca Grande Historical Society.

Enjoy our great fishing!

Capt. Sandy Melvin is a local fishing guide and is the proprietor of Gasparilla Outfitters. He can be reached at 941-964-0907, or on the web at 4tarpon.com



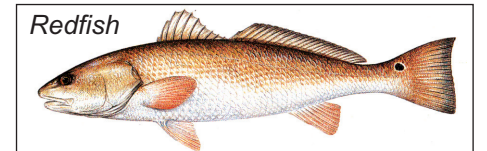
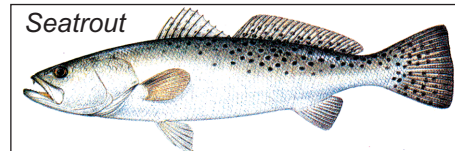
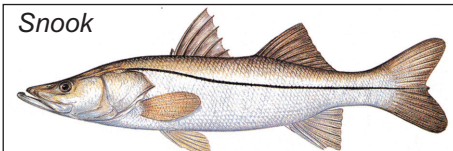
Henry, Lewis and Caddell Liedtke with a triple header snook.



Henry with a nice snook.



Chris Luke with a nice little trout. Photos courtesy of Capt. Will Waterhouse



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