

# SW FLORIDA FISHING

## Salt or freshwater ... ready for action

■ BY CAPT. SANDY MELVIN

After a week of warm weather that gave us the first hint that spring is around the corner, another cold front came through and brought us back to reality that it's still winter in Southwest Florida.

That means the speckled trout, pompano, ladyfish and sheepshead fishing continues to be the best bet. We are catching some small snook after that little warming trend we had, and some scattered redfish.

Offshore is good for red snapper, mangrove snapper and amberjacks when the wind allows you to get out there.

For a change of pace, there's some pretty good bass fishing this time of year in the canals and lakes just off the island.

It's time to book those tarpon trips, don't delay for a date in the peak season of April, May or June. Many local guides are booking up fast.

Enjoy our great fishing!



■ Tucker Barber with a nice size sea trout caught and released recently.



■ Capt. Sandy with a bass caught and released in local waters. Submitted by Capt. Sandy Melvin

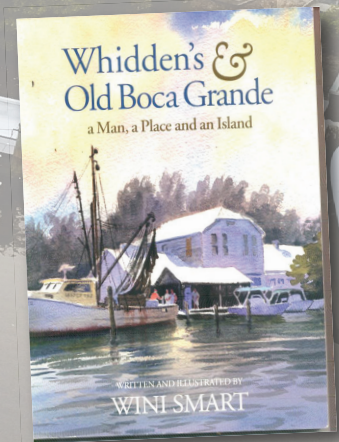
Capt. Sandy Melvin is a local fishing guide and is the proprietor of Gasparilla Outfitters. He can be reached at 941-964-0907, or on the web at 4tarpon.com



**The Gasparilla Island Maritime Museum** is now open to the public. Please come by for a visit and witness the past.



Gasparilla Island Maritime Museum has the book by Wini Smart "Whidden's & Old Boca Grande, a Man, a Place and an Island" In stock and for sale for \$30. The book is available for sale at Whidden's




# TIDES & SKIES Feb. 16 - 22

### Boca Grande Tides

16 FRI First Quarter	Low 12:26 am High 5:00 pm	19 MON	Low 4:23 am High 8:49 pm	22 THU	Low 6:09 am High 12:59 pm Low 4:23 pm High 11:17 pm
17 SAT	Low 1:58 am High 6:10 pm	20 TUE	Low 5:07 am High 9:47 pm		
18 SUN	Low 3:21 am High 7:36 pm	21 WED	Low 5:41 am High 1:01 pm High 3:22 pm Low 10:35 pm		

**LUNAR CALENDAR**

-  **First Quarter**  
Feb 16 - 10:01 a.m.
-  **Full Moon**  
Feb 24 - 7:30 a.m.
-  **Last Quarter**  
Mar 3 - 10:24 a.m.
-  **New Moon**  
Mar 10 - 4:00 a.m.

SUNRISE	SUNSET
Friday, Feb. 16 - 7:04 a.m.	Friday, Feb. 16 - 6:21 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 17 - 7:03 a.m.	Saturday, Feb. 17 - 6:22 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 18 - 7:02 a.m.	Sunday, Feb. 18 - 6:23 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 19 - 7:01 a.m.	Monday, Feb. 19 - 6:23 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 20 - 7:01 a.m.	Tuesday, Feb. 20 - 6:24 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 21 - 7:00 a.m.	Wednesday, Feb. 21 - 6:25 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 22 - 6:59 a.m.	Thursday, Feb. 22 - 6:25 p.m.