

Red Fish

Red Fish, also known as Red Drum, are another species we are known for with good reason. There are several different families of fish we fish for though. Certain times of the year we get the big schools of reds showing up usually in the fall and these fish can be a day in themselves. There can be anywhere from 50 to 500 fish in these schools and they are all big fish. Seldom do you catch one under 30" and when you catch one you can usually catch a bunch. One hundred fish days are common when you get on these guys and those 100 fish come quick. There are times when we have to go catch more bait after being on a school of these big fish because just about every cast you make you will have one on and it does take a few minutes to get fish of this size to the boat.

Trout

Trout, also in the Drum family are some nice fish to put meat in the box. The bag limit is 4 per person 15"-20" with 1 of the four over 20". Tampa Bay and the surrounding estuaries are prime breeding ground for these fish. Sarasota Bay is known for it's monster Trout and plenty of them. A few years back Capt. Shawn was fishing with outdoor writer Del Milligan and his two sons and Austin the younger of the two snagged into a 33 1/2" Gator Trout later to find out it was a Jr. world record. All three of the Milligan clan had big Trout on at the same time and it turned out to be a very successful day on those big Trout. Trout are one of the fastest growing fish in the bay and rebound quickly after heavy fishing pressure or red tide thins them out some years. These fish can be caught usually in the same places we will be Snook or Red fishing at, that makes them an easy target and when you start getting the nice ones biting it doesn't take long to catch your bag limit on these fish. Even though these fish aren't strong fighters they are a blast to catch. They will chase your bait to the top and smack it just like a fish hitting a top water lure and a top water lure is a deadly bait for these fish when you are on them.

Permit are just one more fish that you can catch on your charter and there are a lot of them out there if you hit them at the right time. They like to hang around reefs just off the beaches and run in schools of anywhere from 10 to 1000 fish in a school. The size of these fish can be from 5lbs to 50lbs. They also run the beaches and passes and usually become a victim of a silver dollar size crab or a nice size shrimp. They will also eat a fly or a jig and the captain will have a rod rigged up with usually one of each until he figures out what they are in the mood for that day. These fish are super strong for their size and a blast to catch on a light rod.

Tarpon

Tarpon, also known as the silver king are abundant here in Tampa Bay. We are catching these fish beginning in March and lasting until July. They can weigh anywhere from 50lbs to 200lbs with most catches averaging around 125lbs. You don't have to go to Boca Grand to catch these fish either. We have been producing Boca Grand numbers for the past several years and there are a lot less boats fishing for them in Tampa Bay compared to Boca Grand.

Tampa Bay is a special bay in the fact that it has five main rivers that feed it creating an estuary for young fish unlike any other bay around the central west coast of Florida. The bay is the breeding ground for many different species of fish from bait fish all the way up to the silver king. We catch the tarpon on spinning rods with 20lbs line so you get the most out of your fish. Using light line increases the amount of hook ups that we have and yes a few more fish get away but using heavy tackle we would have never even had them on in the first place. Tarpon are a spooky fish with two big eyes and every little detail can make the difference of fishing and catching

King Fish

King Fish are one of our famous fish we target here on the West coast. They can be a load of fun and make for great table fare. These fish are swimmers and they must swim to survive so that makes for a very "chummable" fish. Sometimes we anchor over hard bottom and there won't be a fish in site but within just a few minutes of chumming, the water will start erupting with Kings slamming free-swimming bait that I have chummed with. Then, hang on because we are fixing to have a lot of bent rods and screaming drags. Once you have them around the boat you can usually continue to catch them for several hours, but we usually don't because of sore arms and all the meat we want. These fish get big with average size of 30"-40", but they can get up to 70"-80" and 50lbs. to 60lbs. commonly. When the Kings are running almost everyone wants to get in on the action, even if it is just for a little while. We still use somewhat light tackle for them. We will be using spinning rods and 10-14 lb. test line with a leader and then a piece of wire just before the hook to keep the toothy fish from cutting you off. These fish can make runs of 100 yards or more after you hook into one and that is why they are called Smokers. When you see smoke coming off of your reel you know you have hooked into something.

Spanish mackerel is one of the fish we also target off the beaches and are great fighters also. They usually hang around rocks or artificial reefs and will hit a bait as soon as it hits the water. They can get as big as 30" and if you catch one you can usually catch fifty. They are good on the grill and are great smoked. These fish are super fast swimmers so they will put up a good intense fight and will eat just about anything you throw at them. Great on the fly rod and there are a lot of these fish out there so you can usually bank on catching some of these. When the water temp. is in the low 70's there is usually some big king fish around the same area's. These fish will also eat a fly but really love a big shiner or sardine. They call these fish smokers because they will have smoke coming off your reel when they make their long runs.

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Snook

Snook fishing is what we are most famous for next to Tarpon fishing. When it comes to snook there is nothing else like it. Depending on the time of year we will be fishing either far up the Manatee River or out on the beaches of St. Pete Beach, Anna Maria to Long Boat Key, Lido Key and everywhere in between. Covering everywhere from Tampa Bay to South Sarasota Bay, snook are by far our most exciting inshore fish we target and with a live well full of bait the action can be incredible. You never know when you hook one if he is going to be 20" or 45" until he is done with his first run. But make no mistake, if it is a big one you will definitely know soon enough. With line screaming off your reel, it is you

and the fish with a small 8lb. line connecting the two of you. When it comes to fishing here lighter is better and seldom do we have a fish that cuts you off because of line size

The tackle we use is proven to work the best for inshore fishing from castability to being able to fight your fish all the way to the boat. If you have never caught a snook you owe it to yourself to be on the other end of the line with one of these incredible fish. The bag limit is one fish per person 27"- 34" and when it comes to the taste test they are right up there with the best of them. Every estuary and bay from Tampa Bay to Boca Grand has their own family of fish. These fish are creatures of habit and even through their migration process throughout the year they generally always come back to their home bays which helps locate and catch these fish to the trained eye. But, don't be fooled by part time guides or cut rate outfitters because not everyone can catch the fish the way a professional can. If you aren't spending 200 plus days out there you can miss the bite you are looking for and that is where our guides come in. We all share our days catch and compare to be the best in the business. This insures you a quality trip every time.

There is always a possibility of catching that big bruiser though and Captain Shawn spends a lot of his time searching for those big fish. A big Snook can get as big as 48" long and weigh as much as 35- 40lbs. They can give you non stop action for hours on end. You owe it to yourself to see the beauty of this legendary fish

Cobia

Cobia are a really special fish and are one of the bigger fish caught here in Tampa Bay. You can find them in a number of different places through out the year and are usually any where from 20lbs to 70lbs. We still use light tackle to catch these big fish and the fight can be like fighting a tarpon lasting sometimes up to two hours.

These fish are so strong that you almost always have to chase them with the boat or they would take every bit of your line and leave you standing on the front of the boat wondering what just happened. These fish have to be 33" to the fork of the tail before you can keep one and make a great fish to have for dinner. It only takes one of these big guys to feed your entire neighborhood.