

TARPON FISHING  
TECHNIQUES FROM  
CAPTAIN BRANDON

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FIRST AND FOREMOST TIDES ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO SAY THE LEAST. THIS APPLIES TO ALL OTHER TYPES OF FISHING AS WELL. IF YOU DON'T HAVE MOVING WATER THE CHANCE OF YOU HOOKING UP MORE CONSISTANTLY IS ON A LESSER SCALE. WHEN THE TIDE IS SLOW MOVING OR SLACK IT DOES QUITE A FEW THINGS THAT ARE NEGATIVE: IF YOU HAVE A SLACK TIDE, WATER WILL BECOME STAGNATE SO TO SPEAK. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE MOVING WATER, BAIT FISH WILL NOT BE MOVING IN OR OUT. WITH THAT BEING SAID IF THERE IS NO BAITFISH OR CRUSTACEANS, LARGER FISH WILL NOT BE IN PLENTIFUL NUMBERS. TIDES ARE SIMPLY A MAJOR DETERMINING FACTOR ON FISHING!! IF IT MOVES TO FAST CERTAIN SPOTS CAN'T BE FISHED. FOR EXAMPLE YOUR BAITS

WHETHER ARTIFICIAL OR LIVE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO STAY IN THE STRIKE ZONE LONG ENOUGH.

EXTREME TIDES COMBINED WITH RAIN AND WIND CAN MAKE CERTAIN "HONEY HOLES" NOT FISHABLE!! THEN OF COURSE WE HAVE EXTREME HIGH TIDES AS WELL AS EXTREME LOWS. SOME OF YOUR SPOTS ON AN EXTREME HIGH MAY NOT BE FISHABLE BECAUSE YOU CANT GET YOUR BAIT UNDER THE TREES OR DOCKS. THEN ON AN EXTREME LOW IT'S POSSIBLE NOT TO HAVE ANY WATER AT ALL! FISHING A JIG LIKE THE ONES THAT I TIE "TRINITY CUSTOM JIGS" ARE A PHENOMENAL WAY TO COVER A LOT OF WATER! IF FISHING IS SLOW OR AN AREA IS NEW TO YOU PICK UP A JIG, YOUR HOOK UP RATIO WILL ALWAYS BE BETTER WHEN YOU "POUND" THE MANGROVES AS WELL AS OYSTER BARS, CUTS, SHOALS AND BEACHES.

NOW GETTING INTO YOUR TARPON FISHING TECHNIQUES. I PREFER TO FISH THE MAJOR PASSES OR DEEPER CUTS, ON EITHER TIDE AS LONG AS IT'S MOVING SWIFTLY. GOOD FRESH BAITS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT!!! CUT

CATFISH TAILS, LIVE THREAD FIN HERRING OR LADY FISH HEADS ARE MY FAVORITE NATURAL BAIT OF CHOICE. AS ALWAYS USE CIRCLE HOOKS!! YOUR HOOK UP RATIO WILL BE MUCH BETTER! I LIKE TO USE A "BALL BEARING SWIVEL, 80 POUND FLOURO CARBON 6 FEET, AND A 9/0 OWNER CIRCLE HOOK. I START MY RIG BY TYING A SPIDER HITCH ON MY MAIN LINE. I PLACE A 4 OUNCE EGG SINKER ON THE MAIN LINE FOLLOWED BY A SWIVEL THEN MY LEADER AND HOOK. AS FOR ARTIFICIAL BAIT I GENERALLY JIG FISH FOR TARPON. I TIE A LARGE 1, 2 OR 3 OUNCE JIG "DEPENDING ON WATER DEPTH" WITH PLENT OF FLASH!! MY FAVORITE COLORS ARE RED AND WHITE AND YELLOW AND BLACK. CHUNKING AND CHUMMING WILL GREATLY IMPROVE YOUR CHANCES. SET YOUR BAIT AND SIT BACK AND WAIT. YOU WILL HOOK PLENTY OF SHARKS MIXED IN WITH THE TARPON. IF TARPON ARE AROUND SHARKS WILL BE THERE TO. SHARKS ARE FUN BUT THEY ARE AN UNAVOIDABLE BICATCH OF TARPON FISHING.

WHEN YOU HAVE A TARPON ON PAY CLOSE ATTENTION FOR HIS JUMPS. WHEN HE JUMPS BOW TOWARDS HIM. MOST TARPON THAT ARE LOST ARE DO TO THE ANGLER NOT GIVING SLACK WHEN HE JUMPS. DON'T RUSH THE FISH

LET HIM TIRE HIMSELF OUT!!! BRINGING A GREEN FISH TO THE BOAT ONLY SPELLS DISASTER. TAKE A FEW PICTURES AND LET HIM GO! THEY ARE FRAGILE FISH TO SAY THE LEAST.

HOT SPOTS: THE MOUTH OF THE BIG MARCO PASS, THE ENTRANCE TO TARPON BAY, THE MUD HOLE, THE EVERGLADES CITY BARGE, CAXAMBAS PASS, THE FLATS OFF KEE WAYDIN ISLAND AND THE SHOALS OF CAPE RAMANO.