

## FISHING PROSPECTS FOR APRIL

Spring is here and fishing should improve from good to excellent. The keys this month will be water flow and wind. Weak tides which occur during the half moon result in minimal water flow and consequently poor fishing. The full moon brings extreme high and low tides, which creates good water flow and better fishing. Strong winds in addition to making fly casting a challenge can muddy the water which will obviously have a negative impact on the fishing.

While cold fronts are still possible warm calm weather this month will raise the water temperature and with that fishing will improve. When water temperature gets above 70 degrees the snook will become more active. As the month progresses and water temperature increases fishing should just get better and better.

So in general look for clean moving water. I am partial to incoming tides and if the weather is cool try fishing later in the day after the sun has warmed things up.

When searching for fish, bait schools are always a good place to start. If there are birds above the bait there are probably predators below. Finding bait schools may be spotty early in the month. This is a function of water temperature and water clarity. Sometime mid month or later glass minnows should show up along the beaches. When fishing around glass minnows I like to use an all white 'DT'. In case you missed it last month the 'DT' is my personal go to fly. Not sure if I like it so much because it works or because it casts so well. In either case I never leave home without them.

For the latest information on license requirements, open seasons, sizes and possession limits check the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission website for at [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com).

### SNOOK

In our area (Everglades National Park, Gulf of Mexico, and Monroe County) the snook season is open until May 1. Early in the month small snook should be found in the passes and river mouths. As the month progresses snook will move into the back bays and larger snook will be found around outside points and islands. Snook should be along the beaches by the middle of the month. By the third week snook fishing should be excellent.

### REDFISH

Look for redfish on outside oyster bars and points during the lower portion of the tide. By the third week of April reds should start showing up along the mangroves in the backcountry.

### TROUT and POMPANO

Trout and pompano will continue to be found just outside the passes into the second week of April. During the second to third week trout will move onto grass beds and outside points. Rising water levels over grass beds with the incoming tide is a good time to fish for trout. Some large trout can be caught this time of year. Clousers are a good choice for your fly pattern. If you are targeting Pompano use smaller clousers.

### TARPON

Tarpon really become the fish of the month in April. Early in the month small tarpon can be found in the back creeks and bays. Bigger tarpon should start being found in the passes and along the beaches. By the second week of the month they should be in the passes.

Check in back bays for laid up tarpon. From there chances to hook up with a tarpon should improve for the remainder of the month.