

FISHING PROSPECTS FOR OCTOBER

October is one of the best fishing months of the year. Snook, redfish, and tarpon should be found in the back bays; mackerel, jacks, and ladyfish along the beaches; and trout spread out over the grass beds. Baitfish should still be plentiful the challenge will be enticing the fish to eat your fly with all the bait around.

That said the weather will be a major factor. Too much rain will lower the salinity levels in the back bays resulting in poor fishing. On the other hand rain will lower the water temperature which can increase the activity of the fish. So what is needed is some rain just not too much and not all at once. Rain and the first of the winter cold fronts will cause the water temperature to drop. As water temperature reaches the mid 70s conditions will become ideal for schooling redfish and backcountry snook.

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.

SNOOK

The snook season is open in our area until December 1. Large snook will be found along the outside points on the incoming tide, and smaller one in the back bays on the bottom of the tide. During falling and rising tides snook will be found in areas with the strongest current as they wait to ambush prey that the current brings to them. As the water temperature drops snook will move to shallow slow moving water over mud bottoms during slack tides. Try poppers, gurglers, or topwater deer hair Dahlberg Divers in the early morning for exciting topwater action.

REDFISH

Big schools of redfish should start showing up in our area this month. Keep an eye out for them in the back bays. In addition to the big schools expect to find redfish around the oyster bars and under the mangroves. Shrimp and crab patterns are the most commonly used flies for redfish, but at times small baitfish patterns will also work.

TROUT

In addition to the traditional grass flats, look for trout along deeper ledges and troughs, oyster bars and deep holes created by strong tidal flow. For exciting strikes try topwater flies when fishing for trout.

TARPON

Look for juvenile tarpon in the passes and in the creek mouths in the back bays. Large tarpon may also be encountered.

Others

Jacks, ladyfish, and mackerel should be found busting bait along the beaches. Any baitfish pattern should do the trick.