

FISHING PROSPECTS FOR NOVEMBER

In November the baitfish will move from the beaches to offshore. For those with boats it can be very rewarding to venture offshore and follow the baitfish schooled just off the beaches. Spanish mackerel should be found within a mile of the beach. King mackerel will be found a little further out in the three to five mile range. Giant redfish, tarpon, and sharks may also be encountered while working these offshore schools of bait.

When planning an offshore trip pay special attention to the weather. Cold fronts will pass through the area throughout the winter. These cold fronts can cause the temperature to drop rapidly and the wind to kick up turning a pleasant outing into an unpleasant and potentially dangerous situation. Fishing is usually good before the front until the wind picks up and dirties the water. Getting away from the wind is just one more reason to fish the backcountry.

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. As the water temperature drops during the month of November the larger snook will become harder to find. In the meantime watch for the larger snook as they begin migrating into their winter homes in the backcountry.

REDFISH

While the dropping water temperature will slow down the snook fishing the redfish will become more active. In addition to the big redfish offshore there should be lots of reds around the oyster bars. Also look for reds in the holes and on the outside points on the incoming tide. Shrimp and crab patterns are the most commonly used flies for redfish, but at times small baitfish patterns will also work.

TROUT

With the cooling temperatures trout will be found on the grass flats.

TARPON

Early in the month look for juvenile tarpon in the passes and in the creek mouths in the back bays as well as the occasional large tarpon. As the temperature drops to winter levels later in the month the large tarpon will depart from the area.

Others

Jacks, ladyfish, and mackerel will continue to be found along the beaches as long as the bait stays close to shore. Early in the month be on the lookout for pompano in moving water near the passes. Later in the month the pompano will start showing up on the grass beds. In the backwater sheepshead may be encountered. Baitfish patterns will work well for all of these species.