

GOFC SEMINAR - FEBRUARY 23, 2010

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In order to give this talk, I need some information first...

- How many go offshore fishing?
- Has the recession influenced your fishing?
- How often do you fish offshore per year?

Before you give your best guess, take into consideration Mother Nature...

CALENDAR PEEK-A-BOO... SEASONAL RUN-DOWN

FLORIDA SNAPPER AND BLACK SEA BASS ARE ALWAYS FINE ON THE MENU

JANUARY:

Weather: Air temperatures low, cold fronts every seven to ten days (advisory to warning NOAA predictions), water temperature can dip below 58F. 'Blue bird' day's variable. Fishable days weather dependent, you need to be very flexible.

Closed season: Red snapper

Offshore Opportunities: Bottom fishing and trolling for grouper @ 60' or better due to warmer waters that deep or more.

Best bet: Run out for grouper if conditions allow. The fishing should be great. Frozen bait will work fine because the live food went south. The grouper are hungry. Trolling is a fine option to catch grouper and find new waypoints.

'Hump head' sea bass and Florida snapper swarm much of the hard bottom areas that hold grouper inside of 60'. Start at 35' and enjoy a day of catching and freezer filling. The bait is squid because of durability.

FEBRUARY:

Weather: The worst of the year.

Closed season: Red snapper, grouper and trout.

Offshore opportunities: Sea bass, Florida snapper and a long shot at sheepshead.

MARCH:

Weather: Unpredictable change of seasons. Windy with stiff seas.

Closed season: Red snapper and grouper.

Offshore opportunities: Sheepshead are strong on their spawn (walk easy), Sea bass and Florida snapper

APRIL

Weather: Settled or beginning to do so. Air and water temperature going up.

Closed season: Red snapper

Offshore opportunities: Normally as such...Finishing the sheepshead, bait pods show up, Spanish mackerel follow the pods, grouper bite improves closer to shore, cobia begin to show up, king mackerel follow the Spaniards. It is the "Kick Off".

MAY

Weather: Settled transitioning to summer. No thunder boomers yet; predictable conditions.

Closed season: Red snapper

Offshore opportunities: The grouper bite is closer to shore? Spanish and kings ripping bait, cobias move in. Go fishing, it is one of the best times to do so.

JUNE

Weather: Generally, good and warm winds from the SW, seas fine.

Closed season: None?

Offshore opportunities: It is all good, go for it!

JULY

Weather: Hot! Afternoon thunder boomers expected. Independent storm cells need to watch for. Bring lots of bottled water.

Closed season: None

Offshore opportunities: It is all-good.

AUGUST

Weather: Hot squared

Closed season: Red snapper in the second half.

Offshore opportunities: Grouper are deep, cobia and AJ's

SEPTEMBER

Weather: Hot but chance of cooling

Closed season: Red snapper

Offshore opportunities: Great grouper, amberjack and cobia

OCTOBER

Weather: Heat break, maybe some windy days, but not many

Closed season: Red snapper

Offshore opportunities: Great grouper, amberjack, COBIA and kingfish

NOVEMBER

Weather: Comfortable

Closed season: Red snapper

Offshore opportunities: Great grouper, COBIA (might be the last chance), and later in the month Kings mixed with sand trout! A bang bang!

DECEMBER

Weather: The cold fronts begin to become regular, but many fishable days

Closed season: Red snapper

Offshore opportunities: Great grouper; the rest depends on conditions

TAKING THAT INTO CONSIDERATION...

NOW CONSIDER THIS:

Fuel cost for tow vehicle [120 mile round trip @ 15 gpm @ \$2.75/gal] = \$22

Wear and tear on tow vehicle = _____

Wear and tear on trailer = _____

Fuel cost for boat [80 mile round trip @ 2gpm @ \$2.75/gal] = \$110

Oil cost @ 50:1 or 4 cycle = \$40

Wear and tear on boat = _____

Docking = _____

Tackle [lost and corrosion] = \$25

Wear and tear on reels = _____

Bait [4 5# boxes frozen @ \$9 each + 50 live baits] = \$55

Ice [4 20 bags @ \$3 each] = \$12

Food & Drinks = _____

Fishing cleaning service [SMILE] = _____

Diner out = _____

Lodging = _____

Easy expenses of one offshore trip = \$224 per trip (not counting oil)

THEN ADD THESE INTO THE EQUATION: ATTRITION, SERVICE & MAINTENANCE

- Fishing Lic.
- Individual PFD's @ \$75 each
- Anchor rode [line-chain-anchor]
- Extra anchor rode
- Dock lines and bumpers
- Electronics WOW!!
- Boat payment
- Boat insurance
- Annual PM on boat and trailer (plugs, filters, bearings etc)
- Cleaning supplies
- Gear oil
- Batteries
- Coolers
- Safety equipment
- Extra safety equipment
- Special boating apparel
- Various pumps
- Tackle repair or replacement
- Charts and chips
- Other necessary crap and spontaneous purchases

But if you think about the big picture...

Going offshore is a \$400 to \$500 day; Low Balling

*All That Was To Anchor Your Mind On
Hard Bottom Not Sand*

SO WHY NOT MAKE THE BEST OF EACH DAY OFFSHORE?

PRE-GAME

1. FISHING IS MEANT TO BE FUN; LET IT HAPPEN
2. PLAN FOR YOU TO ENJOY THE DAY
3. ENJOY YOUR CREW –
Work with and around them, Non-fisher people, women & children
4. DON'T RUN IT INTO THE GROUND –
Everybody doesn't wants to fish 12 hrs or more and become in exhausted
5. DON'T OVER LOAD YOUR BOAT –
Why sabotage yourself from the beginning?
6. BE PREPARED
 - Organize tackle: hooks, leaders, sinkers, lures and rods and reels
 - Check NOAA, local weather, tides, various fish reports
 - Pre-fuel
 - Pre-rig
 - Check trailer lights and tires
 - Check boat batteries, filters, pumps, etc

START OUT LOOKING LIKE A PRO

NEED TO SAY:

Every fisherman needs a satisfying “hardcore” day offshore. Select a good crew and DO IT; YOU DESERVE IT

GAME PLAN

Carry MULTI-TASKER OUTFITS

Tackle display time...

Here are 3 suggestions... **DIVERSITY & FLOAT WITH THE NATURAL FLOW**

Always consider sea conditions and wind direction

GAME PLAN SUGGESTION #1:

Code Name – Be-Bop Loop

Waypoint pattern is an oval. Fish near shore and progress further out; then fish your way back to shore. Vary the tackle according to target fish.

Advantages

1. No long boring boat ride
2. Avoid running over fish
3. Variety catch
4. Light tackle options
5. Surprises (everybody likes them)

GAME PLAN SUGGESTION #2:

Code Name – Blast out

Waypoint pattern is linear. When morning seas are good take advantage of it and let the 'Big Dog' roll out to the far honey-hole. Then fish your way back to shore.

Advantages

1. Favorable conditions save fuel cost
2. Comfort and speed are optimized reducing ride time
3. Being "there" first is cool
4. Working back to shore can avoid a long run in afternoon thunder boomers
5. It allows you to thoroughly enjoy your offshore boat THE GOLDEN DAY
6. You travel to where your heart-string wanted

GAME PLAN SUGGESTION #3:

Code Name – Laid back lazy/smart boy

Waypoint pattern is a truncated or fat loop. During the summer, morning squalls may occur. Sometimes you can dodge them, but be aware, when several squalls appear on the horizon they will collide and that is when things get dicey. It is best to lay back, fish the near shore and watch what is happening. Then you can easily dance back in for safety or dance out. If the storms dissipate, sea will calm as the day progresses; unless there are more over the horizon. The game plan is: Being Weather Wary

Advantages

1. Safety
2. Making the best out a unsettled situation
3. Forces you to color outside your lines and try something different; sharpen your fishing skills. Make it happen captain!