

From the Ol' Fish'n Hole

By Capt. Jim O'Brien
Water LIFE Englewood

Hey y'all how about this weather we're having – 95 to 97 degrees – man that's hot, and it's been brutal on the water. I know, I have been taking more water with me. The water temperature is up to 98 degrees. The offshore fish'n has been real good. My captain friends tell me the tarpon fish'n has been real good in the pass and on the beaches. I don't know about this week, but last week there were some big sharks roaming in 40 to 50 feet of water.

Nice size redfish have been taken just outside Catfish Creek, and also at Devilfish Key, and Sandfly Island. Spanish mackerel and bonita are just off the beaches. Just look for the birds.

One of my last charters I had out, we took Mike Rhoden owner of Do All Dockside Marine Service in Englewood, and his friends Glen Vowell, Chuck Parrott, Luke Barns and Frank Benz. All a bunch of great guys and a real hoot to fish with. We went out to a couple of spots caught a few then we headed about 14 mile's south, got on this nice wreck and proceeded to fill a 162 quart cooler

with fish. I mean to tell ya, Mike started off catching a nice AJ. Then the guys sarterd loading up on big mangrove snapper. Our smallest one was 20 inches and our biggest one was 27 inches (that's a nice a mang!) We also limited out yellow tail snapper 18 to 22 inchs. We fished from 12 o'clock to about 4 pm. and filled that big Igloo cooler.

The guys sarterd catchin' big mangs on fluorescent lime green jig heads – 1/4 ounce – baited with live shrimp, cut sardines or pieces of squid. We were using 15 pound fluorocarbon leader. We lost a few rigs so when I opened my jig head box I had some hot pink flutter jig heads. I put a couple of them on and sent them out on the starboard side and low

and behold the guys using hot pink jig heads were catch'n big yellow tail snapper that was running 18 to 22 inchs long. This totally baffled me. The yellow tails wouldn't hit



Winner by a nose! Mike and one of the AJs

the lime green jig heads, and the big mang's wouldn't hit the hot pink jig heads. GO FIGURE.

You have to really chum heavy, but in about 15 minutes you can see the mangs and yellow tail come right up to about 10 ft. under the surface. I tell ya what, it don't get any better than that. Everyone had a great time. When we got back to dock it took an hour-and-a-half to fillet all the fish!

Remember: Get out and snort some of that good clean salt air cuz - it's good fer ya!

If you have any questions or if you have a good ol' fishin' story or a recipe for cooking fish that I can share with our readers give me a call. To book an off-shore charter with us aboard the Predator II call (941) 473-2150

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