



Left: Dave Walker with his first ever redfish at 18 1/2 inches.



Right: Alan Grant from Pool Sharks in Grove City with a 28-inch redfish that was having to go back.



Left: Krista Tucker and Alysha Aratari with redfish and snook on Reel Salty Adventures with Capt. George Frantz. Right: One happy camper on a trip with her family and with Capt. Angel Torres.



## Fishing Report

**Charlotte Harbor:  
Robert at  
Fishin' Franks  
Port Charlotte:  
625-3888**

Rain makes the July fishing forecast a little tricky. **Tarpon** will still be on the top of the chart, without a doubt. With such a banner tarpon season so far and with the amount of fish we saw on the last Hill Tide in June we are likely to see a lot of tarpon moving up into the Harbor. Tarpon could even still be in the pass, in the mornings, all this month. Look for schools of **threadfins** in the Harbor concentrating around the 20-foot and Pirate Harbor holes. Look at the mouth of the Myakka River. Live threadfins are the best tarpon bait right now, but crabs will work fairly well too.

As the month goes on D.O.A. Bait Busters will work better and better. Remember the water is really warm so take a lot of time to resuscitate the fish after fishing them – that should go for any fish this time of year.

There are a lot of **small sharks** right now especially **black tips** and **bonnet heads**. They are concentrated around schools of bait. Anchor with a chum bag around the edges going into Turtle Bay or out in front of the Burnt Store or Pirate Harbor channels. Ladyfish are a good choice of bait, but again, threadfins live or dead will be better right now.

Most of the **threadfins** are out in the middle of the Harbor dimpling or raining on the surface. A cast net is the fastest way to get numbers, but you need 5/8 or 1/2 inch mesh because you are throwing in deeper water. Threadfins won't do well in a crowded livewell for long.

Catching them with a No 8 or 10 gold

hook Sabiki is another approach.

Inshore and offshore the **snapper** bite has been incredible. The June and July full moon is when they spawn. Boca Grande and Captiva Pass are going to be great for snapper all month. On the offshore reefs, the further you go out the better the chances for big **yellowtail** in addition to **mutton** and **lane snapper** along with the **mangs**. If you have a big enough boat, this is the time for **American Reds**, big **black grouper**, **scamps**, **dolphin** and **sailfish**.

**Redfish** will be a little tricky now. The early morning from sunrise to 10 a.m. is the best time for them and the better numbers will be on the Intracoastal and Lemon Bay boat docks and in the deeper creeks off Lemon Bay. Frozen

shrimp is a good choice even though it's peewee size now. Pinfish are almost the right size now so they will soon work instead. Look closely at shaded structure in deeper water for redfish now.

Even though they are still catch and release only, **snook** are still out on the beaches and in the passes. If you are into sight fishing or trying a fly, the snook on the beach are a great fish to target.

There are still quite a few **cobia** around. It's been a weird cobia year. There has been a fair number of them in the 28-33 inch slot with a few larger ones. But most cobia have been small this year. Be ready with a pitch-pole to cast them a live bait, an artificial eel or a white buck-tail.

**Fishing Report  
Continued on following page**

# Have You Seen Us??

Look for the Colored Plastic Streamer tag



**Water LIFE  
MAGAZINE**

**We are tagged Kids Cup fish. Kids are following us in an effort to learn about the environment through fishing!**

**If you catch us please note:**

1. Date.....
2. Place of Capture.....
3. Length of Fish.....
4. Tag Number

**Report information to the REDFISH HOTLINE 1-800-367-4461 for a reward.**

**And PLEASE...SET US FREE with tag intact so kids can continue to receive information about us in the future.**