

SARASOTA®

—AND HER ISLANDS—

October is a great month to fish in Southwest Florida. The days are getting shorter and cooler, and as the water temperature dips into the 70s, the action really turns on! We tend to get a lot of easterly winds this time of year, which makes for excellent conditions to fish the inshore Gulf of Mexico from the beach out to a mile or so from shore. Huge schools of large baitfish will move in and they attract the game fish. Use a Sabiki rig to jig up a few threadfins and simply drift a bait out behind the boat on a 5/0 hook and a short piece of wire leader. King and Spanish mackerel, cobia, false albacore, blacktip sharks, and even a stray tarpon will be taken. Sight casting to breaking mackerel and albies using a silver spoon is great sport, too. Fly fishermen will do well tossing a white D.T. Special

Pompano are a very popular species to target in October. One reliable technique is to bounce a chartreuse jig on the bottom while drifting the passes in the afternoons on the outgoing tide. The deeper grass flats around both Big Pass and New Pass will also produce pompano, along with speckled trout, bluefish, Spanish mackerel, jacks, and ladyfish. The Marina Jack flat, Radio tower, middlegrounds, Stephen's Pt., Bishop's Pt., and the Moorings are all productive spots.

Most snook will have moved off of the beaches and into the passes and bays. Bridges, docks and other structure will hold snook, along with jack crevelle and mangrove snappers. The tasty "mangs" like a live shrimp or baitfish while the snook and jacks will hit both live and artificial baits.

Anglers fishing the shallow flats up around Long Bar and Whale Key will encounter schooled up redfish as well as snook and large trout. Anchoring up along a deep mangrove shoreline or pot hole and fishing live bait is deadly on snook and redfish. Poling, drifting, or using the trolling motor quietly while casting scented soft plastics, topwater plugs, or gold weedless spoons is enjoyable and will also produce some quality fish.



Marcel Hamburger from Houston with a nice pompano caught on a jig.

Capt Jim Klopfer, October forecast, Sarasota