

The warmth of spring is already here in February with air temperatures around 80 degrees and bay water temperatures approaching the upper 60's. The spotted sea trout bite has been on the upswing for the past two weeks and the flounder, red fish, sheaphead porgy and black drum are hitting shrimp tipped jigs. These fun to catch and very tasty fish will stay active this spring due to the short supply of white bait common to the shallows until the bay temperatures rise into the upper 70's in April. By then our fishing tactics change and we switch to artificial lures or we net our fresh live baits just before we get to the grass flats.

The gulf has been delivering steady snapper and grouper bites all season long and that mangrove snapper bite and grey snapper bite soon will be the focus of my offshore trips as those populations come close to shore to enjoy its warmer waters. Quite often the really big ones which are found 50 miles from the shore most of the year can be located within a few miles of the beach during early springs. On every trip for the last few weeks my clients have been getting limit catches of grouper and snapper, even our half-day outings are bringing in some remarkable specimens. This type of fishing isn't brain science for sure. You only have to be a little smarter than the fish you're trying to catch and with a few minutes of practice anyone can be looking like an expert angler and have a great time doing it.

Fish early and fish often

Captain Wayne Genthner

Wolfmouth Charters

941 720 4418