

SARASOTA®

—AND HER ISLANDS—

October Fishing Report - Captain Wayne Genthner

October and November are the most active months in our region for Cobia. These large and tasty sport fish also have a reputation for being some of the most elusive and physically challenging species that visit the surf zones, bayous and back waters of Longboat Key. Brad Digle, of Butte Montana, contacted me last week requesting a charter. As he phrased it, he wanted an experience that "Would make me sell the ranch, quit riding bulls and move to the beach just to get a chance to see fish as big as the ones we're gonna catch on Wolfmouth". Instantly, monster Cobia came to mind. Now, for some perspective, that's a pretty tall order to fill, but I know where these big fish are and Brad has the muscle and the critter roping experience to handle the strain. Since I had a real contender aboard, I decided to fish Bill's mystery wreck just off Whitney Beach. There, I knew we would catch just the kind of beast Brad could brag about to his rodeo pals back on the circuit.

We left Buttonwood Harbor before sunrise and slipped under the Longboat Pass Bridge just as the western sky edged out of its starry blackness into the teals of daybreak. High speed skimming birds tracked their lower beaks over the smooth flat plains of water that lay ahead as we powered up Wolfmouth's twin engines and brought the catamaran up to speed. Within a couple of minutes we had put a mile and a half behind us and then we slowed to a bare crawl as we approached our destination. Materializing ahead was a school of Cobia twisting and turning in purposeful circles on the surface above the wreck just like circus tigers plotting a jailbreak. We were fortunate to have brought along their favorite bait and I quickly cast one of these hand sized butter grunts ahead of the school. I gave the rod to Brad and he began to slowly reel the bait back in, allowing it to dance and thrash when one of the larger Cobia charged out of the school and crashed the bait down into its maw in a spray of salt and scales. What ensued after that moment could only be described as a controlled explosion of muscle against muscle. It was man against beast and for most of the time beast was winning. After a long 15 minutes of mayhem I netted the Cobia and secured for Brad an experience that every quarter horse riding cowpoke deserves to have. The fish weighed 72 LBS and that's no bull.

Captain Wayne Genthner

Wolfmouth Charters

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