



Notes from
Captain David's
LOGBOOK

I've said before that inshore fishing is a series of short-lived opportunities, and it seems I am often reminded of how true that statement is.

Recently, while bumping jigs at a jetty for reds and trout, a school of Spanish mackerel busted the surface chasing glass minnows within our casting range. Although our baits looked more like shrimp than glass minnows, a fast retrieve just under the surface was enough to fool 14 of the hungry Spanish, and 18 ladyfish which were only slightly deeper in the feeding frenzy. Most were caught on the jigs with spinning tackle, for no other reason than that's what we were fishing with when the action started. A couple were caught on a green and white clouser on the fly rod, and all in all, the action was great and the experience memorable. We were all very satisfied that we had seized the opportunity. Truth is we accidentally stumbled onto a completely unexpected short-lived opportunity and were able to catch a good number of fish out of it.

If you thinking about now there was more, you're right! Several times during the fray, there were four species of fish all in the air at once – Spanish mackerel, ladyfish, glass minnows, and menhaden. And each time that happened, at least one of our lines got cut off without us feeling the bite. What could chase these fish clear out of the water and cut our lines without so much as us feeling a bump. Kings! King Mackerel!

A free-lined live menhaden would have been nice in that situation. We would have needed a little heavier tackle. Was there enough room for one more rod in the boat, one more tackle bag?

Fact is, the opportunities are so numerous that picking your battles, or in this case your fishing pleasure, can sometimes be a difficult choice, and trying to do too much on one trip would not be such a good thing to do either. But next time I go to that jetty, and it won't be long before I do, I'll have some live menhaden and a rig already set up.

Thanks and
Good Fishing,

Captain David