

OFF THE DOCK

WITH D. A. MANN

~ Floundering ~

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Even more elusive than the Pompano, the Flounder have been known to evade capture with the skill of Houdini. You'll go months without seeing one and then you'll pull one up unexpected. It doesn't matter when that moment occurs, you are always surprised. Once hooked, they have the *feel* of dragging a boot full of water to the surface. These fish are so unusual in appearance that they will put a smile on your face every time. Having adapted perfectly to their environment, they literally disappear on the bottom. Once in the boat, you can't really get a good grip on them to remove the jig all the while trying to avoid the teeth.

So last Friday morning while working my Silly Willy jigging for Pompano, I kept pulling up Flounder. I had drifted from marker 12 in Roberts Bay all the way back to marker 1 by Snake Island – pulling up Flounder. Mixed in were the Pompano of which I caught 4 big ones. The Flounder were all small at less than 15 inches – keeper size but small. Unless they are large enough to get some filets off their bottom side, I let them go.

I went to Blackburn in the afternoon and drifted the entire bay with similar results only this time it was the Ladies swimming with the Flounder. I have not caught a Pompano in Blackburn in a month which is unusual; but, I did have a couple follow the Willy back to the boat.

It's nice to know that something likes my Willy – even if it's kind of ugly.