

Good times at the bars.

Pic: Abe Harpster from Spruce Creek PA with a big snook caught with Capt Jason Marsh this week.

Morning high tides this week proved to be the perfect set up for some amazing action on both snook and redfish. The best bite came while concentrating our efforts around oyster bars during the last few hours of the incoming tide through the first few hours of the outgoing. Strong south winds for a few days made this window a little longer with higher than usual tides,

Moving between oyster bars through the whole sound it seemed the ones that had the most mullet activity held the most snook and redfish. Free lined shiners caught both these species along with a few trout, snapper and even flounder. Some of these oyster bars are large with mangroves growing on them while others can be as small as a dining room table.

No matter where the oyster bars is located all these bars have lots in common. Most importantly they attract an abundance of life. Places these oysters choose to grow are not random they require a constant water flow to flourish. Right before the oysters start there will be a channel even if its less than a foot deeper than the surrounding waters this makes a highway for the fish. Also look for white sand holes just out from the oyster bar as a place that fish will lay up too.

Learning the lay out of an oyster bar only comes with time served. Certain bars set up better depending on the wind direction and tide. One trick to working out how a bar is set up is to look at it during lower water periods while it is exposed and then return during the higher tide to fish it.

Fall fishing is a big transition time for our fishery. The many oyster bars throughout the sound are stopping off places for both snook and redfish as the cross the sound from the passes to the back country. From day to day which oyster bar these fish choose to stack up on can change. Several days this week we spent our entire morning fishing this oyster bar pattern with great results, in 3 days of fishing  we caught over 120 fish. Now thats a good time at the bar!