March 17, 2020 Capt Judy’s inshore offshore fishing report and My father made famous lure story

Fishing statement: To try to insure that fishing stays in the hearts of those that are going to love it!

Please meet Joel Jons and his father Darrell both from Atlanta, Georgia and (back) Lane Coon Suwanee, Georgia! (All pastors in the Atlanta area!) While inshore fishing with Captain Garrett Ross of Miss Judy Charters this trio of fishers had one heck of a fish catching day! As you can see the fish cleaning table is covered with some very nice slot red fish! So therefore it is easy to guess what’s for dinner! However,
according to Captain Garrett this fish catching day started out as a big zero! What does this mean? Well, Captain Garrett went to all the right places, but the fish did not. It seemed that all spots had the right makings, but not a biting fish could he find! Neither the team nor Captain Garrett gave up and they just kept moving from spot to spot until they found a very solid red fish bite! What does all this boil down too? The fish bite especially during this time of the year can certainly be unpredictable and might not even be found close to where you caught them yesterday! What does this boil down too? You got to keep fishing if you want to get to some serious catching! And that’s exactly what this team did!

As far as bait used...Captain Garrett was using some very healthy live shrimp! What’s a very healthy live shrimp? A shrimp that you catch yourself that has never been stressed out! What does all of this boil down too? Not all live shrimp are the same!

Inshore fishing report

With mid March knocking at our door things in the fish catching department are just about the change. I am always saying, “When the water temps reaches 65 degrees everything alive!” Well, this for sure is a statement that means a lot, especially when it comes to turning the spring fish bite on. And what fish are we talking about? Red fish, spotted sea trout, flounder, whiting, sheepshead, and black drum! As you know, especially if you have been following my (Captain Judy)or any of my inshore captains fishing reports you are already know that we have had one heck of a fish bite over the last couple of months! For those that fished a lot you also know that the fish bite when the water temps are below 65 are just not as predictable as they are going to be now! And here’s the thing, it is not exactly a solid 65 degrees at this time! However, it has maintained a solid over sixty degrees! And when low tide occurs mid day and the sun shines it gets darn close! And if close is all we have now I will take it!
The whiting are biting!

For those fishermen that don’t care to look much less purchase live shrimp you have now officially got baiting up options! Why? The whiting are biting in the sound and they are plentiful! The best news is they are fun to catch on light tackle!

This is Captain Matt Williams of Miss Judy Charters doing a little whiting fish cleaning. Now most folks want fish fillets not the whole fish. However, for those that know how good a just caught fresh fried whiting taste just might change their mind! Captain Matt’s group knew how good they taste and asked for whole scaled gutted whiting with heads removed! All you need now is to roll them in some meal and drop them into skillet full of hot grease! Don’t forget the tartar sauce or in my case “the Georgia Cane Syrup!”

As a child I loved to eat fried fish. However, I found that if you poured Georgia Cane Syrup over it, it certainly tasted a whole lot better. I mean who doesn’t like a
breakfast taste for dinner? I strongly suggest trying this! And of course you certainly don’t have to tell anyone!

These whiting were caught while using small pieces of peeled and unpeeled bait laced on to small hooks fished on the bottom. And sometimes small fillet of whiting will work too. You can scale it or not! What is small piece of shrimp and a small piece of whiting on the same hook called? Whiting Cocktail!

Please remember to check all state regulations before heading out your intended fishing grounds! As of right now there are not restrictions on whiting! What does this mean to you? No size or bag limit! But remember only keep what you are going to eat and let the rest go on a spring time growing streak!

Gofishgeorgia.com
Alli “The Kid” DeYoung and Captain Kathy Brown both from Miss Judy Charters are flat showing off!

This could be called a fist full of large black sea bass or two fists full of large black sea bass or some really nice black sea bass!

Artificial Reefs

Reefs located in less than 50 feet of water are still holding the interest of sheepshead, black drum, flounder, few legal and lots of illegal black sea bass, flounder, blue fish, and trophy red fish! If you want to target offshore sheepshead I suggest doing it before mid April. After that time, the sheepies head to the inshore waters where you can catch them for the rest of this year. However, they spread out searching for the prefect vertical feeding opportunities!
Reefs located in more than 50 feet of water are holding some very nice black sea bass! And when I say nice, “I really do mean it!” So if you are looking for a steady bite, I suggest using two hook bottom rigs laced with small pieces of squid. Another good bait is to take a small fish cut it up like a loaf of bread remove any hanging appendages and put it on your hook!

Please always check all inshore (state) and offshore (federal) fishing regulations before heading out!

Savannah Snapper Banks

David Miller and his son Christopher (Blue Ash, Ohio) definitely know how to fish and catch. While offshore bottom fishing at the Savannah Snapper banks David caught this nice soon to be released genuine red snapper! And there is more...the bottom catching for black sea bass, vermilion, trigger fish, white grunt, and others is very good! Time to go!
Little Miss Judy Believe it or not!

My father’s made famous lure!

My father’s Famous Float Rig
This rig has already been hit and has been retired!
I have caught tuna, dolphin, king mackerel little tunny and lots more fish. This is one of those lures that will work to your advantage, because it’s proven! Heck, you can pull this lure anywhere at any time!
Here how you make your very own famous float rig…all you need is one 90 to 100 pound test swivel, 3 feet of 40 to 80 pound test single strand wire, one 8 to 12 inch traditional trout float, and 4/0 to 6/0 treble hook..
Attach the haywire twist wire to swivel, stick through trout float, and haywire twist treble hook. Now you have the perfect slow trolled lure. The secret to this lure is you need to keep it moving no matter if you have fishing jumping over it or not! I suggest always purchasing enough tackle to make at least two floats; because once your first float is cracked up you are going to want to change up!

This was my father’s famous “SECRET LURE” of all times! My father thought this one up while sitting on the dock just watching boats coming in from their fishing day. It seems that inshore fishermen stick their rods in the rod holder while leaving the cork just flying in the wind like a flag. According to my father this alone once noticed by a fish would drive them crazy. So therefore after rigging it up as you see it he used it and passed this notion down to me. Since he’s not around any longer, because he has gone to that big fishpond in the sky you will have to take my word on it. It definitely does work in a big way!
The best way to use this lure is to pull it at about 4 to 6 knots. The speed allows the lure to do its job properly. When pulling it the water is rushes through the tube in the float, which makes the float dart about in an irregular manner. This alone makes the fish go wild. I use this lure a lot because there is no preparation to rigging it, which means no bait added. It’s best when available to pull from outriggers or center rigger. However it works pulled right behind the boat, but you need to keep out of the prop wash. Just remember when you stop the float does what it is made for, which is “float on the surface.” This is the lure that I pull when I am looking for bottom fish, because it’s hard to catch a fish when you don’t have a line in the water.

I have tried adding more than one treble hook to the float, but this causes it to pull funny and not real like. So therefore it’s possible that a fish might hit the lure several times before actually getting a hook up. The entertainment factor alone is worth getting your float flat ripped up. I suggest taking more than one float. I have caught tuna, Wahoo, king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, little tunny, and jack crevalle with this great invention. I pull it frequently in both green and blue water.

Thanks for reading! Captain Judy