How To Catch Pompano

EQUIPMENT

1. 7' MEDIUM ACTION ROD

2. SPINNING REEL WITH 6-8 # TEST MONOFILAMENT

3. PUT ON 1/4 - 1/2 OUNCE EGG SINKER ABOVE THE SWIVEL TIED TO YOUR LEADER.

4. 12 - 18 INCHES OF 20# TEST MONOFILAMENT LEADER TIED DIRECTLY TO YOUR 6-8# TEST LINE USING A SURGEON'S OR UNI TO UNI KNOT (SEE KNOTS). TIE ON #6 HOOK FOR YOUR BAIT.

AREAS TO FISH

1. POMPANO START MOVING INTO THE AREA AROUND APRIL AND THEY WILL STAY AROUND UNTIL SEPTEMBER, OR UNTIL IT STARTS GETTING COLD.

2. START WITH FISHING MOST OF THE BRIDGES THAT HAS GOOD TIDE MOVEMENT. SKYWAY, GANDY, HOWARD FRANKLIN, CLEARWATER PASS, AND TIERRA VERDE BRIDGE.

3. YOU MAY ALSO FISH THE PASSES WITHOUT A BRIDGE. PASS-A-GRILLE PASS, AND BUNCES PASS ARE GREAT AREAS TO FISH. AS LONG AS THERE IS GOOD TIDE MOVEMENT.

4. SOMETIMES YOU WILL FIND THEM ON THE FLATS WHILE YOU ARE TROUT FISHING. YOU WILL NOTICE A FISH FLYING THRU THE AIR IN YOUR WAKE.

BAITS

LIVE BAITS

1. FIDDLER CRABS, SAND FLEAS, AND SMALL PIECES OF SHRIMP.

2. YOU WILL FIN FIDDLER CRABS ON DESERTED BEACHES AT LOW TIDE.
3. SAND FLEAS, you will find in the surf at the edge of the water along the beaches. Just dig them up with a shovel.

4. If you are along side of the pilings of the bridge, scrape off some of the barnacles and let them fall into the water. This will drive the pompano into a feeding frenzy.

5. Cast your bait into the eddy of the piling with a 1/4 - 1/2 ounce egg sinker attached.

6. Let it bump on the bottom, which will kick up sand, which in turn will attract the pompano.

7. When you feel a small tick, that’s when the pompano is biting your bait, set the hook.

8. If you haven’t caught a fish in 20-30 minutes, then move to the next set of pilings. But, move to some pilings 10-12 pilings away. Then start the whole process over.

ARTIFICIAL BAITS

1. Fish the artificials baits in the same area with the pilings and passes.

2. I prefer to use artificial baits in the passes, because it’s so much easier.

3. The best artificial is a 1/4 ounce yellow jig head with yellow feathers or 1/4 ounce yellow jig head by itself. Don’t add any other weights.
4. IN THE PASSES, TURN OFF YOUR MOTOR AND CAST THE ARTIFICIAL BAIT UP TIDE. LET IT SINK TO THE BOTTOM AND JERK IT PRETTY HARD. AFTER THE TIDE TAKES UP THE SLACK, JERK IT AGAIN. BY DOING THIS YOUR BAIT WILL LOOK LIKE A SAND FLEA KICKING UP SAND ON THE BOTTOM.

5. IF YOU DON'T GET ANY HITS, THEN TRY THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CHAN