



**By Capt Andrew Medina**  
*Water LIFE Charlotte Harbor*

The end of June proved to be a test of one's angling skills. Extreme hot weather and the recent rains we had made visibility for sight fishing next to impossible. But the strange thing is that even in the dirty water, when you found the fish they were willing to eat on a moving tide. Redfish really didn't care – as long as they smelt it, they ate it. July should be about the same.. The best thing to do is look for activity. Mullet is what I will always look for, if there are mullet hanging around, then the redfish, snook, and other species will not be far behind.

Cut pinfish on a jig head has been doing the trick for me in the back country fishing for reds. Snook are still eating white bait well. Now you can start looking for the snook on the beaches or just inside the passes on the docks along the Intracoastal. My best snook bite in the bushes has been primarily on top water. I like throwing 'spooks' in white, or white and red. There have been some very good fish in front of Bull Bay, not far off the open water. Fish out side the bars for the best action. There are also a lot of fish being taken from up river. Fishing around the marsh on the other side of the Interstate has produced some nice reds. Not tournament fish, but still a lot of fun.

If the weather holds, I would expect to see a few more boats on the water this

month. It's been a really weird time, with gas prices the way they are, I'm seeing a lot less boats on the water in general. I run my trips during the week when there's not a lot of boat traffic anyways, but I now often have an entire shore line to myself. I can not lie, it's pretty nice.

Out in the pass, the tarpon bite has been hit or miss. One day there are big pods of fish on the depth finder. The next day 30 boats are dropping jigs on 5 fish. We are still hooking up fairly well, if you can find the color bait they want. One day it's red head green tiger tail, the next it's a lead head with gold tiger.

Tarpon are very active out on the beaches for the crab throwing anglers. I honestly think the pods running the beach have been larger than those in the pass. July will also be the time to chase the black water tarpon on the bridges and up river. We have been chasing these fish for a couple months now, but July seems to be the best month for me to hit them hard. Anglers after the poon on fly should start fishing when the sun goes down and concentrate on the shadow lines of docks and bridges. Red and white and chartreuse patterns are working well. Light tackle, bait busters and Mirrolures have proven to hold their own. Get out on the water and just have fun.

*Capt. Andrew Medina can be reached for charter info at 456-1540 or on the web at [www.bentrods4u.com](http://www.bentrods4u.com)*

## X-Treme - the Everyman's Redfish Tournament

### Staff Report

You just never know what will happen when you go fishing. Last month, during the XTreme Redfish tournament a water spout came down around a few of the anglers but there was no damage or injuries. A total of 30 boats competed in the tournament, with 23 boats bringing in fish. A total of 40 redfish were weighed in. All fish were released alive.

In first place was J.R Witt and Terry Brantley who weighed in a total weight of 14.96 -pounds worth \$1280 and they got big fish money for 7.70 lbs and an additional \$290.00

In second place were Chris Stephans and Tony Roan with total weight of 13.20-pounds worth \$600. Third place went to Mike Garcia and David Lassey with a total weight of 12.55-pounds and a

payout of \$260

Fourth place went to Neil Hampton and Ian Born with a total weight of 12.45-pounds and a payout of \$180.

The Banana Bay Motel in Port Charlotte once again hosted the tournament. The next XTreme tournament is scheduled for July 26. It will be the fifth leg of the series. Entry fee is \$120 Phone 941-456-1540 for more information.



**Jesse Smith with a redfish caught during the XTreme Redfish Tournament in extreme weather.**

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