

FLORIDA INSIDER REPORT: AN INSHORE SLAM!

Article by Captain Lace Allenius. Photo Credits: Captain Lace, Sam Root & Ian Garmin.

There was a faint chill in the air as we powered up our flats boat, pumped up the speakers and tore out of O'Neil's Marina. Saint Petersburg, Florida frequently satiates my appetite for fishing and this particular morning was to be no exception. The sun glared off the water and instantly illuminated our spirits and smiling faces. Early that morning, we had already caught all of the bait needed for the day and it was set to be a successful fishing adventure. On this trip, our lineup consisted of Capt. Jeff Hagaman and Brie Gabrielle (respectively: captain and co-host for Florida Insider Fishing Report TV Show), along with her brother Ian Garman and well-known marine photographer Sam Root both running cameras and myself. We were filming for an upcoming episode of the show and we were looking forward to capturing some great footage.



Florida Insider Fishing Report is an action packed TV show, featuring nine regional Captains that navigate the waters around Florida. Accordingly, they give weekly updates of the fishing reports from throughout the state of Florida. Capt. Rick Murphy is the host of the show and his tenure includes over one hundred episodes. The show is an up-to-date fishing report targeted toward what's going on in specific Floridian areas.

This show is a must-see for the working fisherman or the average angler. It provides detailed weekly information about fishing, in and around Florida.

Pulling out of the marina, we were a happy crew. The contagious excitement could be felt throughout the docks, as other local captains joked that they wanted to be on the boat with us. We started off snook fishing on a low, incoming



tide. We were fishing live sardines along a nearby sandbar and looked for potholes on the bottom beneath the shallow water. Arriving at our first spot, we chummed a bit. Our live well was full with shimmering baitfish, so we had plenty to spare.

We were using the trolling motor on a very low speed, in order to be as stealthy as possible. It's imperative to approach snook very quietly in order not to scare them away. They can be very "spooky" in shallow inshore water. In reference to their anatomy, a snook's mouth is near the top of its head and they feed nicely on top water baits. Snook like good current movement when they're feeding, so they will lay "nose into the current" and wait for the baits to come to them. A snook's mouth is rough and they have gill rakers, so it's not uncommon for them to cut the line. In order to land a snook with a light leader, it's a good idea to use a circle hook.

After our first casts, our baits started twitching with anxiety almost instantaneously. This spot was filled with snook!



Delighted with our find, Brie and I wrangled in a few good ones and our morning was off to a good start! Much to our delight, our rod tips trembled with action and we also pulled up several nice trout. We were doing all catch and release; we let approximately fifteen fish go within the first twenty minutes of our trip. Overall, it was a fantastic spot to begin our fishing day.



The gentle ripples on the water flicked the sides of our boat and we took in the glorious surroundings. As the sun continued to rise, our excitement mounted and we knew our fishing day was just beginning to warm up. With two thirds of our slam completed for the day and as the tide came up, we decided to go for redfish. There was a soft breeze and we slowly glided over the grass flats in search of reds. The skyline was gorgeous and it was a beautiful day. Soaring birds and leaping mullet surrounded us and there wasn't a cloud in the sky. The Florida sunshine kissed our cheeks and the view around us was spectacular. Suddenly, Capt. Jeff exclaimed, "they're right in front of us!" There were silver flashes in the water as we could see the redfish rolling in the shallow water.

Tailing redfish are beautiful and it's a real treat to land on top of a school of them. After immediately casting, we waited in anticipation. Like an explosion in the water, reds began snapping up our bait! Suddenly, Brie and I found ourselves in the middle of a fish-fueled frenzy! After muscling in a bunch of great redfish, we had a little fun taking pictures with them in the water during the release.



Elated with the turnout of the day, Brie and I gave each other slimy high-fives! Fish scales were stuck to our skin and they glittered in the sunlight. We had achieved our inshore slam and it was an awesome day! 🎣

So you don't miss all the action, please tune into Florida Insider Fishing Report, and check them out at www.FloridaInsiderFishingReport.com. To book a trip with Capt. Jeff Hagaman, please call 727-639-2492 and visit www.Reel-Adventures.com, and for more with Capt. Lace Allenius, please visit www.FishingAdventuresWithLace.com.



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