

~ Fall Into ~ WINTER FISHING

By Captain Kelly

November marks the end of fall fishing and a step into winter. Thoughts of striped bass begin to come to mind. Although the big schools have not shown up along the beaches for the last several winters, this does not mean we are doomed. I am already hearing of a few here and there at the Little Bridge. Schoolies mostly but anything over 18 inches makes the grade in the sound. Try fishing on the up current sides of bridge pilings around any of the areas bridges. For years the Mann's Harbor Bridge seemed to be the best but now up around Edenton has been the top producer. Using 3/8th ounce jigs, rattle traps and stretch lures will all catch their share especially mornings and at dusk. I also like to toss live eels around the Oregon Inlet Bridge. Not catching real numbers but every season we get fish over 35lbs! If you want to explore other inshore fishing options try one of our many wrecks. Sea bass tend to congregate and tautog will start to show. Better have some crab and or clams for the tricky tog. Another fun thing to try around the wrecks is for big flounder. Drifting and jigging in the vicinity of the wreck can and has produced flapjacks over 8 lbs! You could also run into a school of big blues! These 8-15 pound choppers will aggressively attack your top water baits! We have even hooked into blue fin tuna within sight of land. This anomaly has been happening more frequently the last few winters. It seems that the striper gear, big shads and umbrellas, get more bites inshore from the blue fins than the islander horse ballyhoo combos that guys use in the blue water. The blue fins are probably focused on the schools of bunker heading down the beach!



Photos courtesy
of Rock Solid
Fishing.

Puppy drum, specks, and flounder can also be found in the mouths of or up in the estuarine feeder creeks. The muddy bottoms make for slightly warmer water when the sun shines on them pulling the fish to these haunts. Generally these places are uncrowded and safely accessible in little skiffs. I enjoy these trips because we get opportunities to catch some really large speckled trout. For tackle, a 1/4 ounce jig with Gulp shrimp is always a safe bet. We also have had success with live bait (bobber down!), stick baits, and little swimmy shads. Keep in mind that the water is getting cold now so remember to wear your float coat. A personal EPIRB is a great idea and have become very affordable. Don't fish alone and have a float plan with a shore bound friend or relative.

Good luck,
Captain Kelly
www.rocksolidfishing.com
252-441-6575

ROCK SOLID ROCK SOLID • CAROLINA BLUE • SOUTHERN RUN FISHING

- Friendly, local Captains.
- Hands on fishing experience for your party!



- Ask about our kid-friendly trips!
- Everyone is welcome from the experienced to the newbie!



- Light tackle ocean or backwater charters available.



www.rocksolidfishing.com
252.441.6575