

Fishing

by Matt Curtis

Reporting Period: January 23 to February 24, 2014

Note: Missing dates normally mean that the wind contributed to boats not going out to fish or not sharing their experiences.

I have a new email if you want to send report information or pictures: lyncurt0@gmail.com

1/24 DAKOTA went to San Esteban but faced strong currents for bottom fishing. They did catch a nice bunch of goldies and lost something really "really big" after about ten minutes. PERRYDIZE and WET WILLY went to Pedro for good catches of yellowtail.

1/27 ESCAPE caught limits of yellowtail at San Pedro Matir, then spent the night out and fished Esteban for more yellowtail.

1/28 COLORADO FARMER fished the Alcatraz area for limits of bottom fish, mainly rockies.

1/29 WET WILLY AND HILL BILLY YACHT headed for Pedro, but switched to Willard when the winds came up to the south. They got limits of yellowtail.

1/31 WET WILLY got limits of yellowtail at Willard. NIGHTWINGS lost the biggest flounder of his career at the water's edge at Christmas Tree after fighting it in three times, but was unable to beach the brute. (token fish story)

2/1 SAND DOLLAR fished onwards Eagle's nest but had to return to Turner due to rough water. They got limits of bottom fish there.

SEA SHELL fished 7 Mile for lots of rockies and a couple of small flounder.

2/1 - 2/2 CAST A LINE fished the west and north areas of Tiburon for some bottom fish, but none of the usual sardinera or grouper.

2/4 GATOR BAIT, EL SUENO, DAKOTA, SAND DOLLAR, and WET WILLY all fished Perdros Matir, mostly trolling for yellowtail. GATOR caught 8 nice yellowtail and some goldies. EL SUENO and SAND DOLLAR got limits of big yellowtail, and DAKOTA brought in 10 nice yellowtail including one huge one. HORNY TOAD fished "7 Mile" for rockies and one flounder.

2/7 SEA SHELL fished "7" for limits of rockies and two small flounder. SAND DOLLAR tried for Pedro, but was turned back by the "slight chop" to fish Turner for limits of goldies and rockies. DAKOTA did about the same for bottom fish. RED ROVER

2/14 PONY EXPRESS went to 14 Mile for limits of fat rockies, a nice pinto bass, huge cochis, and even a couple of smaller white sea bass (which were released to grow

up).

2/15 FISH FINDER FISHED "14" for seven different species, including rockies, cochis, corvina, catfish, sierra, a big pinto bass, and one nice halibut.

2/16 EL SUENO and GATOR BAIT fished Pedro where EL SUENO got two yellowtail, two nice sardinera, fat goldies and a frogish (see special report at end). GATOR's crew got a nice baya grouper near 20 pounds, and big goldies while fishing over 500 feet deep. PAPA DUKE had slow fishing at Turner and Dead Man but did get a limit of decent rockies at a "secret hole" nearby. TZIGINE, DAKOTA, RED ROVER, WET WILLY and NIGHTWINGS all trolled the lighthouse area at the northeast corner of San Esteban, where most picked up yellowtail. TZIGINE got 8, DAKOTA had 10 and RED ROVER . NIGHTWINGS did not get any on the troll but but caught 4 yellowtail on jigs, mostly in Scrambled Egg or Angry Squid colors. 13-0-13 went to Pedro but did not have as much luck.

2/17 PONY EXPRESS and NIGHTWINGS fished 14 Mile for limits of fat rockies, and some cochis. PONY EXPRESS also got a pinto bass and a white sea bass (released) while NIGHTWINGS added a corvina, one catfish, and a ton of bonefish. SEA SHELL got limits of nice rockies and a 5-6 pound halibut, and COLORADO FARMER got his limit of rockies in a little deeper water between "14" and "7".

2/18 SAND DOLLAR went to Esteban for 5 yellowtail, trolling under the birds in deeper water at the NE corner, then got some goldies and one sheephead bottom fishing north of there. GATOR BAIT fished Esteban for 9 yellowtail on the troll and some bottom fish. DAKOTA got two yellowtail at Esteban, then bottom fished near the gravel bar between 250-350 feet for nice goldies and 3 sheephead. LOS COMPADRES caught big goldies, assorted other bottom fish and a nice 10+ pound grouper. **2/22** DAKOTA fished Esteban on a calm day for 5 yellowtail and two nice sardinera trolling near the lighthouse (NE) and a few goldies bottom fishing the SE area.

2/23 DAKOTA returned to the scene of the previous day's crime and, using the same MO landed limits of nice yellowtail trolling. He was fishing the NE corner near the lighthouse again and reported that they were hitting anything. He reported smooth seas after a bit of chop near Turner on the way out. BW was right this time.

2/24 Today started a little bit differently, with a thick bank of fog that began to lift about 5 miles from the ramp, but the waters were nice and calm underneath it. Everyone who went to San Esteban caught limits or near limits of yellowtail mostly trolling by the lighthouse off the NE corner. JAYHAWKER, for one, got their limit of nice yellowtail on his first trip of 2014 after a long lay-off. EL SUENO, JAYHAWKER, SHARIA (?) and NIGHTWINGS, and a couple of unidentified boats all got

in on the fun. NIGHTWINGS got most of their yellowtails and a sheephead on jigs, but most were returned to grow up a bit. A couple of boats (GATOR BAIT, and SAND DOLLAR and SEA BASS) went to Pedro and Turner but didn't have as much success on yellowtail, getting mostly goldies and bottom fish. Someone on SAND DOLLAR had a close encounter with an unfortunate sea lion that got too close to a hooked goldie which resulted in two unhappy fisher men and a sore lip for the lobo. Once I hear the rest of the reports from the fleet, I will add them ASAP.

2/25 JAYHAWKER spent a half day between Alcatraz and 14 for a good catch of rockies with Judy Kidd and her "first time to Kino" friend.

BOAT PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS:

For local boat owners who missed the meeting Thursday, here is a brief summary:

- 1) The most important requirement is to carry a copy of your **ten year Temporary Important Permit** on the boat.
- 2) The Mexican official strongly suggested that it would be a good idea to carry **copies of your identification and proof of ownership** (title or registration). This due to increased efforts to curb rising boat theft in Mexico. Many boaters carry copies of their TIP, drivers license, title/registration, and passport/visa in a zip lock bag in their boat.

FROGFISH SPECIAL REPORT:

Well, I have been working on a report on the local edible bivalves, but someone caught this really unusual fish at San Pedro Matir on 17 February, so I thought I would go ahead and report on it. It was caught in around 60 feet of water while bottom fishing. The frogfish, batfish, and anglerfish are all members of the same family of bony fish. They are all fairly small, actually smaller than a volleyball, and there are over 240 species, including some in the Sea of Cortez. They hang out around reefs, sandy bottoms and even sargassum paddies.



Although sedentary in nature, all are carnivorous and use their incredible camouflage and chameleon-like characteristics to lure prey to them as they dangle a "bait" like appendage from their first dorsal spine. Once close enough they inhale the prey into their cavernous mouth in one big gulp. These include the deep sea angler fish with their long teeth, expandable mouths and phosphorescent glow, which they get from ingesting bacteria that glow in the dark.

These fish literally walk across the seafloor more than they swim, using their limb-like pectoral and pelvic fins. The tiny male fish actually attach themselves to the females and are partially absorbed to become one with them, totally dependent on the female (no sexist comments please).

Here are a couple of photos of the one caught this week



on El Sueno. The crew is to be commended for bravery for bringing the fierce looking critter in for all of us to enjoy. It seemed to be swollen up with water it had gulped in, like a puffer fish. It is most similar to one genus: *Antennatus*, which does live in the Sea of Cortez. It is rarely caught by fishermen.