

# Fishing

by Matt Curtis

## Reporting Period: January 25 to February 23, 2014

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

I have a NEW email if you can send me any fishing news or pictures: [lyncurt0@gmail.com](mailto:lyncurt0@gmail.com)

**1/26** HILLBILLY YACHT and SEA BASS fished San Esteban for limits of yellowtail, all trolling. EL SUENO also fished the same areas for yellowtail. DAKOTA caught four white sea bass off the south reef of Isla Turner and some goldies, while jigging.

**1/30** JAYHAWKER also trolled the Turner area with some new fisher-persons and caught five nice yellowtail including one fisher-lady's very first yellowtail. Quite a thrill for her! PERRYDIZE fished Isla Turner for three limits of yellowtail from 16 to 20 pounds.

**2/3** SEA BASS fished around San Esteban and Turner for a nice catch of goldies and other bottom fish.

**2/4** There was a second-hand report of a new fisherman at 14 Mile landing a very large flounder/halibut, possibly around 20 pounds!

**2/5** On a very foggy day, EL SUENO, MAYFLOWER, TZIGINE and SAND DOLLAR all fished the Turner area for a mixed catch, with SAND DOLLAR getting seven yellowtail, a nice catch of oracles and goldies and one unusual "pargo rojo grande". EL SUENO fished hard all day before landing nine yellowtail late in the afternoon. ROSIE went to Esteban for limits of yellowtail. TZIGINE got a nice yellowtail and limits of bottom fish at Turner.

**2/6** HILLBILLY YACHT and MAYFLOWER fished San Esteban, but not sure of the results. JAYHAWKER caught one yellowtail and limits of goldies at Isla Turner.

**2/7** RED ROVER went to San Pedro Matir for a few yellowtail, plus "smallish" grouper, and sardinera (brownies).

**2/8/9** A number of boats out, but no reports.

**2/10** JAYHAWKER found limits of yellowtail at San Esteban.

**2/14** EL SUENO fished Turner for two yellowtail and bottom fish.

**2/15** Another big day with multiple boats out on the water. JAYHAWKER and PERRYDIZE landed limits of goldies and 2 and 6 yellowtail, respectively. ROSIE and HILLBILLY YACHT went to San Esteban for "slim pickins" and a few yellowtail.

**2/20** PONY EXPRESS caught limits of nice rockies (sandies) at 14 Mile.

**2/** RED ROVER gave me a good monthly summary with him primarily trolling around San Pedro Matir. Earlier in the month fishing was a little slow, catching some yellowtail, and a few small grouper. In the last week or so, the brownies (sardinera) started to bite and he has done well when trolling near rocky areas, plus more yellowtail.

**Interesting recent reports of cool water temperatures** (54-59 degrees) have not matched up with the satellite data (65-67 degrees), so it is hard to say what is really going on out there. Fishermen reported cool weather even on the sunny days. San Carlos has been rerouting great catches of yellowtail off San Antonio Point and near San Pedro Nolasco and much of them caught with surface casting plugs. The Catch 22 operator even had a double hook-up on the same plug and landed both! The photo, along with a lot of others is on the San Carlos Fishing Forum.

(<http://forum.sancarlosmexico.com/index.php>) There are also reports of a good bite on pargo/snappers there, but not sure of the species (rojo or cocanaco/barred).

**Pargo or snappers** once were a very important seafood catch around Mexico but overfishing, mostly by commercial fishermen has reduced their numbers and size drastically. So a big one is a rare and significant catch. (See above mention). The only ones I have ever caught are the pargo dojo or red snapper and the cocanaco or barred snapper. Actually the local "red snapper" is probably a

pargo colorado. They were caught fishing with live mackerel for bait off the gravel bar on the southwestern corner of Isla Esteban and near Dead Man Rock off Turner. One was caught on a yellowtail jig and one



Barred Pargo

while dead bait fishing. Both of these species are found over shallow reefs to 300 feet and usually hide out during the daytime in rocky caves. Because of this they are seldom caught and if hooked, put up a fierce fight and use the rocks well. The pangueros to of San Carlos fish for them with bait and hand lines when they congregate in the early Spring just east of San Pedro Nolasco. I am not sure what species those are but they are red with yellowish tails. Mexfish.com mentions nine species in the Sea of Cortez but I have seen one species not on their list that was identified as a "pargo blanco" or white snapper, which is found in the Atlantic according to Mexfish. They do not seem to get as large and spend much of their young lives in estuaries near mangroves and leave to cruise the beaches in schools as observed last Fall. I published a photo back in November I believe, but can no longer find it in my file. Also, I am desperate for photos, so if you get anything big, unusual or odd, please take pictures that you can email to me!



Pargo Colorado