

Fishing

by Matt Curtis

Reporting

Period: October 6 to October 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

The early season from September until now was a bit slow, with few fishermen going out and windy conditions being very common events. Bottom fishing was the most common objective and a few dorado being caught. Most of the dorado were described as small to “nice aquaria specimens”. Eventually sierra began to show up along with a few bonito, but not many. Some of the earlier reports I am posting may be a bit off, date-wise, as I was not recording many details then.

>> **10/06** ESCAPE and RED ROVER caught sierra and what was described as “palometo” or amber jack, but may have been the first of the jack crevalle that are showing up now. RED ROVER also caught some “brownies” or sardinero.

>> **10/09** ESCAPE made a run all of the way to Willard and was rewarded with some of the first yellowtail I had heard of lately. GATOR BAIT fished Turner for sierra, and one jack crevalle on the troll and nice rockies and big trigger fish bottom fishing.

>> **10/10** PERRYDIZE tried Willard but the yellowtail were no longer around. He did get some respectable goldies near Queen’s Rock, and some brownies at Eagle’s Nest.

>> **10/12** GATOR BAIT trolled around Turner for nice catches of sierra and some fat bonito, probably the best report I had heard on the bonito. Pink and spotted minnow Rapala 30s seemed to be working well that day.

>> **10/13** GATOR BAIT went back to Turner, along with MANANA MAYBE, ROSIE, and PERRYDIZE. GATOR reported poor fishing for the sierra and bonito that day, but the Jack Crevalle were thick, including one up near 30#. All were caught trolling, with the jacks mainly along the west side of Turner in around 60 feet of water. I will mention more about the eating quality of this species at the end, but even “BUFFALO HUNTER” could not bring himself to try a sample after

seeing the dark, liver-colored meat. PERRYDIZE reported only a few sierra and bottom fish.

>> **10/16** GATOR BAIT fished the Turner area again, trolling for a couple of small yellowtail, some sierra, one skipjack, and more jack crevalle. He believes the surface temperatures are still a bit high for the yellowtail and bonito.

>> **10/19** NIGHTWINGS, sin lancha, drove to Christmas Tree to see if any corvina were around, since the tourney is right around the corner. We saw four carcasses on the beach, but only had one corvina hook-up, but no landing. Sierra, small cabrilla, bonefish, and needlefish were caught, lots of small one inch bait balls by the shoreline were seen. Not a sign of halibut yet. Lots of loose sand on the road to the beach. PERRYDIZE went to Turner for a small yellowtail, some bottom fish, and sierra.

>> **10/22-23** Lots of bait off Kino Bay Beaches and schools of fish chasing them, but only a couple of “white pargo” (according to Pargo Rojo guys) caught from shore. They look like pargos, but are white with dark vertical bars, not sure of ID yet.

>> **NATURAL HISTORY LESSON #1:** Jack Crevalle are a member of the “jack” family of fish, or the Carangidae for you ichthyologists. Known as “Toro” to many Mexicanos, it is common on both coasts of Mexico, sought mainly for sport value and to some extent commercially as food (for cats maybe?). They have a deep, very compressed body (side to side), with a dark greenish-blue top and silvery-white belly. The head has a blunt snout, large mouth, and two black patches, one on the gill plate and one at the base of the pectoral fin. Fins are yellowish and the caudal (tail) fin is deeply cut. They form dense schools when young, as was seen last year around Turner, hitting trolling lures and cast jigs. As they mature, the schools diminish and eventually the larger ones become more solitary. They live down to 350 feet deep and are apex predators, mainly on smaller bait fish.





WHITE LINED SPHINX MOTH: Look familiar? Huge outbreak in Arizona and Sonora, especially after Hurricane Odile. I have counted up to 100 larvae a day between Kino Bay Estates and Kino Bay RV Park, yet have never seen a larvae before, only adults. Food plant also new to me in this area: “thoroughwort” or “large flowered bricklebush”.

