

# Fishing around the Gandy to past Picnic Island

## Bluefish and more on the edges

This is a rapid-moving edge -- the tidal flow is more intense than most other places in the bay. Work it with spoons and any shiny artificial whenever you see birds working. This is a great spot for macks, bluefish, ladyfish, and jack, because the schools show up here almost any time in the summer. This is a good spot on incoming tide, as well.

## Marauding Jack Crevalle

Jacks might be considered "trash" fish to the elite among us, but personally we think that the sheer strength of these non-edible (to most humans, but not all) make them a blast to catch. If we see birds, we throw spoons, and if you hook and fight a ten pounder, you'll know what we mean when we say they're among the strongest fish in the bay. Like we say about Mackerel being available here, this is open water, with strong tidal flow, and you're going to see the open-water predators here most times of the year. These include mackerel, ladyfish, bluefish, and these beautiful Jack Crevalle. There are people who bleed them and prepare them in dishes they claim are delicious. We wonder if our friend Scott Moore has a recipe for them. If anybody does, he does.

## Bluefish

Bluefish are well-known to readers from states like New Jersey and New York, where summertime brings massive schools of these voracious predators. Bluefish and tuna are the only fish we've ever seen that kill for the sake of killing; they'll eat until they're full, and actually vomit so they can continue their rampage. Most open-water predators like Ladyfish, and even our cousins the Porpoise will sound after they're full; leaving the school of target fish to go on their merry (though depleted) way. Not so bluefish. They'll eat anything, including your fingers. They're very toothy, so be careful. Like mackerel, they'll easily cut a 30lb leader, and often require light (brown's best) wire to keep them connected to the rod you're holding.

## **Ladyfish**

Ladyfish are one of the "Trash Slam". They're slimy, will quickly crap the nastiest fish fecal matter you've ever been blessed with (other than menhaden oil, which is more disgusting than a hidden corpse), and fight like little tarpon. They are tarpon. We're not kidding, either. They're in the same family, and act remarkably like their huge cousins. They've been called "The Poor Man's Tarpon" because they're easy to catch. In Captain Mel Berman's book "Skinny: How to Fish in Shallow Saltwater they're listed as a gamefish, and the book strongly suggests them as a target species for the beginner. They're fun, cooperative, and like any open-water predator, easy-to-find because of the birds that follow them so closely. See birds feeding in open water, and there's a good chance you'll find some ladyfish.

## **Trout on the Edges**

This is another edge we've caught trout on. Lots of them at times. Your best bait is live bait in our opinion. If you don't know how to throw a castnet, or it's wintertime and there's no bait to be found, buy what are called "Select Shrimp" and put them on a line with a popping cork connected to it. Put the cork about three feet above the bait to start with, but experiment; sometimes the bobber works best 12 inches above the bait -- at other times you need six feet. Also try freelining, and using split shot to get the baits closer to the bottom. One technique could very well work on one day when all the others in your "fishing toolkit" draw nothing but strikes. Experiment with different things, and not only do you learn more, but you ultimately catch more fish.

## **Weedon Island**

This is Weedon Island. We have a marker here for the opening to Christmas Pass, and there's information about the island all over the web. We're doing a map for the actual fishery itself in a separate map for registered visitors to [TheOnlineFisherman.com](http://TheOnlineFisherman.com).