

Black Drum

Pogonias Cromas

Food Quality: 5/5

Where:

- Offshore near deep channels and around structure.
- Nearshore around structure such as rocks, marker posts, debris and even on the flats
- Onshore around piers, docks, posts, other structure

When:

- All year round with influx February and March
- When the tide begins to move, they will feed

Gear:

- Light spinning or bait casting tackle preferred
- Medium to stout 6 to 7-foot rod
- 12-20 lb. braided line
- 15-20 lb. fluorocarbon leader
- 1/0-2/0 circle hook to match bait size
- Enough weight to keep the bait near the bottom
- Carolina rig with 6-8-inch leader

Bait:

- Fiddler or other small crabs
- Clams
- Live or dead shrimp threaded on hook
- Will sometimes take a slowly moving jig such as a buck tail

Tactics:

- Cast and wait. They travel in and around structure when tide is moving
- Don't jerk to set the hook. Simply begin reeling in quickly until fully hooked.
- Break off part of the shrimp to leave a scent trail
- Try using slow moving jigs tipped with bait
- Keep rod tip up and make sure drag is not too loose. They can wrap around structure very quickly.
- Let the tide take your bait toward the structure, not away from it.

- Trail these fish. They spook easily if they can see you.

Trends:

- Though Black Drum can be found year round, they come inshore in larger numbers during February and March.

Community:

- Check with local marina personnel who can tell you where anglers are finding them
- Anglers fishing near piers and docks might report sightings
- Talk to other anglers at the launch and also at the piers. While they may not want to divulge secret spots for other species, they are not as stingy with Black Drum.



Black Drum Catch Card		
Tactics	Trends	Tips
Structure: docks, piers, marker posts, rocks, artificial reefs	February and March are excellent for Florida	Carolina Rig with circle hook. Let the fish set the hook. Be careful not to let them wrap you up
Bait: shrimp, crabs, bipeds. Break pieces off or crush crabs to provide scent trail.	14-24 inches are best eating. Larger fish stay off shore or near deep channels.	“Set and forget” patience is usually required for Black Drum. They travel constantly through and around docks and piers.

