

11.6.25

I hit the Packery Channel south jetty just before dark today. I travelled light with just one rod, my little green tackle box, and a small cooler with some frozen shrimp and a couple of beers. The surf was small, the tide high, and the water clear. I posted up near the base of the jetty on the surf side and soaked small pieces of shrimp on bottom with a small hook and a 1 oz weight. I kept my bait close to the edge of the rocks.

I got small bites right away. After catching a couple of nice croakers on Tuesday I thought today was going to be more of the same. Not so much. I lost a couple of baits before landing my first fish – a small whiting. I took a quick pic and released it.



The bite slowed a bit, so I moved a little further out. While relocating I passed a couple and the wife was fighting a fish. I stopped and watched as she swung a nice flounder up on the rocks. The lady was super stoked. I congratulated her and she asked what the size limit was. She was disappointed when I told her that the season for flounder was closed. After quickly unhooking the fish, she snapped a photo and got it back in the water.

I posted up by a guy who had a bunch of long rods deployed and leaning against the rail. He made a point of letting me know that he was fishing here and that I should find another spot. I told him that I would be fishing close to the rocks, and that I wouldn't interfere with him. He told me again to find another spot. I moved one rail further away and started fishing.

My first drop got hit quickly. I set the hook and quickly landed a small flounder. My new buddy came over and told me that I couldn't keep the fish because it was too small. I told him that I knew the rules and that it was closed season for flounder. He reminded

me again that my fish was too small and shuffled back over to monitor his huge rods. The whole time I fished I never saw him catch anything or even check his baits.

I went on a mini-run catching small fish. I got back-to-back black puppy drum. I got a second small whiting followed by a pinfish and a piggy. By now the sun had dropped below the dunes, so I called it quits.

Even though I didn't have anything in my cooler to show for my efforts, this was a fun, quick session. For those of you who will be fishing at the jetty for the next few weeks, don't overlook using fresh dead shrimp. It's readily available and so many different types of fish will eat it that you're almost always guaranteed some action. If you're fishing with kids, or anyone else who is not very experienced, dead shrimp fished on bottom will keep the rods bent and the smiles going.

