

## **BOTTOM FISHING**

Bottom fishing is one of the most popular types of fishing along the Gulf Coast. Snapper, Trigger Fish, Mackerel, Cobia, Grouper, Bonita, and Wahoo are top the list of the species you may encounter.

The Gulf Waters off of the coast of Alabama have a diverse environment which promotes a thriving marine ecosystem.

Natural bottom structure of rock ledges and coral heads in the deeper waters ( 200 to 300 feet deep) are home to species such as Grouper, Scamp, Vermilion Snapper and Amberjack. Trolling in the upper water column here can produce Wahoo and Black Fin Tuna.



The shallower waters (75 to 150 feet) have very little natural bottom structure.

The pioneers of fishing in our area discovered that man made habitat in these areas not only produced new fishing grounds but it also created a new environment and ecosystem that reproduces. These artificial environmentally friendly reefs are inspected and permitted by the Alabama Conservation Department before deployment.

Today Alabama is proud to have the largest artificial reef program in the country and only 2nd to Japan in the world.

## **OFFSHORE FISHING**



One of my favorite types of fishing is offshore trolling. It is probably the most challenging form of fishing. Marlin, Tuna, Wahoo and Dolphin are the target species.

We offer full day and multiple day trips to fish such places as the Elbow, Nipple, Double Nipple, Squiggles, and the Desoto Canyon. All these names refer to the shape on the charts that show the depths in hundred fathom breaks. We look for weed lines or color changes to fish along. Bait fish frequent these

places often, so they are usually a good place to fish. Another safe bet on a place to fish is around offshore oil rig platforms. These are huge platforms out in the gulf that provide good structure for baitfish to live around all the time. Petronas, Marlin, Beer Can and Ram Powell are a few of the names of local rigs we fish.

Tuna, Wahoo and Dolphin are what we refer to as meat fish and any billfish caught are not killed; they are tagged and released to be caught again. Most billfish are tagged because there numbers are few and there are not great table fair.

No one kills a billfish anymore unless they are in a tournament. And then there are very few killed. In a tournament, billfish that meet the criteria and boated are reported by radio to a committee boat with estimated weight and length. Captains keep track of what has been killed and smaller fish are released.

All the skill and preparations cannot outweigh the importance of luck. You can have fish being caught all around you and not get a bite or be the only boat out that catches a fish. The most important thing is being in the right place at the right time. And with so much water to cover even seeing a fish is lucky in itself.

Billfishing has been described as hours of boredom followed by moments of sheer pandemonium. But is all worth it to see that giant Blue Marlin come up after the bait and hear those two magical words "Fish On!!!"



### **COBIA FISHING**

The fish with many names. Cobia, Ling, Lemon fish, Crab Crunchier.



As the water temperature starts to rise in March, Cobia begin their migrating along our coast following the warming waters from east to west. This migration is at it's best for about 30 days.

All those infected with the incurable disease of Cobia Fever prepare for the hunt as rumors start to circulate of fish being spotted from the piers or that someone caught one while bottom fishing. Some people plan their entire vacation around Cobia season. I know some guys that have literally quit their jobs during Cobia season.

Cobia fishing is like hunting and fishing at the same time. These fish migrate right along the beach. You can find them in as close



as knee deep water or up to a couple of miles offshore. Spotters climb as high as possible onto anything that floats and scan the water for these highly prized sport fish. Big billed hats and the best polarized sunglasses money can buy are worn by these intense fish hunters.

## **OUR SCHEDULE**

#### **FEBRUARY**

The month of February we will fish from Port Fourchon Louisiana offering Tuna fishing opportunities at "The

Lump"



Overnight trips are the best way to experience "The Lump". Here is how a typical trip will go. We will depart at daylight on the first day of your trip. We will troll for Wahoo on the way to the lump. This is about a 45 mile trip passing by oil rigs along the way. "The Lump" is basically a big mound that is in about 700 feet of water. The top of the

lump is about 200 feet deep. Once we arrive at the lump, we will anchor right on the top of it. Then we will start "chunking" for Yellow fin Tuna. Chunking is sort of like chumming. Then we will put a hook in a piece of the chunk and let it out in the chunk line. We will also jig and use live bait when available.

Our target species is Yellow fin Tuna. You may also encounter Wahoo, King Mackerel, Black fin Tuna, Vermillion Snapper, Amberjack and Sharks.

At nightfall we will stop chunking and have dinner. We will start chunking again at daylight the next morning. Sometime around midday we will pull anchor and return to port around 4:00 pm.

I will run day trips if the schedule will allow.

### LATE MARCH THROUGH APRIL 20TH

We will be offering Cobia fishing trips from Destin Florida. Full day and ½ day trips are available.

The waters between Destin and Pensacola offer the best opportunity for sight fishing for Cobia. The water is almost always clear here and leaving Destin in the morning heading west, and returning east in the afternoon, keeps the sun to our backs thus providing less glare each way.

Even though we are very aggressive with regard to Cobia fishing, some of our costumers enjoy this type of fishing because it is relaxing for them. You can be as involved with the hunt as you want to or you can leave it to the crew and relax with your guest while cooking on the Green Egg or enjoying your favorite beverage.

Other costumers like to bring there family and children on Cobia fishing trips. It provides an opportunity for the not so hard core fisherman or the folks that are afraid of motion sickness, a chance to enjoy a fishing experience. We are usually within a 1/2 mile of the beach and you can troll for Spanish Mackerel while we are looking for Cobia. This is easy fishing for the kids.

There are also Cobia Tournaments available for those interested in some competition.



### **APRIL 21ST THROUGH AUGUST 12TH AND** SEPTEMBER 1ST THROUGH OCTOBER 31ST

We will be offering day, overnight and multiple day trips for bottom fishing, and offshore fishing opportunities from our home base in Orange Beach Alabama. We are also available for Billfish Tournaments if you are interested.

#### AUGUST 14TH THROUGH AUGUST 30TH

I am offering 3 day and overnight trips from Port Fourchon Louisiana to the Green Canyon area.

Green Canyon is an area roughly 60 to 100 miles south of Port Fourthon Louisiana. There are plenty of deep water rigs in the area with very little pressure compared to the Ram Powell, Beer Can and other rigs in our area.

I have fished Green Canyon twice. August 2003 and 2004. Our trip in 2005 was aborted due to Katrina. These were 5 day trips fished from of Orange Beach. Both of these trips were unforgettable. The weather was good, the seas were calm and the fishing was awesome.

Blue Marlin, White Marlin, Tuna, Wahoo and Dolphin are all pos-

This is absolutely the best area in the Northern Gulf Mexico for offshore fishing!

Give us a call and let's go fishing!

#### THANKS CAPTAIN MIKE ROWELL

WE SPECIALIZE IN A GOOD TIME!
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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE MY EMAIL FISHING REPORTS LEAVE ME A NOTE AT: MIKE@CAPTAINMIKESFISHING.COM

# Welcome aboard "The Charter Boat Annie Girl"

Captain Mike Rowell invites you to join him for great fun and exciting fishing action aboard one of the most modern and finest charter fishing boats along the Alabama Gulf Coast.

> Take a look at the fishing opportunities that we offer.



# **WE SPECIALIZE IN** "A GOOD TIME"



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