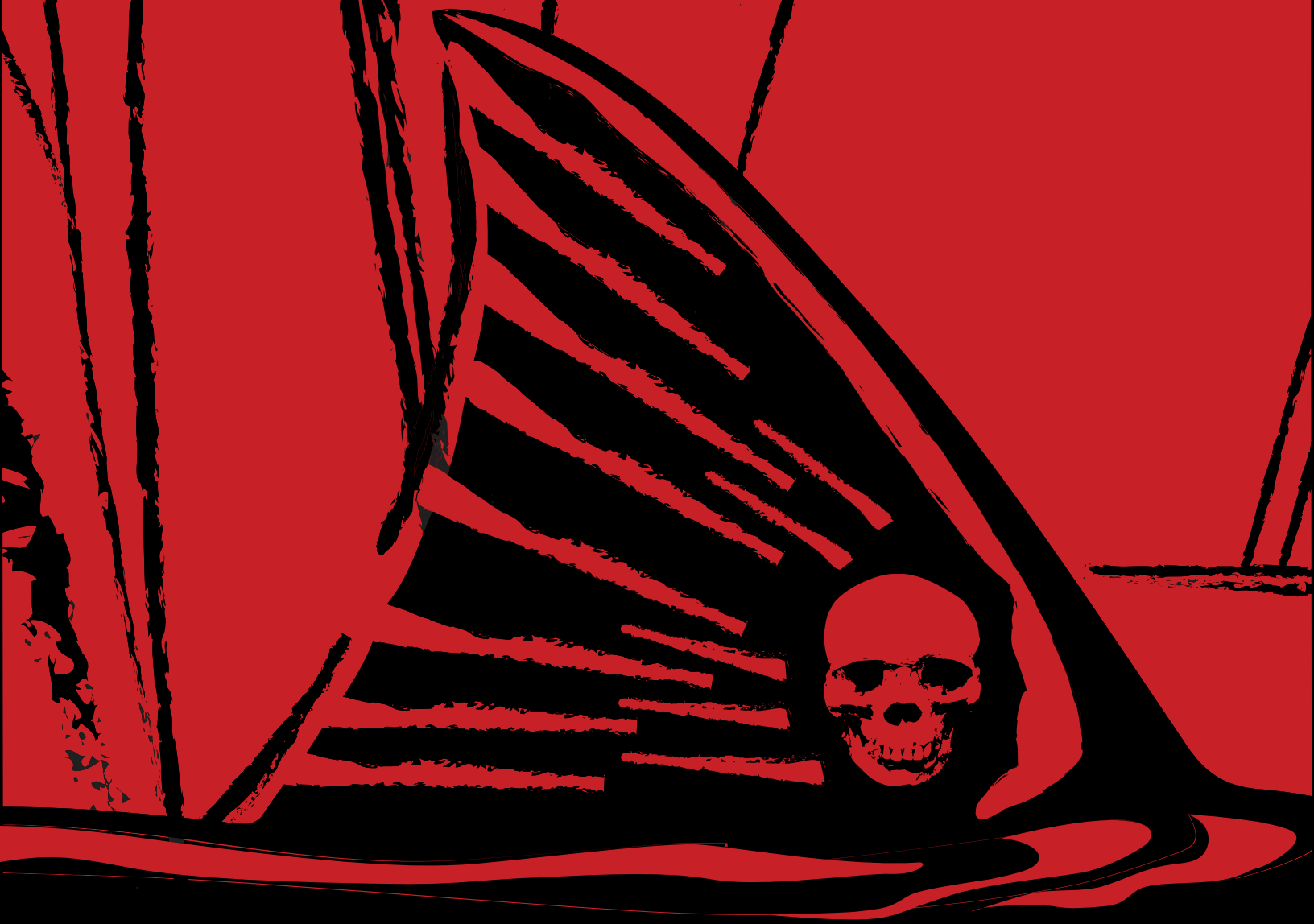


10 DEADLY REDFISH MISTAKES



That No Fishing Pro Would Dare Tell You

Nick Caldarelli
18hrs • General • Tampa Chapter

It absolutely pays to be a SaltStrong Insider

I've been a SaltStrong Insider for several years. The return on investment is immeasurable. This year alone my savings on tackle is \$150. One more little perk of membership is the monthly contests, drawings and giveaways. The Tampa Chapter ran a monthly drawing and all you had to do to be included is upload a photo of a fish you caught during that month. I happened to be the lucky winner and received a \$50 SaltStrong gift card which I promptly redeemed for eleven items including the new Skumz Lipper plug, multiple packs of the 2.0 paddletails, multiple packs of the Mulligan paddletails, multiple packs of the Power Prawn including the new Shrimptreasure, multiple packs of Avine hooks (I have treble hooks), and some Zman shrimp top red jig heads. The total came to \$50.86. Not bad for \$0.86 out of pocket. And did I mention I saved \$190 on tackle and reels I would have bought anyway? Best fishing club on the planet.

See less



Tyler Rawson
24hrs • Currituck • NC • Speckled Trout • Fishing Report

Currituck Sound

I just joined Salt Strong last night and honestly I didn't have the highest of hopes. I have loved the videos on YouTube but kind of thought it seemed a bit too gimmicky to work. Well I rolled out to the ramp around 5 this morning and I checked out the smart spots and it said that the mouth of Tule Bay would be a hot spot this morning so I figured I would check it out. Within minutes dropping an anchor there we're ball fish flying everywhere with Speckled Trout hitting all over the place! I managed to land 5 with one of legal limit. Pulled in a 20+ inch to the boat and tried to boat flip him and he popped off at the gunwale. All in all I am now a firm believer in this software/community.

Tips/Tactics:

Joe throwing the lure just past a wad of baitfish and would pop/jerk it through them and got bites roughly 1/5 casts.

Lure/Bait Used: [Mirrolure Suspending Twitch Ball](#)

Show Report Details



Brian Stewa
18hrs • General

As of today

I've saved \$110 on tackle, lures, line, and a really nice reel! That means the rest of the year my membership is basically free!

INSIDER

Jeff Linville

Used Matt's weekend forecast and fish spots to put the wife on a couple nice trout. Y'all are awesome.



Jeff Swain

6hrs • San Antonio • TX • General

Jeff Swain

6hrs • San Antonio • TX • General

Awesome courses

The courses on this group are awesome. Thank you guys so much for the education aspect. Best (besides smart spots) feature. Keep up the good work and God bless this business.

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The courses on this group are awesome. Thank you guys so much for the education aspect. Best (besides smart spots) feature. Keep up the good work and God bless this business.



Edited • LadyFish • Fishing Report • Treasure Coast Chapter

... Mission, Vision, and Call to Arms for Salt Strong!

...speaking to two of my neighbors after coming back from a day offshore. They ask me this area etc. I asked them to meet me at the Snook Hook in Jensen Beach on Thurs... we met at the Snook Hook and, over the next hour, we spoke about snook and... We then went down to the causeway with a bucket of live shrimp. I showed them how to rig... I've never really warmed my heart: both started catching small mangos, and even a ladyfish. The exam... I was told by my neighbor Sharon catching her first 2 Snook!

This is what made me reflect on the Salt Strong Vision, Mission, and Call to Arms for our membership across the US. Please consider taking time to bring the joy of fishing to the children, families, friends, and neighbors who just need a little "boost" to get out there and fall in love with our sport!

Enjoy your weekend.

Wait.

See less

Tips/Tactics:

Live shrimp free-lined under the docks and piers.

Lure/Bait Used: #2 Circle Head With Live Shrimp

Show Report Details



Curtis Blackwell

Mon 12th, 2022 10:30am • 11 hours • Broward County FL • Redfish • Ladyfish • Fishing Report

This community rule!

Double personal best day!! Thanks to Salt Strong knowledge! These are the 28" and 33" personal bests back to back 22 minutes apart!

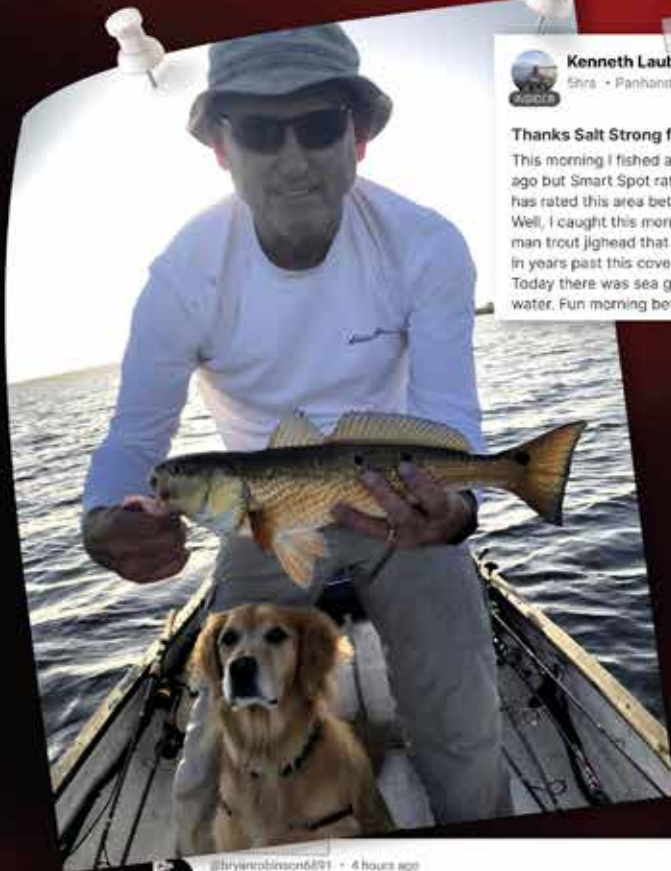
I've only been fishing these waters a few months and only really learned what a redfish was a couple of years ago. With the hot spot knowledge I patterned my first Lady fish with no clue what it was but week after than a good reason to wash the boat. Thanks to the help of community coaches and insiders they suggested I use it for out last week time. So I intentionally set out to catch another Lady fish using the spot data it was on only a few minutes this week. Then I took this out last to 3 spots I identified on my hot spots for Red. Spent over back to back casts so moved on. Spent 20 minutes of nothing out puffers so moved on. Spent 30 minutes first time fighting fish that I had to patiently wear them out to get them to the boat. First up was the 33" nearly double my previous personal best. And then 22 minutes later down 33" and at least a 5 minute 360 city around the total adventure!

Thank you all so much. This day will be straggled upon for years to come! I am sure of it!

Tips/Tactics:

Shaky cast to feed lady fish bait for the win.

Lure/Bait Used: "G" Slow Steady



Kenneth Laube

Shrs • Panhandle • Redfish • Fishing Report

Thanks Salt Strong for Smart Spot

This morning I fished a small area that I wrote off years ago but Smart Spot rated the area as "Fair" this morning. It has rated this area between Fair and Hot all this month. Well, I caught this morning on a FRED paddle tail on a z-man trout jighead that I just received in the mail last week. In years past this cove was flat, sandy, and no structure. Today there was sea grass 6" below the surface in 2' of water. Fun morning before the rain arrived.



Philip Abernathy

Flounder Club • Pensacola • Panhandle FL • Redfish • Speckled Trout • Fishing Report

on the water!

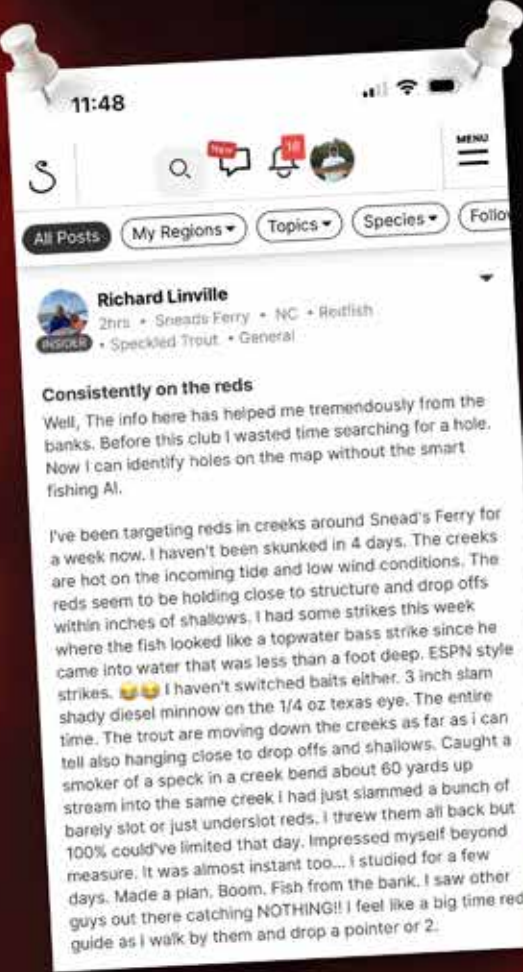
to give a shout out to [Andy Harg](#). He reached out to me and asked if I was interested in doing a little in hopes of a backwater Redneck Slam in Pensacola. I couldn't pass up the opportunity. We were set to

See more

Tips/Tactics:

At this time of year, temperature is everything. From hitting the fishing widows in the evening to searching for the cooler water. I have been hitting my hours at all the wrong time with mornings and fishing when I could. I now know to

See more



11:48

Search, New, 18, MENU, All Posts, My Regions, Topics, Species, Follow



Richard Linville

2hrs • Snead's Ferry • NC • Redfish • Speckled Trout • General

Consistently on the reds

Well, The info here has helped me tremendously from the banks. Before this club I wasted time searching for a hole. Now I can identify holes on the map without the smart fishing AI.

I've been targeting reds in creeks around Snead's Ferry for a week now. I haven't been skunked in 4 days. The creeks are hot on the incoming tide and low wind conditions. The reds seem to be holding close to structure and drop offs within inches of shallows. I had some strikes this week where the fish looked like a topwater bass strike since he came into water that was less than a foot deep. ESPN style strikes. 🤔 I haven't switched baits either. 3 inch slam shady diesel minnow on the 1/4 oz texas eye. The entire time. The trout are moving down the creeks as far as I can tell. Also hanging close to drop offs and shallows. Caught a smoker of a speck in a creek bend about 60 yards up stream into the same creek I had just slammed a bunch of barely slot or just underslot reds. I threw them all back but 100% could've limited that day. Impressed myself beyond measure. It was almost instant too... I studied for a few days. Made a plan. Boom. Fish from the bank. I saw other guys out there catching NOTHING!! I feel like a big time red guide as I walk by them and drop a pointer or 2.



Keith Torgersen

3min • Georgetown • SC • Spotted Seatrout • Redfish • Flounder • Fishing Report

Almost a double slam in 2 SS Smart Spots

Left the Marina & shot across the bay to a SS Smart Spot. Immediately hooked up a Flounder at the top of the Tide next to some grass. Turned him loose & fished some docks & lost my PP USA. Grabbed my other rod with a Texas Eye & DOA shrimp. Tide started turning & heard bait busting behind me in deeper water & threw where they were - twitch twitch pause & bam hooked up to a nice chunky trout. The next 5 throws ended up with the same 8-21 inches. The bite stopped & went back to the docks caught a rat Red - Slam #1. Left to another spot up the bay to a small island with tide ripping down the sides. Set down current next to the grass & tossed the slow lady Bomber on a trout eye jig slow steady retrieved & other very nice Flounder. Stayed in this spot for a while. Ever nice trout until the bite stopped. I got 2 Trout 2 Flounder & 1 Redfish. Not sure if I'll be back the Marina at noon a very busy day for the SS community.



10 DEADLY REDFISH MISTAKES

That No Fishing Pro Would Dare Tell You

By Joe Simonds

Fellow redfish angler,

If you're an inshore saltwater angler intent on improving your skills, don't read this PDF...

Memorize it!

Before we begin, I've got a couple of questions for you...

Are you frustrated that you aren't catching as many redfish per trip as you deserve?

Do you see other fishermen posting pics of their redfish - but all of the reds seem to magically disappear every time you hit the water?

Are you sick and tired of investing tons of money into fishing gear only to have your spouse and friends scratch their heads... questioning why you can't get tight lines on every trip

Or perhaps you're new to inshore saltwater fishing and have no idea where to begin.

First, the bad news...

The bad news is that fishing pros, full-time guides, and local saltwater fishing experts in your area are hiding things from you.

They know 10 critical redfish secrets that you aren't privy to (at least not yet).

But don't worry, you aren't alone...

Most recreational anglers don't know these 10 redfish secrets. Heck, I didn't know about these 10 secrets at first either (for years my brother Luke and I struggled to become consistent anglers).

In fact, you might be where I was 20 years ago... an ex-bass angler trying anything and everything possible to dial in redfish, trout, snook, and flounder. Sadly for me, the transition from bass to redfish was NOT a pretty experience.

Why?

Well, I absolutely abused these cardinal saltwater fishing sins (that I'll address the answers to a bit later in this document):

- 1) I was fishing the WRONG TIDE for redfish
- 2) I believed that more time on the water would fix my problem (it didn't)
- 3) I was using a bait caster (which killed so many opportunities)
- 4) I was using way too heavy of braided line
- 5) I was using terminal tackle (like swivels and added weights) that were destroying my chances of hooking up with redfish in so many different ways
- 6) I incorrectly believed I needed live bait (so I'd waste the morning bite trying to net bait)
- 7) To add insult to injury, I kept fishing the same handful of spots where I had caught a couple of reds in the past... which meant most of the time I was fishing in a DEAD ZONE

But the worst part was that I had no clue (and certainly no system) on how to find the 90/10 fishing zone on any given day.

If you aren't familiar with the 90/10 fishing zone, this is what separates the consistent pros from the inconsistent weekend warrior anglers.

The 90/10 zone simply means that at any given day, time of day, and tide, 90% of ALL feeding fish can be found in just 10% of any area. Moreover, once you find the 90/10 zone, you will almost always catch fish. On the other hand, if you're not fishing in the 90/10 zone, the chances of you getting tight lines is closer to zero.

Throughout the rest of this document, I'll be sharing tips that will all help you zero in on that 90/10 fishing zone - which means more fish in less time for you.

Here's a summary of what we're going to cover:

- The \$10,000 satellite view that's so crystal clear it's borderline unfair for finding redfish
- How pro anglers get an extra football field of casting distance every two hours (NOTE: fishing guides said THIS is the #1 mistake they see recreational anglers making)
- Without Knowing This Oyster Bar Hack, You'll Always Be Struggling To Find Redfish
- ONE BIRD is almost guaranteed to show you exactly where feeding redfish will be!
- How These 3 Lures Can Out-Fish Live Bait For Redfish
- The PERFECT Tide & Moon Phase For Redfish
- How To Instantly See Every Ledge & Pothole With This New Underwater Sonar Technology
- This Is The Most Powerful Tool That Full-Time Guides Use To Find Fish (and how you can tap into it for free)
- You'll never use Google Maps for pre-trip planning your fishing trips again (once you see this)!
- The Most Common REDFISH TACKLE MISTAKE (that causes more missed redfish than you can imagine)

Why do you need all of these tips?

It's simple.

If you don't have these shortcuts at your disposal, you'll continue to stay skunked, inconsistent, and frustrated (meanwhile, your friends who've read this book are catching more fish than you).

You don't want that, do you? Of course not.

You want to catch fish. Lots of them.

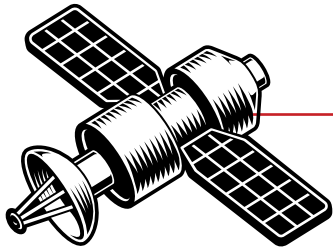
You want to hit the water with CONFIDENCE and come back with loads of awesome pics to show off to your friends, family, co-workers, etc.

You want to look good every time you come in from a day of fishing. Right?

The good news is that this document (and accompanying videos) will help you more than anything else you've tried.

So keep reading to take your inshore fishing game to a whole new level.

The 90/10 zone will soon be yours!



Chapter 1

**The \$10,000 satellite view that's so crystal clear
it's borderline unfair for finding redfish**

My buddy Mike buys anything that will give him even the slightest advantage when it comes to saltwater fishing...

He calls his purchases "Investments in his time" - which does make some sense considering there is nothing worse than spending a ton of money on a sport or hobby and not being good at it.

A few years ago, we were fishing for redfish and trout on Mike's fully loaded 24-foot Yellowfin center console bay boat. We were coming up to a good-looking spot and I happened to look over at his fish finder unit to see what the depth was. What got my attention wasn't the depth, but what was on the screen.

The satellite view on his unit was unlike anything I had ever seen before. It was like the first time I ever saw a college football game on a High Definition (HD) TV compared to watching it on the old-school tube TV (anyone born in 1986 or older will know what I mean). Everything was so clear.

It was like I had been given special X-ray vision. I could see every little pothole and ledge.

I went over to get a closer look. I swear to you it felt like I was looking underwater it was so clear.

"Mike, how does your Simrad get clarity like this? I've never seen anything like it before."

Mike turned around to look at me. I could see a slight smirk on his face. "Let's just say it didn't come standard with the machine," Mike replied.

I instantly knew this was another one of Mike's "investments" in his fishing time.

"Alright," I said. "Hit me with it. How much did this cost you?"

Mike was quiet for a few seconds.

"You don't want to know," he replied.

"Dude. I've known you for a long time. Just hit me with it," I replied.

Finally, he said, "About \$10,000 to get this 4K satellite view for the entire state of Florida and Georgia (the two main states he does his fishing in). But it's been worth it. I find hidden honey holes that other boats completely miss."

My jaw dropped. Ten Thousand Dollars!!! I had to know more.

"Tell me more about it," I asked, still trying to make sense of the \$10,000 investment.

Mike left the bow of the boat where he had been standing and got in front of the unit. His fingers touched the screen.

He zoomed in even closer to the area we were currently in. Every line in the sand became visible - nothing could hide from us with this!

Mike showed me potholes and small ledges that were right around us (that I couldn't see with my naked eye).

He continued to show me other areas he had found with this 4K satellite technology. In some areas, the clarity was so intense

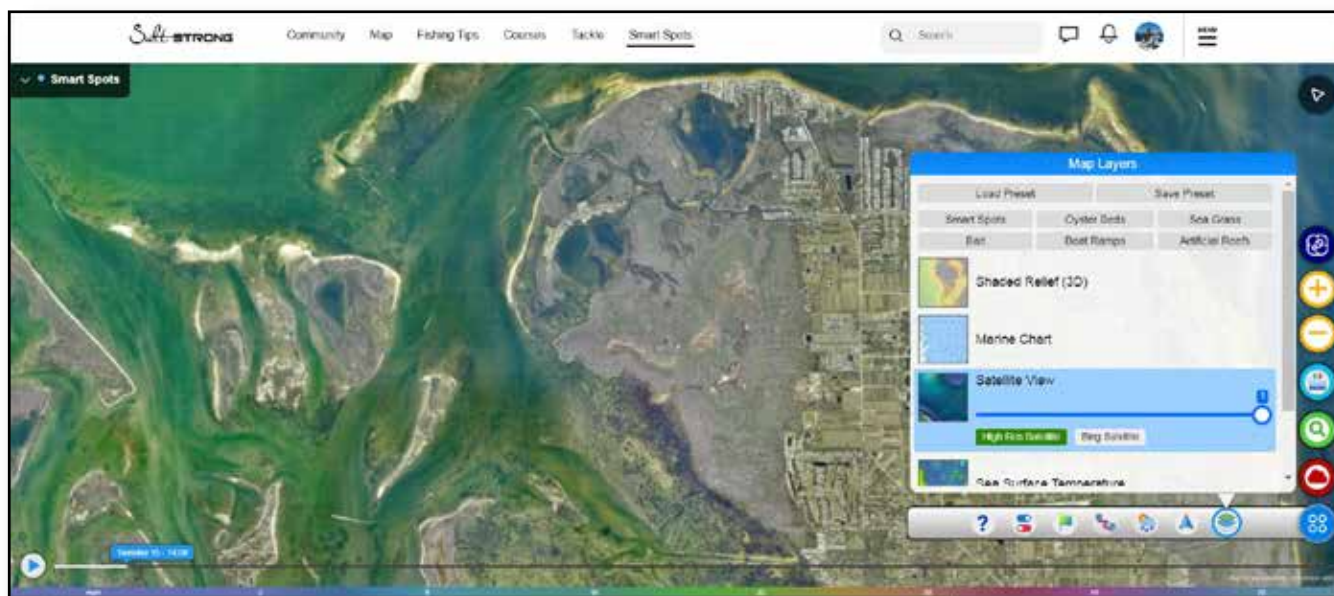
that you could actually see fish positioned up on flats and near oyster bars.

For trout spots, this was almost unfair as every pothole on a flat stood out like a sore thumb. It's not often I'm blown away by something, but this 4K satellite view got me.

We went back to fishing but I couldn't stop staring at that screen. It was mesmerizing!

Hitting only spots Mike had found with this 4K (or should I say 10K) satellite view, we ended up having a banner day on the water that day.

Although I thought about it often, it would be two full years later that I'd finally get my hands on the same 4K satellite technology Mike had...



I was in a private meeting at the Salt Strong headquarters in Winter Haven, FL. In the meeting were me, Luke, and Nick, our Chief Technology Officer.

We were discussing the overall budget regarding Smart Fishing Spots, our new software (and app) built for inshore saltwater anglers.

The goal of the meeting was to define exactly what features and technologies that we wanted in the software, along with making sure we could afford them.

At the top of my list was the 4K satellite view that I had seen on Mike's boat two years prior.

Talk about a shortcut to help you find the 90/10 zone! Well, I'm pleased to say that the 4K technology was voted to the top of the list and is now something that all of our members get for FREE when they join the Insider Club.

The only person upset about it is Mike (because I could have saved him \$10,000).

If you want to see an example of the 4K satellite view, click here to watch it:

<https://www.saltstrong.com/articles/4k-satellite-view-sneak-peak/>

Click here to sign up for the Insider Club (where you get instant access to Smart Fishing Spots and all of the amazing technology - including 4K views in all states) -

<https://www.saltstrong.com/pricing>



Chapter 2

How pro anglers get an extra football field of casting distance every two hours,

NOTE: fishing guides said THIS is the #1 mistake they see recreational anglers making.

Imagine this...

Two anglers are currently fishing an expansive flat with an average depth of 3 feet.

They are in the same boat, using the exact same lure, same rod, same reel, same line, etc.

They know this area holds some huge redfish and trout.

However, the fish in this area get quite a bit of pressure - so long casts into potholes is the secret to getting strikes here.

After 60 minutes of fishing in this area, one angler has landed 8 fish. The other angler has landed just 2.

How? Why?

It's simple math.

One angler is casting an extra football field farther than the other...

But it's not what you might think.

Here's what has occurred so far: angler #1 is casting 10 feet farther than angler #2.

Here's why this is so critical.

Assuming that it takes each angler two minutes to cast and retrieve, that means that each angler had thirty chances at a strike over the hour of fishing.

This is where the magic happens.

Recall that angler #1 is casting an extra 10 feet farther than angler #2. That means that angler #1 is getting an extra 300 feet (30 casts x 10 feet) which is an entire football field of fish-striking opportunity!

However, it doesn't stop there.

Not only is angler #1 getting an extra 300 feet of fish-catching opportunity, those 300 extra feet are all the farthest away from the boat (giving angler #1 an unfair advantage since that extra 10 feet is more likely to hold fish that don't know the boat is there).

It's no surprise that angler #1 is catching more fish!

The **RULE** that gives you an unfair advantage:

HE or SHE who can cast the farthest (and most accurate) will catch more fish simply due to the fact they will have their lure or bait in front of more fish.

PERIOD.

Since becoming the CEO of Salt Strong over eight years ago, I've had the pleasure of meeting and fishing with countless full-time saltwater fishing guides.

What's been interesting is that fishing guides all agree on this ONE mistake that CRUSHES the chances of almost all recreational anglers catching as many fish as they would like...



Ineffective and inaccurate casting.

In fact, countless full-time guides told me that they know INSTANTLY what kind of day it's going to be when they see their client make their first cast.

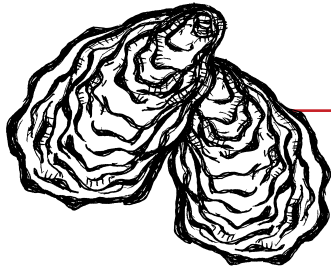
Now before you start trying to convince yourself that this only applies to newbies, what's really shocking is how many guides said the anglers who had been fishing for 20+ years still didn't know how to cast well.

Truth be told, I fell in the same boat until I learned the "Dart Cast" - which changed everything for me.

If you want to see the simple fix to start out-casting all of your friends, check out this video we did on "The Dart Cast" - <https://www.saltstrong.com/articles/how-to-cast-with-maximum-efficiency/>

P.S. - Once you master "The Dart Cast" you'll instantly know why so all fishing guides say this is the #1 thing holding recreational anglers back from catching more fish.





Chapter 3

**Without Knowing This Oyster Bar Hack,
You'll Always Be Struggling To Find Redfish**

50,000 inshore fishermen can't be wrong about where to find redfish...

As I'm writing this, we currently have almost 50,000 members in our private online "Insider" community. Inside this private online community, we have new fishing reports going up every few minutes from Texas to Florida to Maryland (and every state in between).

What's really cool is that our members share where they were, what type of structure they were fishing, what lure or bait they used, and other trends.

Can you guess the ONE type of structure that has been consistent across all states for catching redfish?

If you guessed OYSTER BEDS, then you'd be correct.

Oyster beds not only provide safety for redfish to avoid getting pinned by dolphins, but they also provide one of the richest ecosystems of crustaceans and bait of any type of structure.

Oyster beds = 90/10 zones!

However, the majority of oyster bars are not visible by the naked eye for most of the tide cycle (and some oyster bars still remain hidden even at low tide).

So what's the trick to finding oyster bars fast?

There are three different ways to find oyster bars where you fish.

1. The old-school way: this way is incredibly hard, costs a lot of money, and wastes a lot of time.
2. The 2020 way: this revolutionized the first way of finding oysters, but it's still not reliable because you're relying on satellite images.
3. The "One Click" way: this changed everything (and takes just a few seconds - with crazy accuracy).

I'll explain each one briefly and then let you decide which one you want to use going forward (hint - unless you're the kind of sicko who enjoys treble hooks in your skin, you're probably going to want to do option #3 going forward).

Option 1 - "The Old School Oyster Way"



The old-school way couldn't be any slower, any costlier, or any worse of a way to use your valuable time on the water.

Do you still want to hear about it?

In a sentence, option 1 requires that you are out on the water marking oyster bars one at a time with your eyes.

Brutal!!!

Yes, this is the way that our great-grandfathers used to find oyster bars, but that doesn't mean it's the way we should do it. Heck, my great-grandfather used to complain about switching from a horse to a car to get around...

Moreover, the naked eye misses a huge portion of oyster bars because so many of them are under the surface for at least half of the day.

Not to mention all of the wasted gas and time trying to find something that can be done in seconds from home (you'll discover how in option #3).

To summarize, don't do it this way. You'll waste time, money, and you'll miss most of the oysters.

Option 2 - The "2020 Way"



One of the biggest game-changers for inshore saltwater fishing was the introduction of online, free satellite maps.

Although satellite imagery has been around for decades, it wasn't until the last 10 years that it really became great (to the point you could zoom in and find oyster bars from your computer).

Over the course of the last few years, the clarity of these satellite maps has become even better.

Yet there were still some old salty anglers who knocked it and said they would never use it... that was until around the year 2020 when full acceptance of using satellite maps (like Google, Mapquest, Bing, etc) became commonplace (even amongst some of the angry old salts that were mad it about just a few years prior).

In a sentence, option #2 requires you (the angler) to spend a bunch of time scouring satellite maps in search of oyster beds (just hoping and praying that the satellite image was taken on a non-cloudy day at low tide in an area with clear water).

As you probably already know, some areas can be easier than others to see structure based on cloud coverage from when the image was taken, etc.

Of course, option #2 also requires super clear water - so any area with murky water misses out on much of this satellite imagery oyster opportunity.

Pros: you can uncover a bunch of oyster bars from the comfort of your home using satellite maps.

Cons: you still miss a huge chunk of them, it takes hours to scour an area on the map, and if there are clouds and/or murky water in the area, you can't see them. Plus, if the satellite image was taken at high tide (50% chance), the oyster beds become really hard (if not impossible) to spot.

Are you ready to hear about option 3???

Option 3 - "The One-Click Way"



This will change how quickly you find the 90/10 zone forever...

A year ago, we discovered a way to capture every oyster bar from Texas to Florida to Maryland. Not only that, we were able to bring them all into our proprietary fishing app called "Smart Fishing Spots." With one click of a button, they all appear!

Pa-POW!!!

Yes, we've literally built every oyster bar into a top-secret layer on our smart map that reveals every oyster bar in seconds.

No more having to drive around in your boat or kayak looking for them...

No more having to squint while looking at satellite maps...

No more scratching your head wondering if it's an oyster bed or just a shadow...

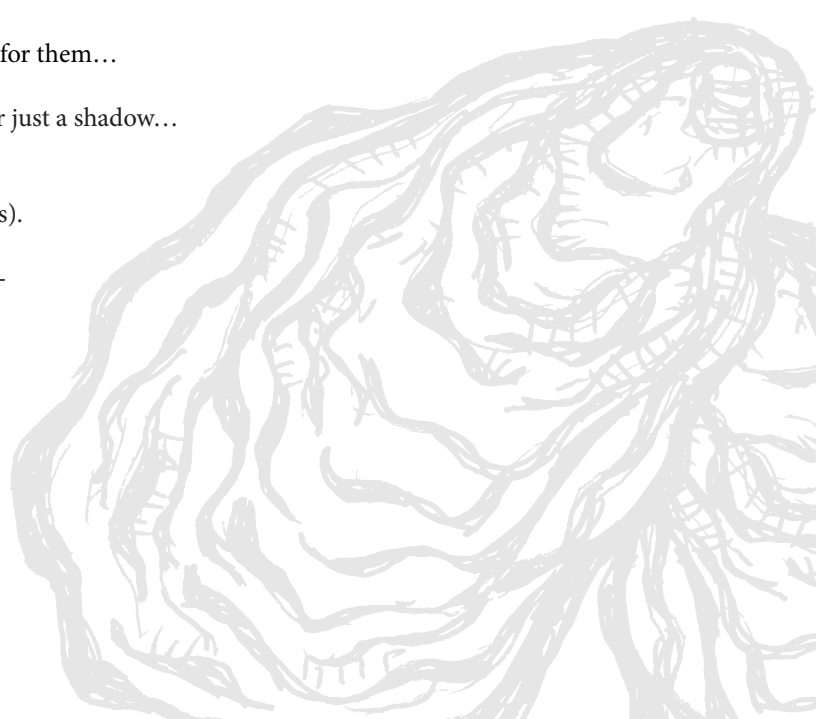
No more wasted time...

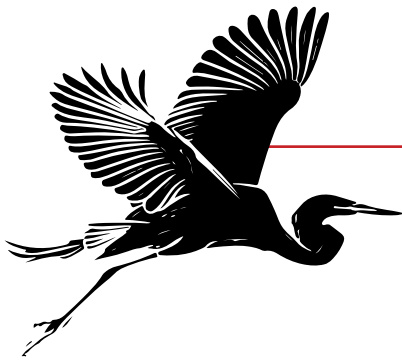
Instead, you have every oyster at your fingertips (in just seconds).

You've got to see these two videos that show how simple this is -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ooSsyNHUQm>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RaMct1rpKYs>





Chapter 4

**Why all birds are NOT created equal
for showing you exactly where feeding redfish
will be (bonus - raccoons)**

The bird, bird, bird, the bird is the word...

Even though the band, "The Trashmen" declared that everyone knows about the bird in their hit song, "Surfin' Bird," the truth is that most recreational anglers don't know just how critical birds can be for finding redfish.

Most of us know that diving pelicans are a good sign (pelicans reveal schools of bait - which also attracts predators below the surface), but the best birds for predicting redfish strikes are NOT pelicans.

And it's NOT seagulls...

And it's NOT an osprey...

And it's NOT frigate birds...

So what's the one bird that signals redfish in the area more than others?

The Great Egret.



Did you know that countless guides use white egrets (aka the great egret) to expose redfish spots?

Yep.

And if you see multiple white egrets feeding around oyster bars or shorelines, you can almost bet that redfish are in that area as well.

Here's why:

Egrets, like redfish, have two main concerns in life.

One is not getting killed.

Two is eating.



It just so happens that soaking their feet in a few inches of water near oysters, beaches, flats, etc helps accomplish both needs:

- It provides them with a safe place to avoid being eaten by sharks, dolphins, etc
- It's also loaded with small bait and crustaceans for them to eat

Well, it just so happens that the other predator that loves to get shallow for protection and an all-you-can-eat buffet is the redfish.

You'd be shocked at how shallow a slot-size redfish can get when the dinner bell is ringing!

We've caught slot (and even over slot redfish) in just 6 inches of water that are feeding on crustaceans.

The next time you see great egrets feeding on the shoreline, oyster bar, or sandbar, stop and fish it immediately.

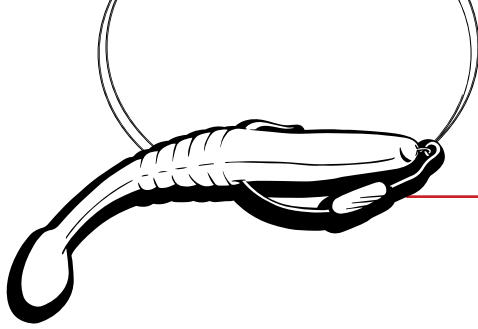
You'll be glad you did.

Here's a must-watch video where Luke and I reveal our ABC Trifecta (including our tip about white egrets)

<https://secure.saltstrong.com/the-fish-test-video>

Here's Tony (one of our fishing coaches) sharing his tips on finding birds -

<https://www.saltstrong.com/articles/use-birds-to-find-fish/>



Chapter 5

How These 3 Lures Can Out-Fish Live Bait For Redfish

Team Artificial.

That was the name of our tournament fishing team in the Boca Grande Invitational inshore fishing tournament.

Why Team Artificial?

Because we were the ONLY team that was going to use artificial lures in this tournament. Every single other team was using live bait to try and catch the biggest redfish, speckled trout, and snook over a 3-day period.

I vividly remember leaving the captain's meeting that evening with my dad and my brother Luke (aka Team Artificial). We immediately started to second guess ourselves after we saw all of the great anglers who we were up against.

Why?

Well, we pulled up in our no-frills 20-year-old flats boat with a simple t-top next to all of these custom fishing boats with towers, multiple Power Poles, and spot lock trolling motors that would all have their live wells LOADED with fresh bait while we relied on...

JUST 3 LURES.

Listen, everyone loves hearing about David vs Goliath story, but no one loves being David at the start of the fight. We felt the same that day.

Here's what went down:

Day 1 of the tournament we all headed out into one heck of a nasty rainstorm. Let me tell you, it was coming down sideways.

And that was GREAT news for us.

Why?

Because the live bait guys were struggling to find the bait. In a bad way!

The wind was blowing so hard that it was pushing the bait away from their normal bait spots. Not to mention, the weather had the bait fish fragmented and impossible to see on the surface due to all of the waves..

Meanwhile, while all of the other boats were roaming around in frustration about their lack of bait...

We found a wind-protected area behind some mangroves and had already landed a keeper redfish AND a couple of trout before any other boat had started fishing.

We continued to hit areas with wind protection and we plucked off a nice snook on a point (it was the end of a wind-protected mangrove line where the current had created a slightly deeper channel - a great chokepoint for bait).

By the day's end, we had upgraded our slam (redfish, trout, and snook) a couple of times and we were sitting in 2nd place. Oh yeah, baby!!!

The live bait guys finally found the bait and one boat landed a monster 41-inch snook along with a slot redfish and trout which put them ahead of us for total inches.

However, quite a few boats only had one species of the slam so far. We were feeling good. The next two days had similar weather conditions.

Lots of wind, intermittent storms, and a lack of consistent bait in the normal bait spots. The live bait boats (aka all of our competition) were slowing dialing it in, however, we still had an advantage...

You see, while they were searching for bait every morning (at the best bite time of the day), we were already covering ground and catching fish.

In fact, on the 3rd day, we landed a snook, redfish, and trout in the first 90 minutes of the day (all before the sun had really come up). Heck, we even went in for a long lunch in the air conditioning that day because the pressure was off.

After a nice lunch indoors, we hit the water again to see if we could upgrade our snook since we had a couple of hours left until the 3 pm final weigh-in.

We were down to 30 minutes left until weigh-in and we still hadn't upgraded our snook. A storm was approaching in the distance.

My brother Luke was on the trolling motor and he had us slowly heading towards an oyster bed that was partially out of the water. There was a small channel to the right of the oysters. We saw some mullet jumping as well. It looked like a money spot.

Luke made a long cast right near the edge of the oyster bar with his 5-inch jerk shad rigged on a weedless weighted hook.

Pa-POW!!!!

Before Luke could even do a full retrieve, something big had slammed his jerk shad. The sweet sound of a spinning reel drag filled the air.

A few minutes later, we saw the profile of a monster female snook. I grabbed the net as it got closer. Seconds later we had a 40-incher in the boat with less than 20 minutes to get to weigh-in.

At the weigh-in, we knew we'd be close to winning this entire 3-day tournament. The other teams were still dumbfounded that we had done so well with just lures. Some didn't even believe us.

It was finally time for the tournament director to announce the winners. All of the teams and their families huddled around Miller's Marina to hear who won. It was a fully packed house.

The top 5 winners were all in the money (meaning at a minimum, they made money compared to cost of entering). The top 3 finishers would have a handsome payout with first and second place getting quite a few thousand dollars each.

The tournament director was on the microphone. They were ready to announce the winners.

He called out the 5th-place team along with their total length.

Not us.

We instantly knew from their combined 3-day total length score that we had beaten them. YES!!!

Next, he called the fourth-place team.

Not us.

Next, it was the 3rd place team.

Still not us. We were either 2nd place or 1st place. Holy smokes!!! We were giddy with excitement.

"And the second place winner is... Team Artificial."

All eyes were on the three of us as we walked up to get our fat check. We could hear some of the guys whispering to their friends that we only used lures. Many, still doubted us.

We had pulled off something that had never been done in the history of that invitational tournament. Even funnier, we were never invited back...

It will go down as one of those moments that my father, brother, and I will never forget.

You're probably wondering what the three lures were, right?

Here they are (and these are all you need to consistently catch inshore saltwater fish - no matter where you live).

1. 5-inch jerk shad on a weedless weighted hook for super shallow water like this **Alabama Leprechaun** rigged on a **HOSS Helix** weighted hook)



2. 3.5-inch paddletail like this **Slam Shady 2.0** which can be rigged on the **HOSS Helix** or a **¼ oz jighead** - depending on the depth)



3. Shrimp lure **Power Prawn JR** - which can be rigged on a **HOSS Helix** or **HOSS jighead**



That's it.

These are the same 3 lures we've used to catch inshore slams from Texas to Florida to Virginia (and everywhere in between).

If you've followed Salt Strong for a while, you might be wondering why I didn't mention all of the other lures we invented and currently manufacture.

Truth is, we love throwing our proprietary topwater lure (**The Moonwalker**) and the custom slash bait (**The Skinny Lipper**), but when it comes down to tournament day, keep it simple and only go with 3 lures max.

Try it yourself.

You might just shock yourself (and your friends).

P.S. - Join us in the Salt Strong Insider Club where we share exactly what lures and bait that we're catching fish on for any given week.

<https://www.saltstrong.com/pricing>





Chapter 6

The PERFECT Tide & Moon Phase For Redfish

We were officially on the struggle bus...

Luke and I grew up on a lake in central Florida chasing ditch pickles. In a sentence, we were bass guys.

We thought bass fishing was the absolute best thing ever...

But all of that changed when we went on a snook fishing trip to Marco Island as teenagers.

Luke and I both landed our first snook (mine was close to 20 pounds - so you can only imagine the excitement from that catch), and we were officially hooked on snook.

On the next saltwater trip to Charlotte Harbor, we caught redfish and trout. This whole saltwater fishing thing was NEXT LEVEL FUN!!!

The thought that every cast could be something different (compared to bass fishing where you were 99% sure every hit would be a largemouth bass), excited the heck out of us.

And with our quick-found success, we were ready to give up bass fishing altogether and just focus on inshoresaltwater fishing.

However, the following handful of trips after those first two awesome trips were very slow. On many trips, we caught nothing but slimy catfish.

So we did what most new inshore saltwater anglers do... We watched fishing TV shows on Saturday mornings and read fishing magazines.

Two things we kept hearing from these sources were that in order to have success with redfish, you must...

1. Fish with live bait
2. Fish the incoming tide
3. Fish during a new moon

Of course, none of these things above are true, but we didn't know any better.

Next thing you know, we're buying a new boat (because we wrongly believed we needed nice live well), we purchased expensive cast nets, and we were spending a big chunk of the morning looking for bait - all while only fishing incoming tides during new moons.

Did we catch some fish?

Yes... sometimes. But we certainly didn't feel consistent. Not to mention, our reliance on live bait (more like being held hostage to live bait) only on certain moon phases just didn't sit right with us.

Before too long, we got fed up and hired a guide.

I still remember how enlightening it was to hear him rebuke all three of the things we had heard on TV shows and magazines.

For instance, when I asked him his thoughts about fishing only on incoming tides and new moons, he laughed and promptly replied that he has to put people on fish 280 days per year, regardless of tides, moon phases.

He even shared that some of his best days were around full moons and a strong outgoing tide. That day, we proceeded to slay the fish (and we learned a TON).

We felt like knuckleheads for relying so heavily on fishing shows that were really more entertainment and advertising than real-time trends and education.

Armed with our new knowledge (and confidence) we changed up our plans and set on a 20+ year journey to truly master inshore saltwater fishing.

Over that time, we documented EVERYTHING from thousands of trips over a couple of decades.

I won't bore you with all of the details, but it does turn out that certain days, certain tides, and certain times of day can be slightly better than others.

Even better news is that there is a predictable pattern and rhythm to it.

In fact, my brother Luke daled the best time to fish pattern in so well that he was able to win quite a few inshore fishing tournaments, many times going up against full-time guides and pros. After so many anglers asked Luke for help, we eventually built real-time on-demand software that was pretty revolutionary in terms of showing you the BEST day, tide, and time of day to go fishing in your area.

You simply pick your tide station, and the software tells you which day will be best (out to 14 days in advance), and then tells you exactly what hours of the day will be best for each day (with crazy accuracy).

Here's a video glimpse of what it looks like: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Enr_UYX-FH4

Notice the "Strike Score" for each day. A "1" means horrible and "10" means take the day off and go fishing!

Strike Score Calendar

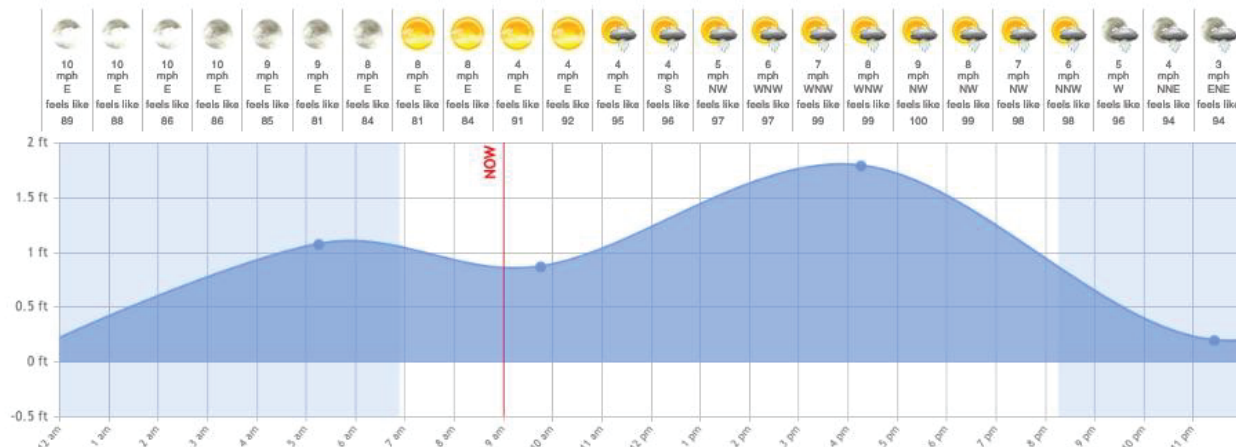
The tides along with today's solunar activity and weather forecasts all combine to achieve a Strike Score rating for this tide station. And here's a chart that shows the overall Strike Score projections for the next 14 days based on the current forecasts (tides, solunar tables, wind, barometric pressure, and season).

Sun ☾	Mon ☾	Tue ☾	Wed ☾	Thu ☾	Fri 4th 7.2 Waning Gibbous	Sat 5th 6.5 Waning Gibbous
Sun 6th 5.8 Waning Gibbous	Mon 7th 5.8 Waning Gibbous	Tue 8th 5.5 Last Quarter	Wed 9th 6.5 Waning Crescent	Thu 10th 7.3 Waning Crescent	Fri 11th 6.8 Waning Crescent	Sat 12th 7.5 Waning Crescent
Sun 13th 7 Waning Crescent	Mon 14th 6.8 Waning Crescent	Tue 15th 8.7 Waning Crescent	Wed 16th 8.3 New Moon	Thu 17th 6.8 Waxing Crescent	Fri 18th 8 Waxing Crescent	Sat 19th 7.8 Waxing Crescent

Tide Chart With Weather

This chart shows the both the tidal fluctuations as well as the weather forecasts for Englewood, Lemon Bay

Date: Friday, Aug 4th



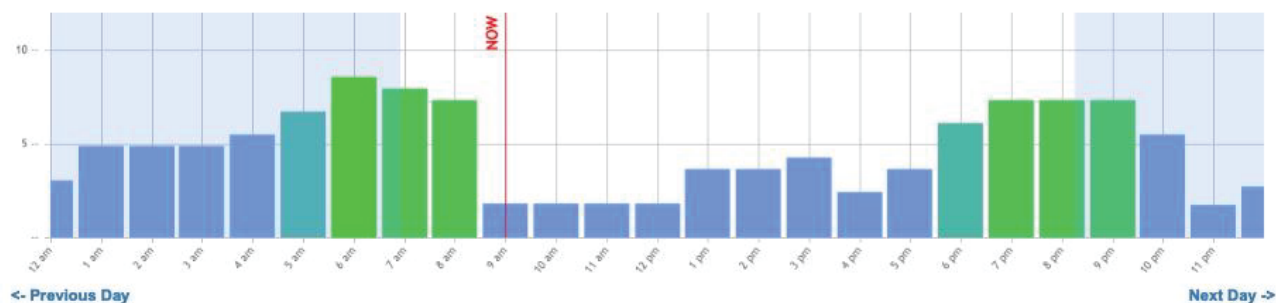
Here are the Hourly Feeding Level Projections (revealing the best time of day to get strikes for any given day and tide station)

Hourly Feeding Level Projections

This chart shows the hourly feeding levels for inshore saltwater predator fish every hour for Englewood, Lemon Bay.

This is based on a series of proprietary formulas based on the tides, solunar activity, and detailed weather forecasts.

Date:



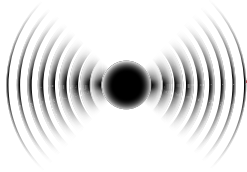
The best news...

We give this software (called Smart Fishing TIDES), for FREE to all of our Insider members.

If you aren't a member yet, what the heck are you waiting on???

Join here now: www.saltstrong.com





Chapter 7

How To Instantly See Every Ledge & Pothole With This New Underwater Sonar Technology

With over 500 podcast episodes under my belt, I've been blessed with some really amazing conversations, interviews, and shortcuts from some of the best anglers in the world.

I've interviewed everyone from bass fishing legend Bill Dance to some of the biggest names in saltwater fishing to local surf fishing legends to redfish tournament pros.

I often get asked, "What's your favorite episode of all time?"

Unfortunately, I can't answer that any easier than I could answer which one of my three children is my favorite. They are all incredibly special to me and each one has their unique personality, etc.

That being said, in each episode, I usually have one big "aha" moment or takeaway.

One "a-ha" moment that I'll never forget was during an interview I had with tournament angler Derek Engle.

If you don't know Derek, he's done it all. He's won countless inshore fishing tournaments (competing in both the boat and kayak divisions). He's dialed in the inshore gag grouper better than almost anyone.

And he's constantly breaking his own personal best records as an angler every year.

One of my questions to Derek was how he finds redfish in brand new areas when he travels for a tournament.

Here was his reply (summarized):

"When I'm in a brand new area for a tournament, I always get there a day or two before the event to pre-fish. However, when I pre-fish, I rarely make casts. It's most exploring and covering as much ground as I can. My entire goal is to scout out structure. In particular, I'm usually idling around flats, marking areas that have even the slightest drop-off or ledge. Why? Because I know redfish love to find 'highways' they can cruise up and down, pushing up shallow to get food, while coming back down to the ledge for safety and more oxygenated water. Once I have a bunch of ledges and potholes marked, I know I'm going to find fish the next day in the tournament."

This was an eye-opening revelation for me at the time because I had always struggled to find redfish in a brand-new area (fast). It's why the majority of anglers keep going back to their same boring spots over and over and over again. It's because we are horrible at scouting new areas.

Yet, Derek's method was pretty simple (and I knew it worked because he had proven it time and time again).

We started trying his method in some new areas we had been looking to fish for the first time, and I'll be honest, I didn't have the patience to make it work...

When I hit the water, I want to be fishing (and ideally catching) - not trolling in idle looking for small ledges and potholes.

There had to be a better way to get this priceless intel without having to kill an entire day of scouting.

But how?

It wasn't until 18 months later that we found the solution...

3D Underwater Sonar Topography Mapping.

What's 3D Underwater Sonar Topography Mapping you ask?

Imagine being able to click one button and see the contoured bottom of the ocean floor...

Anywhere.

At any depth (yes, even in the shallows).

That means that every ledge, every dropoff, and even the smallest trout pothole is exposed.



Game-changer.

You might have already guessed that this is another amazing feature that we added to our Smart Fishing Spots software.

If so, you are correct.

In fact, check out this quick video showing it in action - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gTiexlFj6g>

Note that this also works offshore, nearshore, and inside of passes and inlets (showing every rock, ledge, and type of structure imaginable).

If you'd like to get your hands on this 3D sonar view for your area, simply sign up to join the Salt Strong Insider Club and you'll get instant access.

See you inside the club! Join here now - www.saltstrong.com/pricing



Chapter 8

**This Is The Most Powerful Tool That
Full-Time Guides Use To Find Fish (and
how you can tap into it for free)**

Have you heard of Captain C.A. Richardson?

He's the host of a popular fishing TV show called "Flats Class."

He's also a full-time guide, a spokesperson for many brands, and he's one heck of an angler. Some of you long-time Salt Strong fans might remember that Capt. C.A. was one of our very first "fishing coaches." We had the pleasure of spending countless hours on and off the boat with CA for almost two years.

I picked his brain on so many topics ranging from the politics of the fishing industry, how TV shows really work, his all-time favorite rigs, his most memorable fishing trips, and more.

One answer that came out of his mouth always stuck with me.

It was Luke, me, and C.A. in his Hells Bay skiff that day. I had just asked C.A. what he believed to be the secret to success as an inshore fisherman.

He was quiet for a few seconds.

Luke and I waited for something profound to come out of C.A.'s mouth (if you've heard him talk, you know what I mean).

He finally looked up and said (and I'm paraphrasing)...

"I get this question in my seminars all of the time. The sad part is that most anglers don't want to hear the truth. They want me to tell them about a magical lure or some rig that will enchant fish from miles away to jump in their boat. However, the real answer has nothing to do with a lure, rig, or bait."

Capt. C.A. paused...

Luke and I were on the edge of our seats, waiting for him to drop the truth bomb.

He looked at the two of us. "Can either of you guys guess what the answer is?"

"Casting!" I blurted out..

"That's certainly one of the biggest mistakes I see every day, but it's not the answer to an unfair advantage over the fish," he replied.

Luke guessed, "Fishing the same spot they caught a fish before instead of thinking about WHY that fish was there in the first place."

"Another incredibly important one, but that's not it," said C.A. "You boys ready for the answer?"

Luke and I were both nodding our heads up and down.

"NETWORK," he said.

"Network?" I asked, a bit confused.

“Yes,” he said. “As a fisherman, you are only as good as your network. If you have a great network, you catch a lot of fish. If your network stinks your fishing will stink. Let me explain. I film 12 shows per year and each one is in a completely different city, many times I’m fishing in a completely different state. Do you know how I always catch fish regardless of where I go?”

Luke and I were starting to get it now.

“I know where the fish are because I have a great network. I can text a handful of different fishermen in any given area and get priceless intel on where the fish are. The intel I get from my network in minutes would take a normal weekend warrior ten days on the water to find out himself.

A network is the absolute best way to know the local TRENDS for any given day and season,” said C.A.

It all made sense. The famous saying, “It’s not what you know, it’s WHO you know” applies to all aspects of life - even fishing!

C.A. continued, “If you ask any tournament angler, regardless if they are bass anglers or redfish anglers, they will all tell you that their network is the most valuable thing they have. With a reliable network, they can get tips and shortcuts that can win them money. Without a network, they don’t have a chance in winning. By far, a network is the most powerful tool in your fishing toolbox.”

This conversation happened toward the end of the summer of 2018.

Can you guess what happened in the fall of 2018?

We created an online private saltwater fishing NETWORK. Today, it is bigger and better than anything that had ever existed for saltwater anglers.

We created it as a place where anglers could come to get tips, share fishing reports, and help each other catch more fish in less time.

It’s grown from 7,000 anglers back in 2018 all the way to almost 50,000 as I’m writing this today (summer of 2023).

The 50,000 anglers in the private network are made up of every type of angler from weekend warriors to newbies to full-time guides.

It’s where Luke and I go to see what’s biting in certain areas, where the bait is, and what anglers are having the most luck with for certain species.

If you’re trying to find the 90/10 zone in your area, a network/community is critical!

The best news about our “Insider” network?

There is ZERO negativity, trash-talking, or even cursing for that matter.

Only helpful fishing reports, real-time trends, and local knowledge.

And it’s all part of the Salt Strong Insider Club.

Here’s what some of our Insider members are saying about the private community network.

Click here to join us (and the 50,000 other members) today - www.saltstrong.com/pricing



Chapter 9

You'll never use Google Maps for pre-trip planning your fishing trips again (once you see this)!

“Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four hours sharpening the ax...”

That's a famous quote from Abraham Lincoln that screams the importance of being prepared.

He might as well have said, “Give me six hours to catch redfish and I will spend the first four hours pre-trip planning to make sure I'm fishing exactly where the redfish are hanging out.”

However, ol' honest Abe might have been a great president, but he didn't know squat about catching reds...

The truth is that you don't need four hours of pre-trip planning...

On the other hand, going fishing without some pre-trip planning is a recipe for disaster.

In fact, when I think back on my worst trips ever, the one thing they had in common was that I neglected to do any planning - I just went out on the water and tried to wing it.

Even full-time fishing guides who spend the majority of their waking hours on the water do pre-trip planning before every trip. Professional guides come ready with a plan (and a backup plan) for every single trip. No exceptions.

You should too (assuming you want some success every time you hit the water).

The big question is, “How much time should you spend pre-trip planning?”

Well, that depends if you want to do it all yourself or if you'd enjoy a “done for you” pre-trip plan for every trip.

I'll explain both and then let you decide for yourself.

The Do It Yourself Method:

Here's what pre-trip planning looks like for most anglers who do it themselves (these are the anglers who catch fish sometimes, but end up scratching their head in confusion on more trips than not).

Step 1 - It begins with scrolling and zooming aimlessly on Google maps trying to find new areas to find redfish

Step 2 - After 30 minutes of looking at Google maps, you decide you'll just go back to your normal spots

Step 3 - You hit the water with no real plan.

Step 4 - All of your normal spots are all a bust and you threaten to never come back again because it's been overfished...

Step 5 - You dread having to go back to the ramp because you caught zero fish and you just hope and pray no one asks you how many fish you caught...

Step 6 - The entire ride home you wish a guide could just point you in the right direction and show you where to fish every trip

Sounds exhausting, right?

Let's check out the other method...

The Done For You Method:

- Step 1** - Open up Smart Fishing Spots and turn on the “Smart Spots” layer (which takes about 4 seconds and looks like this above where all of the hotspots for that specific day are highlighted)
- Step 2** - The system will reveal a handful of spots in that area that have the highest chance of catching redfish for that particular day.
- Step 3** - Pick 2-5 spots, map out the route, and click save.
- Step 4** - Go fish the 2-5 spots with CONFIDENCE
- Step 5** - Let your friends and family see your awesome fish pics for the day so they all know how amazing you are
- Step 6** - Repeat

Guys, pre-trip planning can be tough and draining. In some areas, it can take forever to find productive new spots (especially with old-school maps like Google).

We always have to ask ourselves, “What’s the real goal with fishing???”

If you’re anything like me, at the end of the day, most of us just want to go out and get tight lines, right?

Our goal isn’t to be the Magellan of map readers any more than it is to become an eye surgeon every time we need to get our eyesight checked. Yes, we should all be able to identify good fishing spots (just like we should be able to identify when our eye is infected), but it doesn’t mean we should be spending hours on pre-trip planning with maps before every single trip.

So what’s the solution?

Smart Fishing Spots.

If you aren’t familiar with Smart Spots, it’s a proprietary “done for you” system that reveals the highest probable fishing spots in your area for any given day, time of day, etc.

Unlike old-school spot maps or GPS spots in general (that never move), Smart Spots are moving constantly... following the fish around as they move!

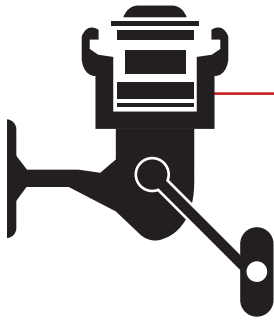


Each highlighted spot is color-coded based on how “hot” the bite should be. The system brings in new data every 15 minutes so these “smart” spots are constantly getting smarter every hour!

Here’s a quick video showing Smart Spots in action - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2gUtLY-ePo>

Just like the oyster layers, 4K satellite, and 3D sonar layers, this Smart Spots layer is proprietary to the Smart Fishing Spots software and is only available for Salt Strong Insider members. If you’re not a member, what in the heck are you waiting on, someone to take you by the hand and show you exactly where to fish every trip?

Join us here now - www.saltstrong.com/pricing



Chapter 10

The Most Common REDFISH TACKLE MISTAKE (that causes more missed redfish than you can imagine)

It was the 5th of July.

I was down on our dock at our newly purchased home on a lake in central Florida.

The house was a 1970s home. The old white dock with a boathouse was also celebrating 50 years.

The evening before (4th of July), we had over 25 people out on the dock to watch the fireworks on the lake. I'd be lying if I said I wasn't a bit nervous about the dock collapsing...

But it didn't.

However, the very next evening, while I was making some casts with a topwater frog over some lily pads, the dock collapsed on me.

As in literally collapsed.

To say I was startled would be an understatement.

I went in the water and the dock was toast.

Thankfully no rods, reels, or anything on me was broken.

The bad news was that I needed a new dock...

Three weeks later the docks guys were at my house hauling off the remains of the old dock.

I happened to be pulling into the driveway after an amazing day of catching redfish in Tampa Bay.

The dock guys saw me grabbing a couple of fishing rods out of the back of my Tahoe and yelled out, "Any luck today?" "Yes sir," I replied. "We had a great day. Want to see some pics?"

I placed my rods up against my Tahoe so I could get my phone out of my pocket. Here are two of the many pics I showed them from that day.



As I scrolled through numerous pics of slot and over-slot redfish, these guys kept shaking their heads (not in a good way).

“I don’t believe it,” said one of the dock crew guys. His face appeared dead serious.

“What do you mean?” I asked. “Look at what I’m wearing right now. It’s the same shirt and hat as these pics. Heck, look at the time and day of the pics. It was this morning. Why in the world would I make this up?”

“No, not that,” he said. “I believe you caught the fish.” Now I was really confused. I noticed he was looking over at my gear again.

He pointed to the two rods.

“There is no way you caught those fish with that tackle. I’ve been saltwater fishing most of my life and I ain’t never seen anyone land redfish that big with such puny rods and reels.

Those look more like small trout rigs. Plus, where’s your swivel?”

I picked up both rods and walked them through my typical setup for redfish:

- 2500 Daiwa BG MQ
- 7’6 Slot Machine Rod (Medium/Fast)
- 10lb braided main line
- 25lb mono leader
- FG knot (no terminal tackle such as a swivel)
- 3.5-inch Slam Shady 2.0 paddletai rigged on a 1/4oz jighead

The two dock guys both stood there, dumbfounded, still in disbelief that this light of a setup could land large redfish (truth be told, I’ve landed much larger fish with this same gear).

I knew instantly that these guys had a case of...

“Overkill-titus.”

Overkill-titus is a common condition that inflicts pain, suffering, and missed fish on millions of saltwater anglers per year.

Common symptoms of Overkill-titus include:

- Not being able to cast very far because your line is too thick and your rod is as stiff as a plank
- Scaring away fish because the line you are using is so thick it creates drag (to the point the fish can feel it)
- Scaring away even more fish with your swivels and other unnecessary terminal tackle
- Missing hook sets because the broomstick you are using for a rod doesn’t feel the fish strike until it’s too late
- Loss of feeling in the forearms and wrists from casting such a heavy reel all day...

The list goes on and on.

I know, because I used to have a serious case of overkill-titus.

I can’t even begin to imagine how many fish I missed because I was geared up for a Godzilla of a fish when all I needed was a lighter setup.

Here’s how it usually starts:

A new angler dips his or her toes into saltwater fishing and starts to realize that, unlike bass fishing, there are some HUGE fish in the saltwater.

Their mind begins to dream about catching that world record fish... or they start worrying about what happens if they hook into a huge cobia, tarpon, or permit on the flats...

Next thing you know, you’re using a rod, reel, and line that is meant for offshore fishing (just in case you come across a huge fish).

But 100% of the time this REDUCES the amount of fish you can catch inshore.

Capt. Peter Deeks (who holds 7 World Records for inshore fish) said it best...

"I always go as light as I can because I know that step #1 is actually hooking the fish... once I've accomplished that, then I worry about how to get the fish in the boat. Most anglers do the opposite. They worry about how they might catch a trophy fish, they overpower before they even hook anything, and as a result, don't catch anything."

I asked the dock guys what kind of setups they use for catching redfish and they told me exactly what I already knew (because once again, I used to do it myself).

They were using a 4000 to 5000 series spinning reel on a Heavy rod with 20lb braid, 40lb leader, swivels, and a big weight to get their bait to the bottom.

I can tell you from experience that my fish catching QUADRUPLED when I retired my heavy gear and went with the lighter setup I outlined earlier.

Yes, I've missed a couple of big fish over the years from getting overpowered. But not many.

Regardless, I'd rather catch 400% more fish. Wouldn't you?

And who knows if I would have even hooked those fish I lost with the heavier setup in the first place.

As Capt Deeks says, focus first on getting the strike. Then figure out how to reel it in.

You'll have more fun, WAY more tight lines, and you'll be WOW-ing the heck out of your friends (and dock guys) when you show them what you used to catch your over-slot redfish with.

The best news?

You can get everything you need in our store with this one special tackle bundle (and save 20% or more on all purchases if you're an Insider member).

Here's our must-have (and most popular selling) inshore rod, reel, and line bundle -

<https://fishstrong.com/collections/bundles/products/ultimate-inshore-rod-reel-line-combo-bundle>



Conclusion

Fishing is tough.

Why do it alone?

Why spend years trying to dial it in by yourself when you can have a DONE FOR YOU SYSTEM that reveals the best spots to fish in your area (plus shows you exactly when to fish as well).

Not to mention, the power of using a NETWORK/COMMUNITY of like-minded anglers who all want YOU to succeed and catch more fish per trip.

Listen, I would never ask you to try something that is new and unproven.

But I would ask you to try something that is proven to work from Texas to Florida to New Jersey (and every state in between).

There is a reason the Salt Strong Insider Club has 50,000 active members and almost all of our original members from six years ago (when the club first started) are all still paying and thrilled to be part of such an amazing group.

Why?

Because it works!

Not only that, the club comes with an unheard of 365-day 100% money back guarantee.

Either you catch more fish and save money on your tackle or it's free.

Period.

So what are you waiting for?

Join us and the 50,000 others in this amazing club.

Come to our in-person chapter meetings to meet new fishing friends in your area.

Take advantage of our crazy tackle savings (20% off - or more - all day, every day).

Take advantage of our Smart Fishing Spots and Smart Fishing Tides software.

Watch our highly sought-after online mastery courses.

Then share the knowledge with your family to get more people out fishing.

I trust that if you made it this far I'll see you inside the club.

Join here now and I'll see you on the other side - www.saltstrong.com/pricing

Tight lines and I appreciate you big time.

Joe