FCFF - FLOOD TIDE FISHING IN NE FLORIDA – 4 August 2025

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Tailing Reds are the main target. Sheepshead and rarely black drum are others.
Fish July - Nov water temp >65F crabs come out of hibernation
1st half season evening - black/purple
2nd half season morning tides - natural

For a good flood tide, the Mayport Bar Pilot high tide should be >= 5.4'
A great book about tides written by a FCFF member who has passed, is ***Beyond the Moon*** by James McCully. You can still buy it on Amazon. We have a description on our website at https://www.fcff.org/books

A NE wind can add a few inches & west wind decreases.
Low pressure increases tides and vice versa
The baseline barometric pressure avg 29.92 inHg
A decrease to 29.82 means tides increase 0.1'
These changes happen gradually over a few days.
Go to NOAA and find what the actual tides have been to see if they are running much different than predicted.
For Mayport Bar Pilot:
https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/waterlevels.html?id=8720218

Fish the beginning of the tide near an inlet and follow the tide as it moves away from the inlet.
For example:
Fish near Nassau Sound and follow the tide S; Fish Simpson creek N to S (following the tide)
Or Vilano heading N
Also, the areas closer to the inter-coastal flood before areas further away

His simple leader is 4' 50 lb butt section and 25 lb tippet
Good flies are spoons, fingernail & clousers using black and purple, or orange colors. Need a good mono Weed-guard. Use a clinch knot to avoid a loop getting caught in the grass

If it doesn't flood, you can fish gurglers for slurping fish that are cruising along the perimeter of the flats
Pop it once, pull to get "v"

Flats have short brownish grass and hard bottom. The taller green grass that line the small creeks and flats have soft mud.
Sims neoprene booties work great for wading
If you're getting out of the boat, be sure to test the bottom with a paddle or pole first
Walk slowly, shuffling your feet to detect any soft areas
Avoid blocking finger creeks. These are the highways that fish use to enter and leave flats
Sheepshead are also targets, but difficult to catch. They like texture. Use Hard head or epoxy to give the fly a crunchy texture