

**ROFFS™ OCEANOGRAPHIC FISHING FORECAST
FOR THE TAMPA OFFSHORE AREA (LAT./LONG.)**

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UPDATED ON TUESDAY 23 JULY 2019 FOR TUESDAY P.M. & WEDNESDAY FISHING ONLY

Based on a multiple factor analysis, the symbols (hot spot dots) mark the areas where bait concentrations are expected and where fishing action are expected to be better compared with other (non-marked) areas. These are not based on dock rumors or hearsay fishing reports. Fishing reports are stated as such. You should start fishing where you recognize other signs of good fishing conditions near these marked areas. It is very important to use your sea surface temperature (sst°) gauge to locate the boundaries of the water masses, which are outlined. Rather than trying to find water based on the absolute temperature values shown on the map, search for the relative change in sst where the water mass boundaries occur. Arrows indicate the main current direction. Numbers inside of the dots indicate the number of consecutive days that we have seen favorable conditions in that location. 1 fathom = approximately 6 feet. Afternoon SST is likely to be 1.0°F-2.0°F or greater than indicated by the morning calibration on this analysis. **NUMBERS IN PARENTHESIS AFTER LOCATIONS ARE NUMBER OF DAYS THAT SPOT HAS BEEN FAVORABLE.**

We were able to use a combination of yesterday and today's infrared SST and today's MODIS/VIIRS ocean color/chlorophyll composite satellite imagery for this analysis and follow the oceanographic conditions for the past three days. Overall, we continue to observe a counter-clockwise rotating eddy formation southwest of Tampa Bay (centered near 84°45'W & 27°00'N). This eddy is pulling warmer (86°F) blended blue water offshore near the Explosives Dumping Area before moving back onshore over the Vernon Basin. Additionally, cooler (84°F-85°F) blue water is being pulled northwest towards the 200-500 fathom depths just north of the 127 Mile Steps. We have also observed cooler (84°F) blue green to blended blue water moving south-southwest in the northern chart area. We have also included an ocean color/chlorophyll composite image from this afternoon so you can get a sense of where the bluer and greener water is located (email only, white=clouds).

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With this in mind, the better chances for marlin as well as tuna, dolphin, wahoo, and swordfish fishing action is likely to occur over the 200-500 fathom depths and good bottom north of the 127 Mile Steps (near 84°54'W & 27°02'N (2) and 85°04'W & 27°02'N (2)) and north near the Submerged Buoy (near 84°24'W & 27°15'N (2)) where favorable (84°F-85°F) blue water mass boundary conditions have been observed for two days. On your way offshore, keep a keen eye out for weedlines, birds, bait, and other signs of life as these are classic signs of water mass boundary conditions. Over the 100 fathom curve (near 84°32'W & 27°00'N (2) and 84°35'W & 27°08'N (2)) similar favorable water mass boundary conditions have been observed for two days as well. These conditions suggest increased chances for fishing action to occur.

From here, head south towards the Vernon Basin and the 200-500-1000 fathom depths and good bottom south of the 127 Mile Steps beginning near the Cottingham (near 85°14'W & 26°58'N) and Drop Off (near 85°05'W & 26°45'N) to the 300-500 fathom curves (near 84°52'W & 26°38'N) where favorable (85°F-86°F) blue water mass boundary conditions have been observed moving inshore. Over the Vernon Basin (near 85°25'W & 26°55'N and 85°15'W & 26°40'N), the 1000-1500 fathom curve (near 85°00'W & 26°30'N), and 500 fathom good bottom (near 84°50'W & 26°27'N) similar favorable water mass boundary conditions have been observed. These conditions suggest increased chances for increased fishing action as warm water has been observed moving in a favorable direction, onshore.

Another option is to head towards the 200-500-1500 fathom good bottom south of the Vernon Basin and northwest of the Howell Hook Ridge (from near 84°38'W & 25°58'N (3), 84°47'W & 26°05'N (3), and 84°55'W & 26°10'N (3)) where favorable (85°F-86°F) blue water mass boundary conditions have been observed for three days. These conditions suggest good chances for good fishing action to occur as well.

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On your way offshore, keep a keen eye out for weedlines, birds, bait, and other signs of life as these are classic signs of water mass boundary conditions. West of Ft. Myers, over the 40-50 fathom good bottom (near 83°46'W & 26°10'N (3) and 83°52'W & 26°20'N (3)) favorable (84°F-85°F) blended blue to bluer water mass boundary conditions have been observed for three days. From here, head northwest over 50-75-100 fathom depths (near 84°02'W & 26°33'N (2) and 83°55'W & 26°38'N (2) to 84°15'W & 26°45'N (2)) where favorable (84°F-85°F) blue water mass boundary conditions have been observed for two days. West of Tampa Bay, over the 40-50-100 fathom good bottom (from near 84°08'W & 27°25'N and 80°12'W & 27°26'N) and northwest (near 84°22'W & 27°32'N (2) and 84°40'W & 27°48'N (2)) favorable (85°F-86°F) blue green to blended blue water mass boundary conditions have been observed for one to two days. These conditions suggest additional increased chances for tuna, dolphin, and wahoo fishing action to occur. Over the Explosives Dumping Area (near 85°02'W & 27°37'N (2) and 85°08'W & 27°36'N (3)) similar favorable water mass boundary conditions have been observed for two to three days, suggesting good chances for fishing action to occur as well.

Further north, we have observed relatively unstable water mass boundary conditions. These conditions usually indicate reduced fishing productivity as the fish are spread out over a larger area. If fishing the northern chart area, begin near the Middle Grounds (near 84°05'W & 28°30'N (3)) where favorable (84°F-85°F) blue green to blended blue water mass boundary conditions have been observed for three days. These conditions suggest good chances for fishing action to occur. From here, work your way south toward the 30 fathom curve (from near 84°16'W & 28°30'W, 84°18'W & 28°20'N, 84°13'W & 28°10'N, and 84°16'W & 28°00'N) where similar favorable water mass boundary conditions have been observed as well, suggesting increased chances for fishing action to occur as well.

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The ROFFS™ Graphic analysis is on the next page.



