

ROFFER'S OCEAN FISHING FORECASTING SERVICE, INC.

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ROFFS FISHERIES OCEANOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS FOR THE SOUTH PASS TO BULLWINKLE AREA (LAT./LONG.)

UPDATED ON FRIDAY 15 MAY 2009 FOR FRIDAY PM & SATURDAY FISHING ONLY

Based on a multiple factor analysis, the symbols (hot spot spots) mark the areas where bait concentrations are expected and where fishing action is 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.

We are able to observe the ocean conditions relatively clearly in this area today using a combination of high resolution infrared and MODIS chlorophyll satellite imagery from this morning and early this afternoon. Overall, the large band of blue 79.3°F water continues to push inshore over the 100 fathom ledge at South Pass and eastward over 50-500 fathoms over the Viosca Knoll and over the Steps region before turning back offshore before reaching the tip of the De Soto Canyon. Your better chances for fishing action within this area with tuna, dolphin, wahoo and billfish will occur along the northern inshore edge of this cooler blue water where it meets the warmer green Mississippi River water. Further offshore, we also continue to observe a band of blended blue 80.1°F water moving through the Mississippi Canyon providing additional good chances for action.

With this in mind, the ocean conditions offshore of South Pass suggest good chances for fishing action with tuna, dolphin, wahoo and billfish will occur along the northern edge of the cooler blue water where it continues to remain inshore of 100 fathoms and forms a strong green to blue boundary zone that has remained stable for the past 2-5 days from over the Midnight Lump near 89°32'W & 28°40'N to 89°12'W & 28°48'N to inshore of Amberjack and Cognac near 89°03'W & 28°52'N towards the 12 Mile Rigs near 88°55'W & 29°02'N and over the Horseshoe Rigs near 88°38'W & 29°10'N. If you find that the inshore edge of blue water is too unstable and changing to concentrate fish and promote good fishing action over the next 24 hours, we suggest you continue further offshore and fish the blue to blue green 79.3°F-80.3°F boundary zone where it lies over the good bottom areas along the 500 fathom ledge from near 88°56'W & 28°36'N to over Trixie along Redfish Valley near 88°39'W & 28°48'N to over Whiting Dome near 88°25'W & 28°53'N.

South of the Mississippi Canyon, good chances for fishing action is also likely to occur along the northern inshore edge of the blended blue 80.1°F water where it lies over the good bottom of the Hickory near 90°10'W & 28°18'N eastward to 90°00'W & 28°17'N, and over 300 and 400 fathom depths in Mississippi Canyon where favorable conditions have remained for two days near 89°42'W & 28°23'N and over Medusa near 89°30'W & 28°25'N. If you find that the blended blue water is not as productive as you would like, we suggest running further south along the 100 fathom ledge and fish the cooler 79.1°F blue water where it lies over the Diaphus Bank near 90°43'W & 28°03'N, 90°30'W & 28°04'N, and over the TLP Prince where conditions have remained for two days near 90°15'W & 27°58'N. If you are interested in running out to the 1000 fathom ledge, filaments of blue 81.5°F water, that originates from the Loop Current, is also likely to provide action where it occurs near 89°00'W & 27°57'N, 88°53'W & 27°53'N, and offshore of Mensa near 88°47'W & 28°08'N and 88°40'W & 28°12'N.

Thank you for not sharing this analysis with non-paying fishermen. We survive on your honesty. Verbal updates are free between 10:30 AM and 11:59 AM please call. Remember you can order and/or purchase your fishing analyses from our website or by email. SUMMER office hours: Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM - 09:00 PM. Saturday hours: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, but often we will close earlier depending on demand, clouds, and weather. Requests for analyses should be called on Saturdays by noon during May/June and 1:00 PM during July-August so we can schedule our staff's hours.

