

Evolving Fly Fishing Strategies on the Lower Potomac and Bay

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Why Fly-fishing

- Sport and conservation intersect
- Even small fish can be great sport
- Transportable and flexible
 - Freshwater and saltwater fish
 - High mountains to tropical coral flats to the Chesapeake and its tributaries
- A life time can be spent refining your skills
- You make your own lures



Chesapeake Fly Selection

- Pattern (Food type)
 - Rockfish- Clouser, Menhaden, topwater
 - Sea Trout- Clouser, shrimp
 - Red Drum- Clouser, shrimp and crab
- Color
 - Know what colors work at various depths.
 - I prefer at least a two tone fly for fish imitations
 - Lots of flash not required- match it to pattern color
 - Fish patterns- Match water color, light condition and clarity
 - Crab and shrimp- bottom color
- Size
 - Perhaps most important attribute—summer means smaller: 2/0, 1/0, # 1 hooks, 3-5 inch fish, 1 inch crab and shrimp
 - Fall and spring-bigger flies, Clouser and Menhaden patterns, 3/0
- Weight- current, depth and retrieve/action



Line Selection

- Two Lines- Separate rods or spare spool
 - Weight Forward floating for flats and shallows- high vis light colors
 - Redfish or Tropical lines
 - Rio Bonefish lines
 - Weight Forward Sinking or Intermediate Sinking
 - This is my go to for most conditions especially for fish imitations when targeting rockfish
 - Orvis Depth Charge, 300 grain for 9 wt,
 - Rio Outbound Short 315 grain for 8 wt
- Backing- 20# high visibility Dacron- 100 yards is plenty for Chesapeake species, 200 is good for filling reel and if you are chasing tropicals on vacation
- Line weight down/up –
 - winds/distance considerations as well as rod action: high wind/short distance- 1 wt up
 - OR - Stay with recommended line weight and go to bigger rod weight for high winds if you can afford one
- Leaders-
 - Mono is fine, 6-7 ft works for wind, deeper water or lower clarity; stiff butt section to turn the heavy clouser fly over
 - For shallower, clearer water, or low winds, add a foot or two.

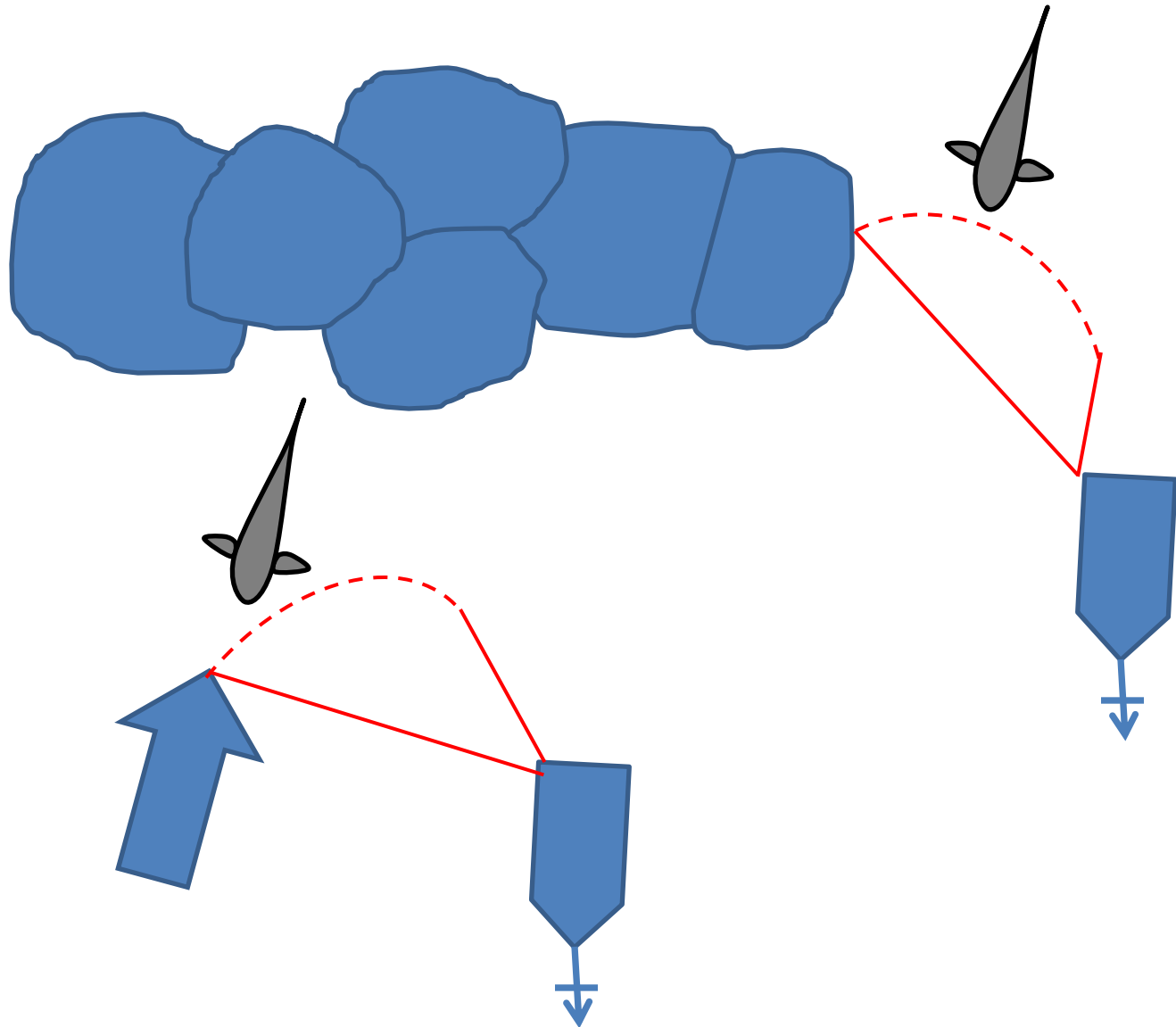
Things change and they remain the same

- Red Drum, Sea trout, Spanish Mackerel and Cobia are starting to be more prevalent
- Lots of Rockfish in the 18-22 inch range
- Water clarity is improved over the last few years
- Unseasonable weather
 - Rockfish Spawn- rapid warming of water to 56 deg
 - Drum need warmer stable weather for a shallow water bite
 - Late Fall fishing- migratory rockfish dependent on coastal conditions, look for the move from shallow to deep for the resident rockfish

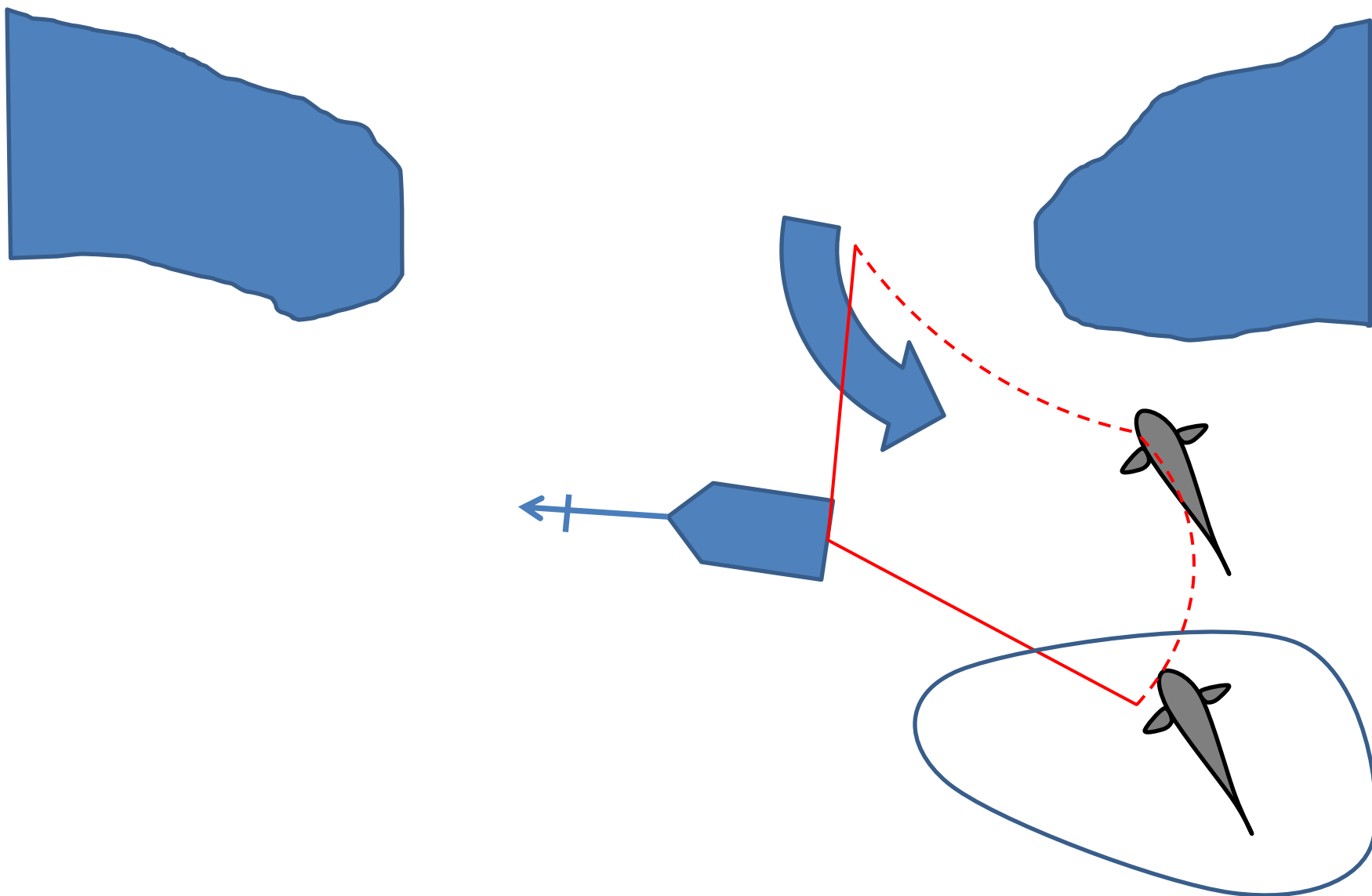
Tides and Time of Day



Rock the Rockpile



Capitalize on the Curve

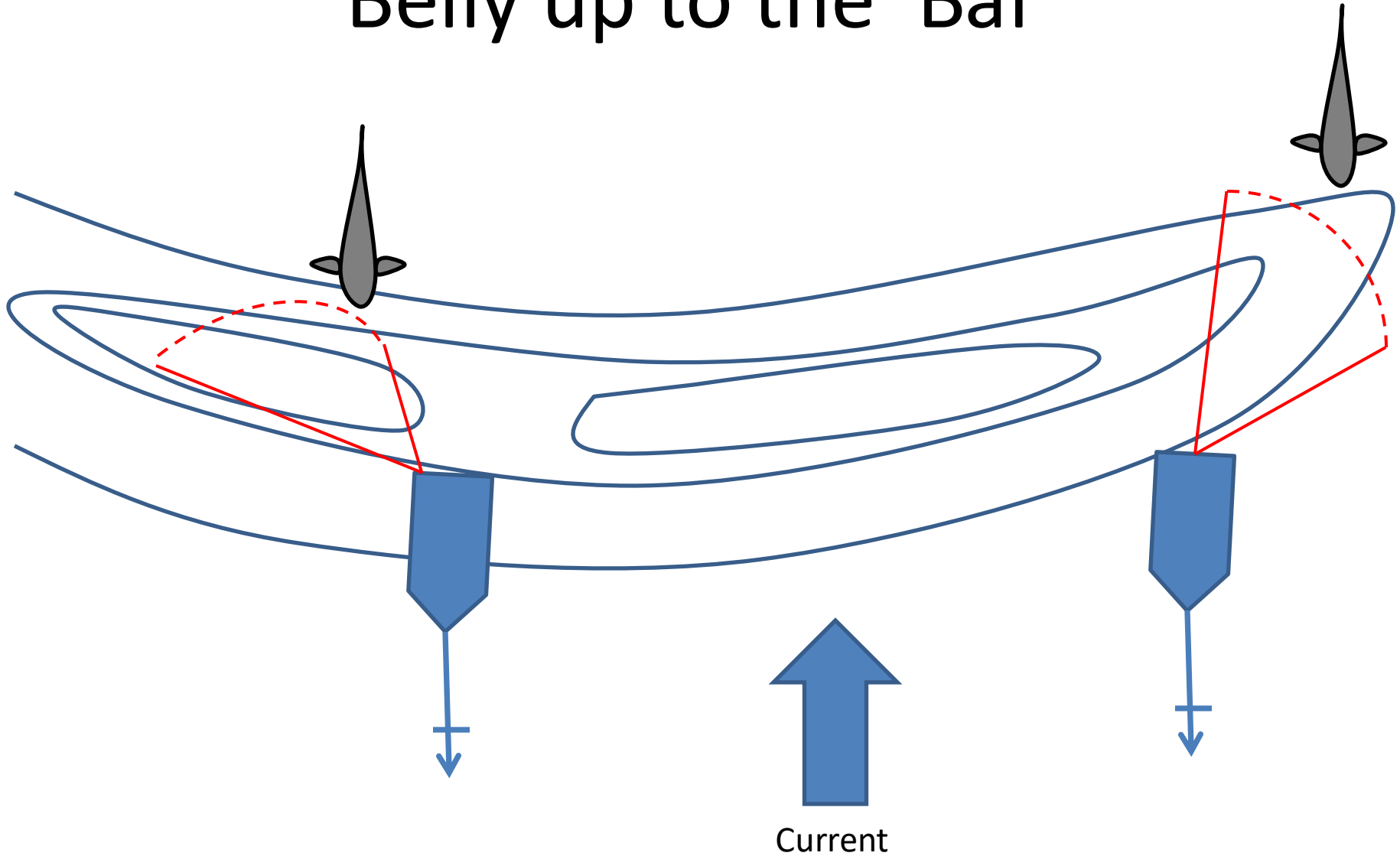




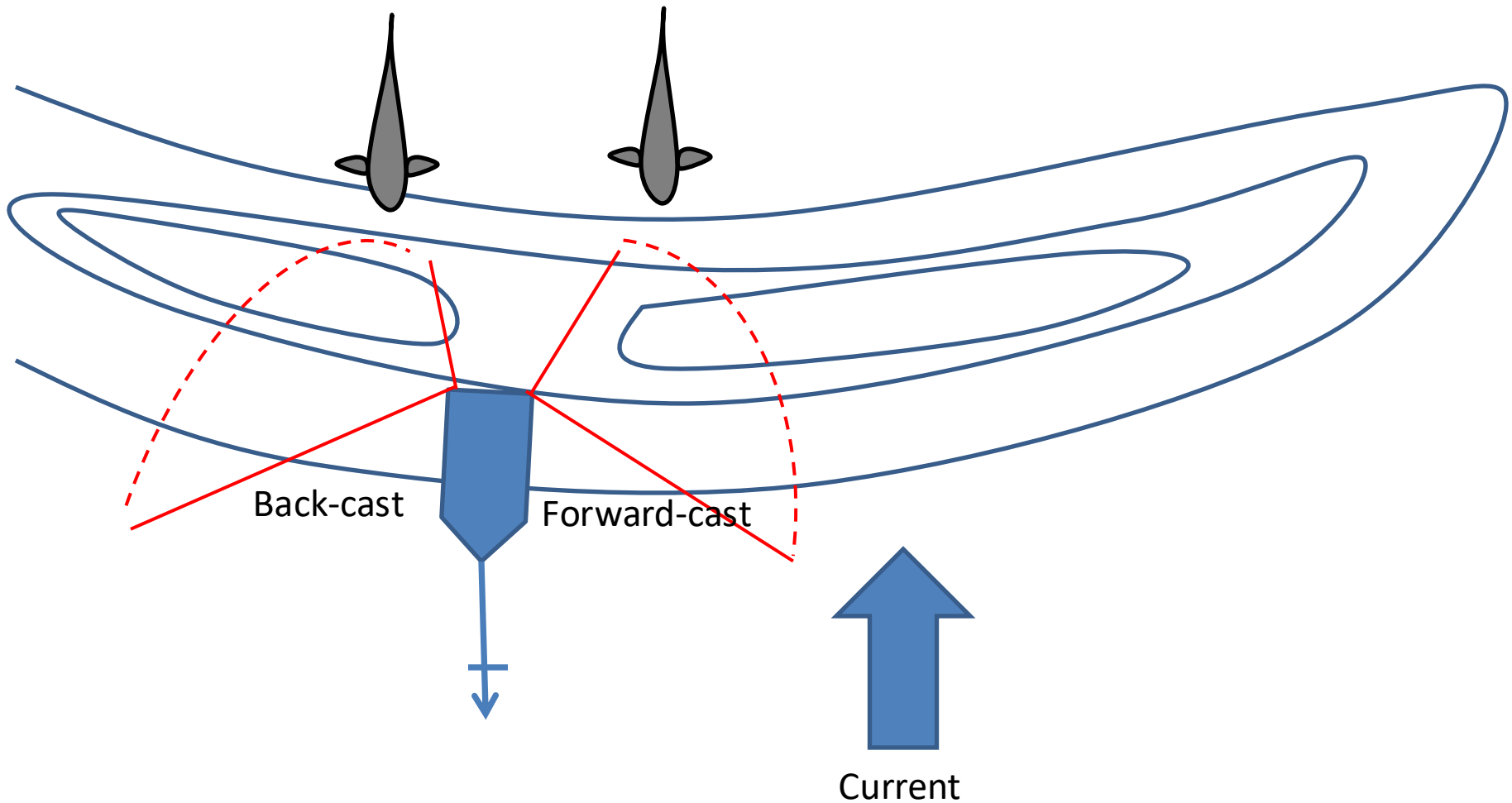
SPECKS



Belly up to the Bar

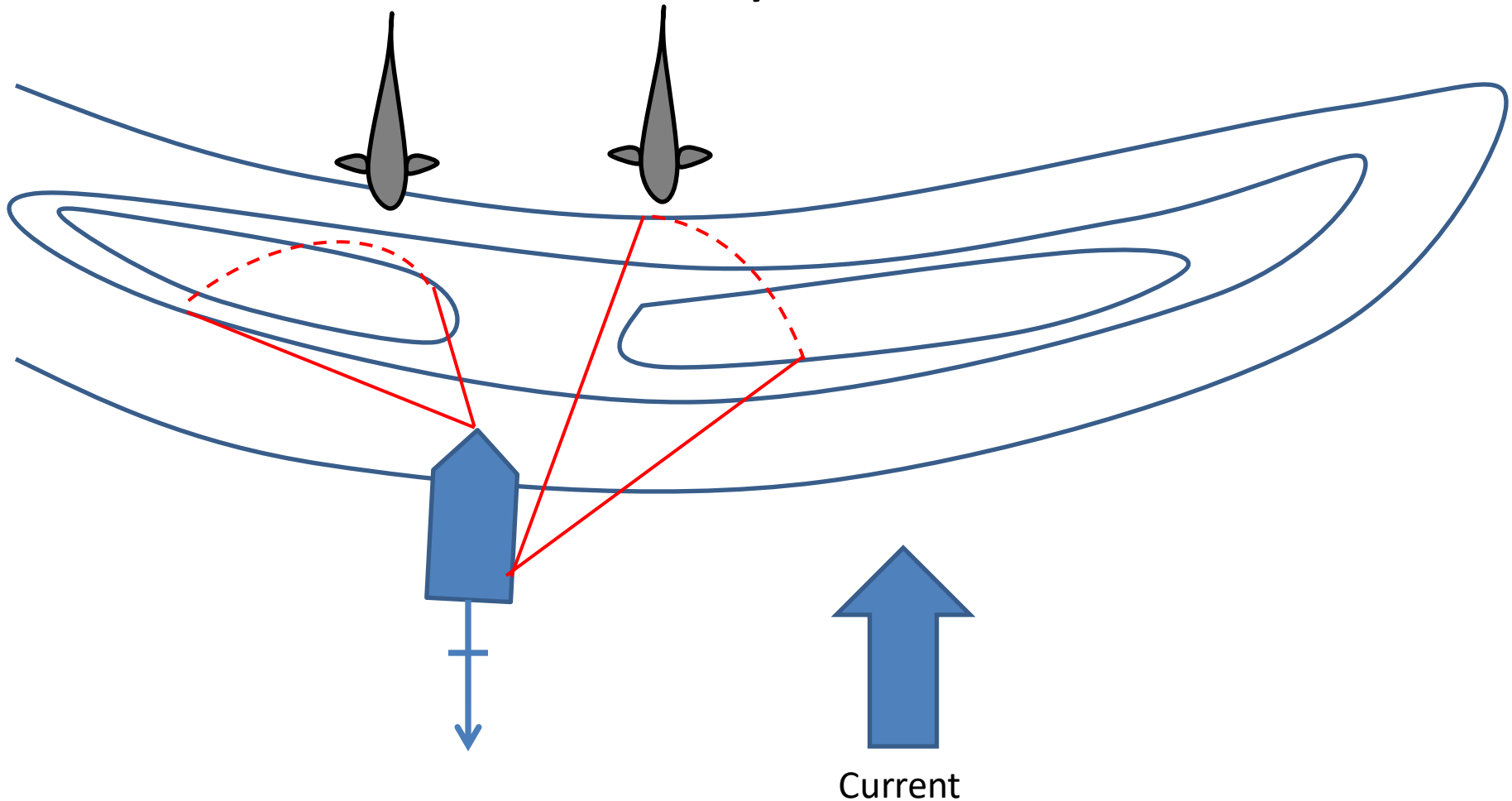


Two can play at this game



Don't like throwing from the transom?

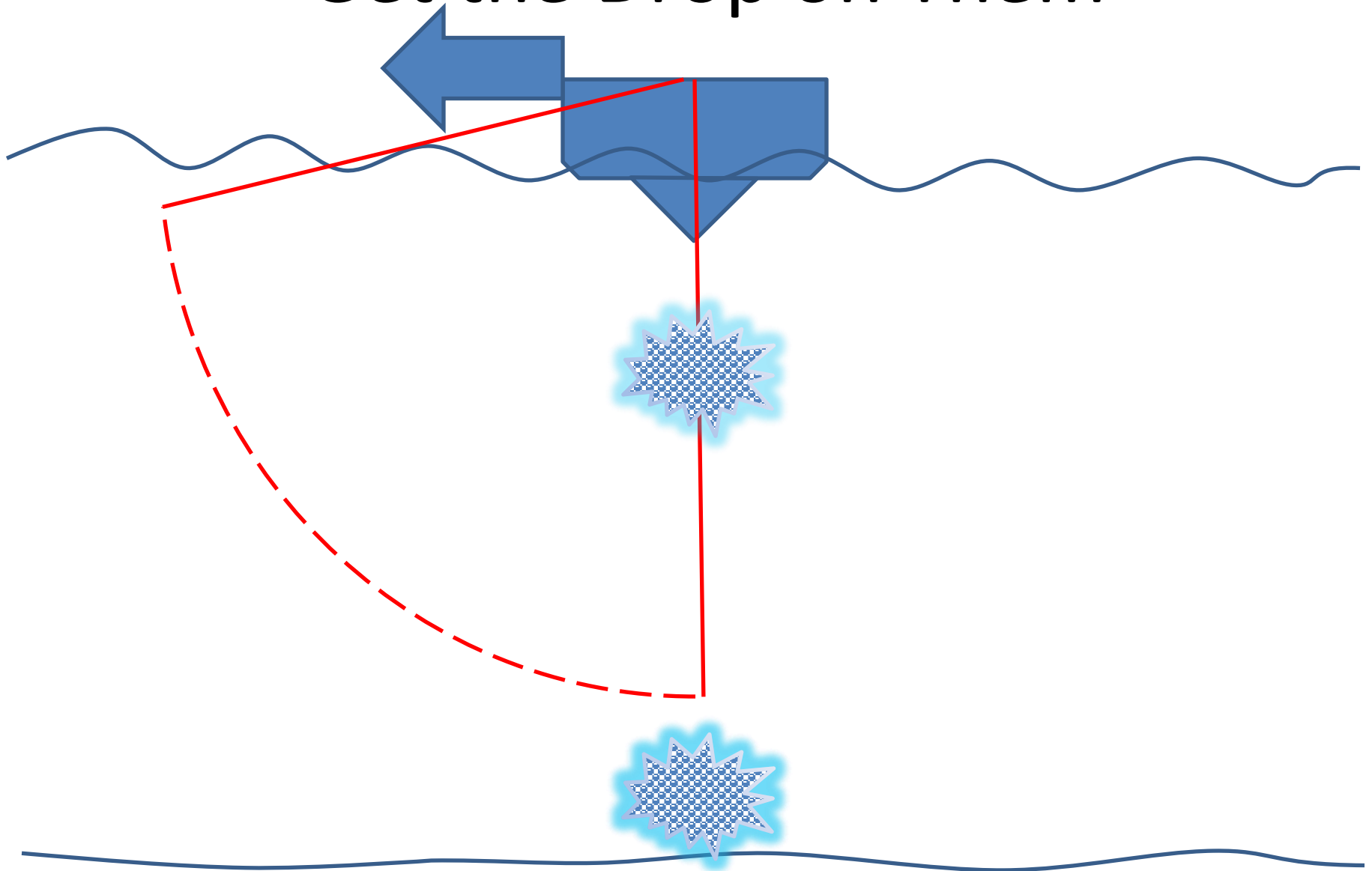
- Add a stern anchor to your collection



20" fish on a 5 wt rod is a Good Fight



Get the Drop on Them



Get The Drop On Them

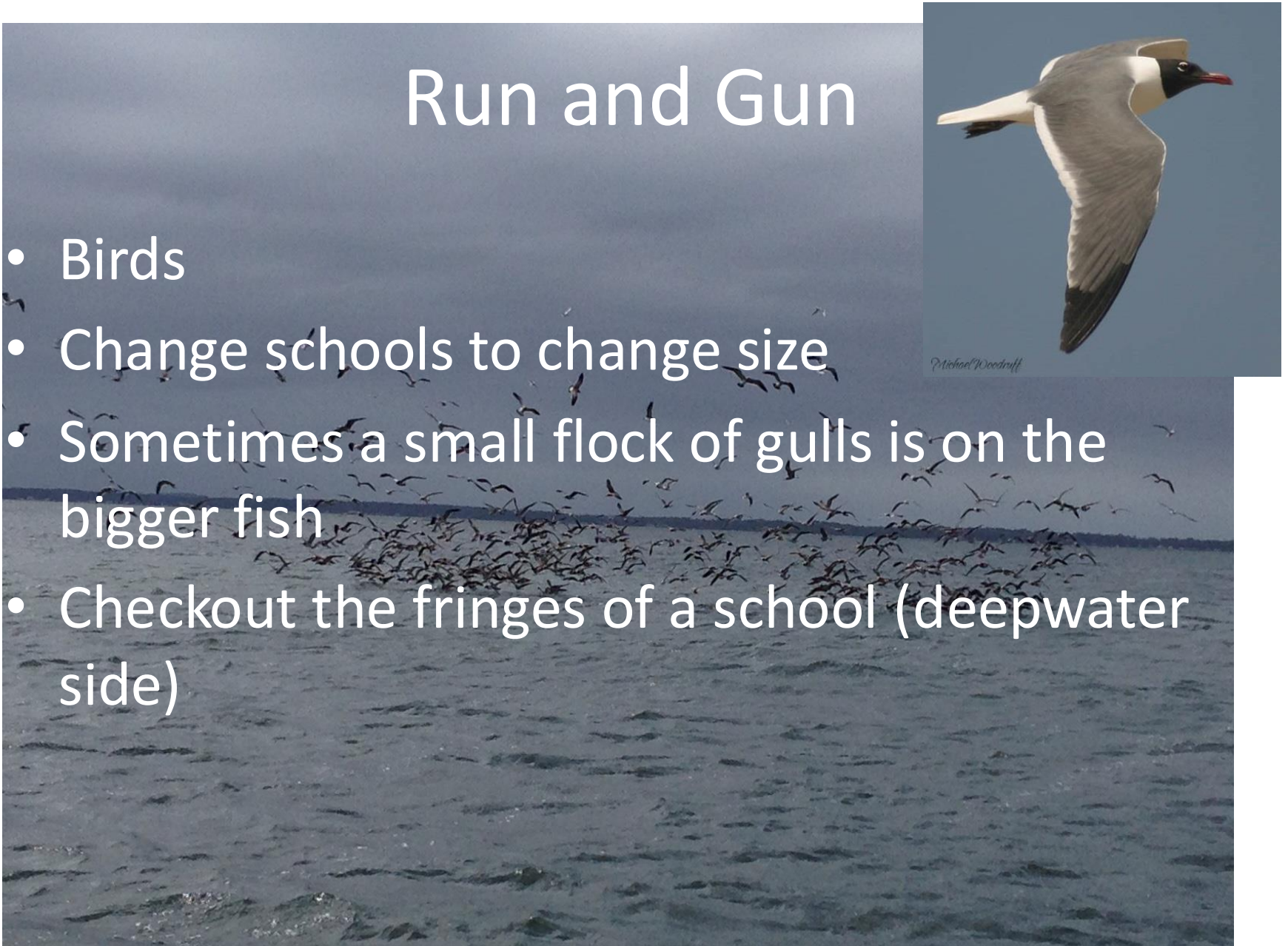


Puppy Drum

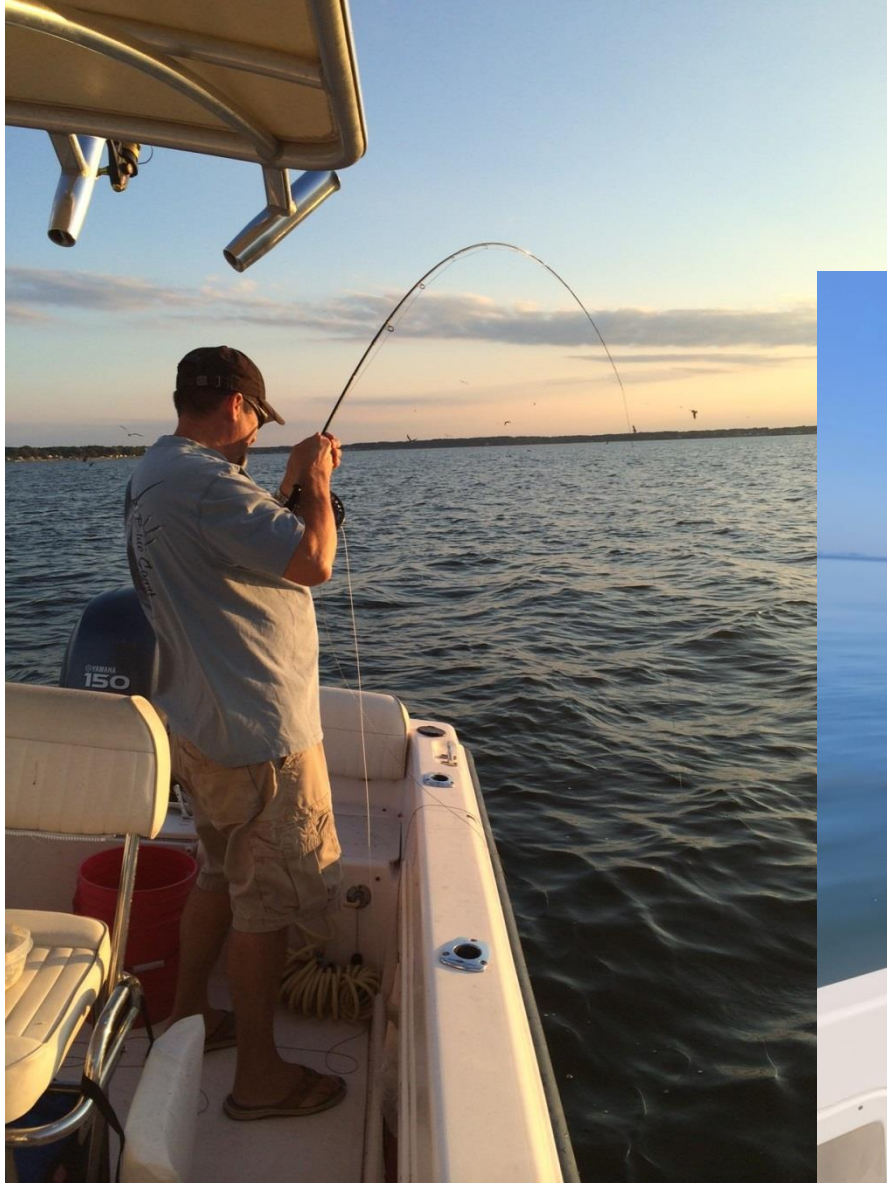


Run and Gun

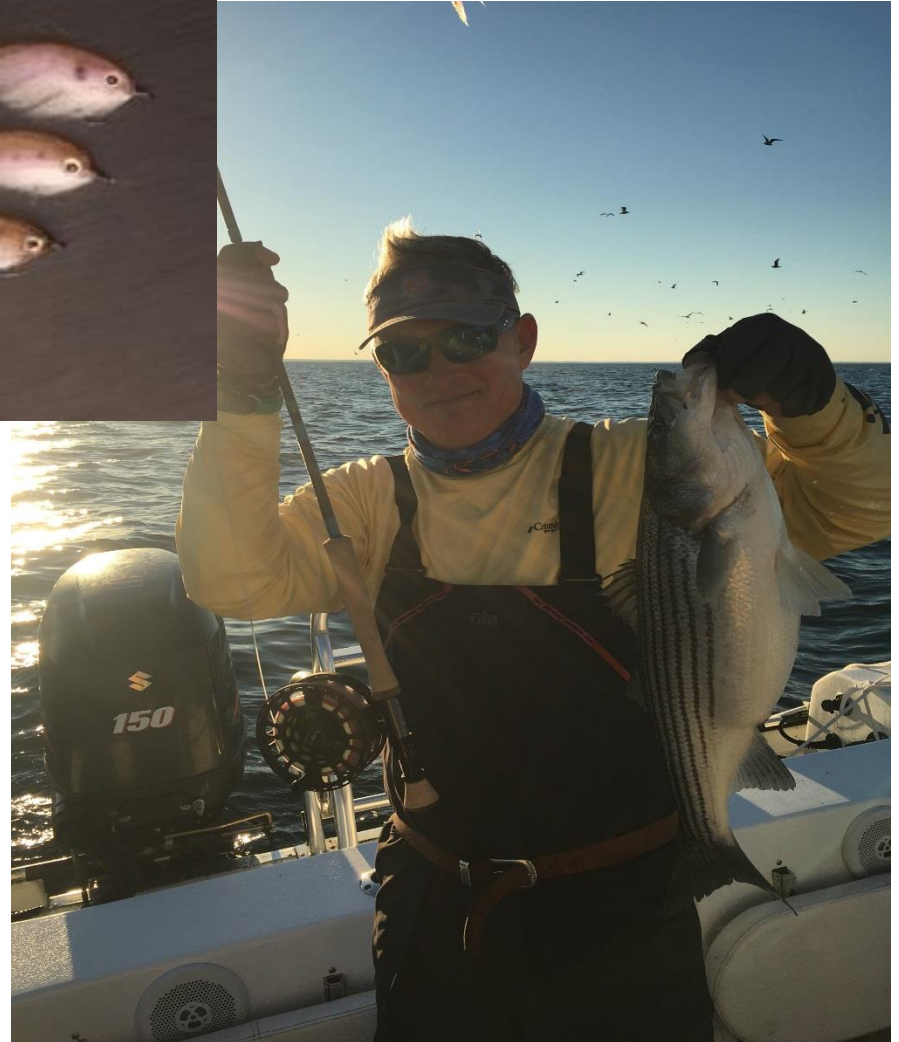
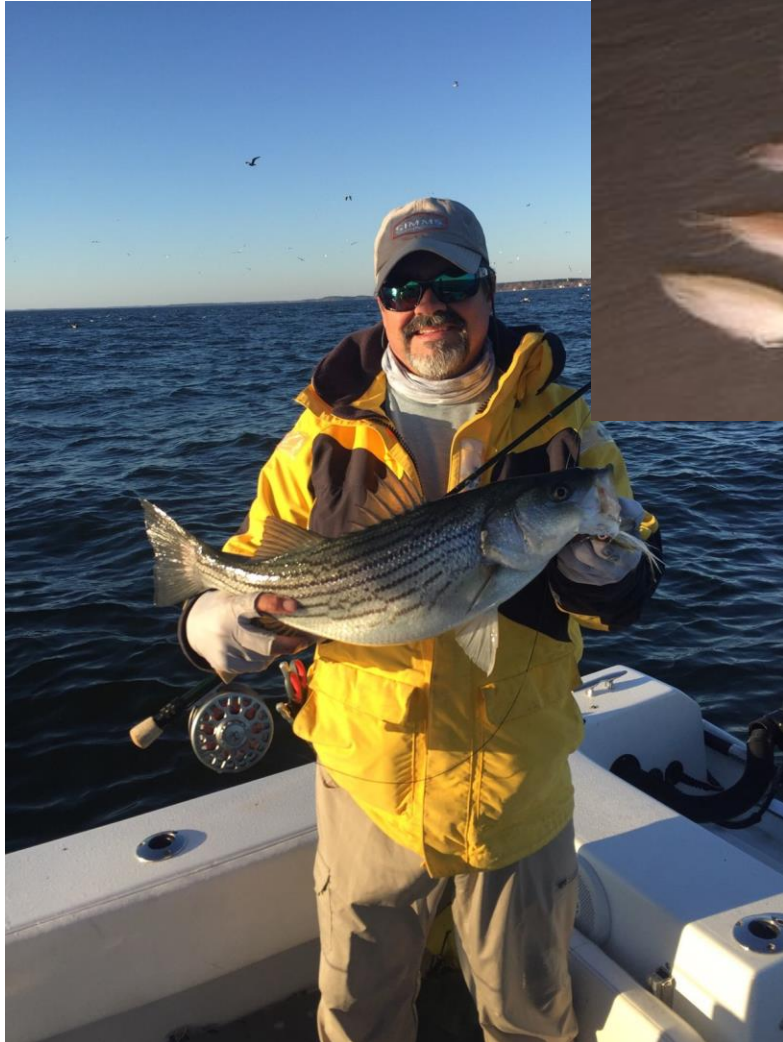
- Birds
- Change schools to change size
- Sometimes a small flock of gulls is on the bigger fish
- Checkout the fringes of a school (deepwater side)



Bluefish



Fall Bonanza





Go Tropical



12 wt rod, 2 hours of blistering runs
and deep dives, 125 lb marlin,



Landing these by hand is tricky



QUESTIONS?



Reel

- Arbor Size
- Drag strength
- Startup inertia
- Sealed drag
- Price
 - Hatch Finatic- \$380
 - 3-Tand- \$369
 - Sage 1880 - \$139
 - Orvis Mirage IV-\$495
 - Abel SD – \$785



Rod

- Portable- 4 piece, Full Wells grip, fighting butt
- Distance/wind- Fast action
- Presentation
- Lifting power
- Price
 - TFO BVK- \$250
 - Cabellas Atoll- \$300
 - Scott Tidal- \$475
 - Orvis helios-2- \$850
 - Scott Meridian - \$850
 - Asquith - \$1100

