

LAGOON LINESIDERS

best they can. The slightly deeper shorelines you may overlook when sight fishing for redfish are often exactly where you'll find the snook. When you're on some fishy-looking structure, make presentations from multiple angles. Sometimes it's not till the third or fourth cast that your retrieve is at a desirable angle. Skip casts deep into the cover are often imperative and weedless baits make this much less intimidating. Remember to keep your rod tip low and parallel to the water for the best results and if

you have an opening to pitch your bait directly into the cover, raise your rod tip throughout the cast to increase friction and slow the bait for a more subtle landing.

With a lack of tide-driven currents, the wind direction in the lagoon is exceptionally important. Shorelines that run parallel to the wind direction offer the best action when the fish are feeding aggressively. The significance of parallel shorelines being the presence of current without chop rolling into the structure. The leeward edges of

the flats, near the current break, are good places when the wind is howling, and when the temperature is below 75 Fahrenheit the most stagnant water on the flats seems to produce best. Snook's relationship with current is a finicky one as they use it to deliver their food but only as long as they can sit behind a branch, dock piling or point and not expend too much energy fighting it.

Once you've gotten in their heads and located the fish, it's all about presentation and pattern selection. On fly, you can't go wrong with gurglers and Clouser minnows. Those two patterns can cover a lot of water and get you going, although at times snook simply aren't mustering up the commitment to eat these. Maybe the Clouser falls too fast or they aren't in a topwater mood. Especially when sight-fishing, thin, tan, shrimp patterns seem to work best. Make sure to come prepared with weightless or bead chain options as well as some with silver dumbbell eyes for the deeper troughs. Before moving on to conventional tackle, it is pertinent to mention the new Game-Changer fly, as it is becoming a standout snook fly. On spinning and plug tackle, walk the dog style topwater baits are great in low light and wind but throughout the day subsurface is usually the best bet. Paddle-tails and soft plastic jerkbaits are great, weightless or on jig heads, for snook as well as D.O.A. shrimp and MirrOdine style subsurface plugs.

Whether you're still waiting on the first bite or on a spot where the bite is slowing, rotating through these patterns will help you zero in on the fish's mood and desires.



Weedless soft plastic (above) can be worked slow or fast to tempt snook. Fly selection below covers surface to bottom.

