



THE FISHIN' INSIDER

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A l'il heads up to you traveling fisherfolks, especially the folks that fly fish and like to effect the image of a professorial type or a gentrified country gentleman with a pipe or a large cigar. The Transportation Security Administration has as of 4/14/2005 implemented a lighter ban on all commercial airlines. The reason they're coppin' to is that their trained security screeners are unable to tell the difference between an outlandishly expensive Tiffany Zippo and an equally outlandishly expensive Dunhill butane lighter. When we finally reached the chief spokesperson for the TSA with a query on the subject, LaKisha Montez-Washington, she said "Say what?" which was followed by a series of clicks and a dial tone.

Furthermore, if you do show up at an airport security checkpoint in possession of a five hundred dollar Dunhill or Zippo it will be confiscated and become the property of Uncle Sugar and treated the same as a dope dealer Bentley Coup. You ain't gonna be able to get it back. I bring this up cuz a buddy of mine just had an heirloom Zippo confiscated by some security thugs at an airport in Europe. He paid 'um fifteen euros to mail it to him. That was two weeks ago and it still ain't showed up.

The good news for you snapper fishin' folks is that the federal waters of the Gulf will reopen for recreational fishin' next Thursday the 21st as deemed by some faceless bureaucrats in Florida and Washington. With commercial diesel fuel goin' for around a buck eighty-five a gallon there may be a price hike in store since their economics are based on less than half that price.



Surf fishin's been good as you can tell by these properly attired country folks, Gimpy John and Brian from parts all over.

We welcome your fishin' photos. Drop them by 2600 Padre Boulevard on the Island, or mail them to I.B. Hooked, c/o Coastal Current Weekly, P.O.Box 2429, South Padre Island, Texas 78597. Be sure to include the name of the angler, weight and type of fish, where caught, and name of boat if applicable. Photos with SASE will be returned.