



THE FISHER' INSIDER

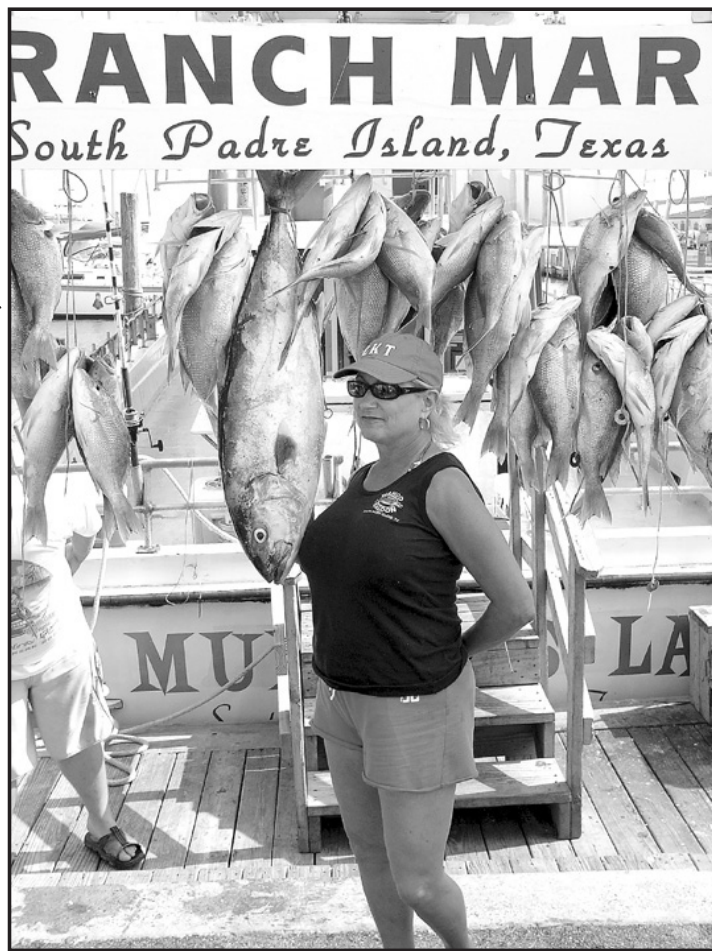
by I.B. Hooked
Member Outdoor Writers Association of America and
The Texas Outdoor Writers Association

PLEASE NOTE: WE AT THE COASTAL CURRENT ACCEPT NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FOLLOWING NOR CAN WE IMAGINE WHY WE AGREED TO PRINT IT.

Some dock rats figured this was gonna happen but not this soon. A'il over a year ago the Corps of Engineers made a decision to unlist Port Mansfield as a safe haven port so they wouldn't have to maintain the cut for that thriving of' fishin' village. Plenty of bar talk and dock talk ensued with the Corps and the Harbor Master bureaucrats, mostly friendly but ya know that bureaucrat game, smile and nod understanding while under your breath they say screw ya'll, I got my check and we ain't gonna buck the command system or point out a mistake being made.

Talked to Walt Kittleburger the other day, whom now bills hisself as the Kiss of Death where the Corps is concerned cuz of his position with the Lower Laguna Madre Foundation and their past attempts stop the dredging of the Intercoastal south of the Land Cut. The previous evening they'd had a Town Hall type meeting on the problem and yeah he does feel a bit "Hoist in his own Petard" cuz the channel has silted in. He told me that the south side is impassable at a varying depth of two feet or less, and the north side is only passable to a few in the kamikaze mosquito fleet at this writing. As I recall, the Corps owns the land and dock space around the town, they've fed the explosive growth of the area with long term ground leases so people can spend big dinero on town homes and big boats to park out back. I also get a chuckle that the dust blown port has the only decent marina facilities south of Port Aransas cuz it's deep water and ya can generally find a slip to rent. Around the Sandspit it's good luck and god bless for anything mid-30's and up.

Another l'il problem is gonna be with the Port Mansfield Fishing Tournament and the revenues the mess provides for their Chamber of Commerce. The bulk of the dinero comes from the offshore division and by late July they probably won't have one. The dinero the Corps spends to maintain the cut can't be much in the scheme of things, they still have a dredge heading north after screwing up some great fishin' holes in our area with their spoils. If ya got any political pull you can send their way, I'm sure they'd appreciate it.



A Coastal Current cover gal from many, many, many moons ago. Patty got her limit of snapper with a rowdy group on opening day with Steven Murphy aboard Murphy's Law.

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.