



THE FISHIN' INSIDER

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

To steal an opener from ol' Blackie Sherrod, Scattershooting while wonderin' what officials were smokin', I got a kick out of the revised hurricane evacuation plan. Back in the eighties before I moved down to the Sandspit while the valley's population was about a third of what it is today, I queried some folks in the know. The folks said that if the right storm were bearing down on the valley, the plan was for the sittin' Prez to declare a state of emergency and order the check points at Fal and Sarita to stand down to speed up the evacuation of those that needed to get the hell out of Dodge to the north. When Slick Willy and his boyz revamped the plan after the Mississippi floods of '93, things took a turn toward the bureaucratic surreal when the plan emerged to shut down hwy. 77 north of Raymondville and shunt all the traffic over to hwy. 281 and through the Fal checkpoint. This colossal brain fart was categorized under the header "Ya gotta have a plan and it don't have to make sense, it don't need to be practical or workable but ya gotta have a plan.

Soooo, now we gots a new plan that reflects the post 911 zealotry toward security and a complete lack

of regard for our fellow man but they did throw in a carrot. It now appears that 77 north will stay open but so will the Sarita checkpoint. The queue to mark the beginnin' of the crawl to the checkpoint will probably start at the gate to Betta's ranch. Since nobody has a clue how many people actually live in Cameron and Hidalgo counties I suspect the queue for the crawl to the Fal checkpoint will start around Linn. Laredo don't look like a smart choice with the cartels controllin' that turf. And a note to ya'll boat owners, since Ruben's Sea-R-Sea is no longer, we're down to one safe haven haul out point.

That would be the Sea Ranch Marina at Southpoint; make your reservation early.

Since it be mama's day this weekend that means that the South Texas Big Game Fishing Club will open the marlin huntin' season this Saturday if mama nature don't PMS on us. There will be a get together this evening, if it's Friday the 12th when ya read this mess,



The snapper be snappin' since the idiot bureaurcrats reopened federal waters. GO FISH!

at Dirty Al's from 6:30-7:30. In case ya'll don't know Dirty Al's by now, it's the bait shack with the Alamo façade at the south end on the Sea Ranch Marina by the weigh dock with the long line out the door. They've been known to serve up some pretty good fried shrimp from time to time.

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.