

# **BLACKFOOT CHARTERS**

**Florida Backcountry Flats Fishing**



## **Summer Time Fishing**

As we get into July, August and September the days get longer and the fishing gets hotter. Bonefish, Permit, and Tarpon (the Flats Slam) become the main targets pursued. Sight fishing the gin clear waters of the ocean side flats while cowfish, stingrays and small sharks cruise by you. With early morning and late afternoon/night being the prime time to find these fish moving & feeding. Full day trip (8 hours) can be split 6am-10am (4 hours), then 4pm-8pm (4 hours) to give you the best chance possible.

In the backcountry you will find good numbers of redfish, snook, sharks, and a few tarpon around all day long. With all the rainfall we have received this year the freshwater flow out of the Everglades has raised the bay to its summer time levels. Schools of redfish can be found tailing in very shallow water while large sharks patrol in the distance. And most passes/cuts with moving water will hold fish happy to take a bait or fly. Trailering to Flamingo Everglades National Park is suggested as to give you more time fishing and less time traveling.

The weather this time of year is typically calm and clear most days with afternoon showers that develop over the Everglades. As these storm push east towards the upper keys they provide a welcome break from the sun. Sometimes we do get rain - the boat is equipped with rain gear for all. Fly-fishing conditions this time of year are perfect. Clear water and light winds make for some excellent shallow water sight fishing opportunities.

Night fishing gets red hot during the summer. With lower temperatures at night fish like tarpon, snook and big snappers gather around cuts and passes in good numbers to feed. Live bait works best but fly-fishing is not as impossible as you might think. Some of the best night fishing happens between 10pm and 6am. Not many people fish during those hours and the fish know it! So if you are looking for a challenge I suggest you give it a try.



Redfish



Snapper

**Capt. Mike Makowski**  
**Blackfoot Charters**