

Fall spot-tails

Cooling waters make red-hot action along the coast

BY JOHN N. FELSHER

As waters cool along the Alabama coast, redfish turn more aggressive. Shrimp begin migrating and that kicks off a feeding frenzy. Redfish fatten up for the winter on shrimp, crabs and baitfish.

Anglers can take their pick of fighting big bulls or tempting slot reds in the marshes. Some of the best bull redfish action occurs near Dixey Bar at the southern end of Mobile Bay. A long sandbar named for a ship that sank there in the 19th century, Dixey Bar extends from about Fort Morgan toward the Sand Island Lighthouse.

“When I go bull redfish-

ing, I go to Dixey Bar,” recommended Bobby Abrusca to with A-Team Fishing Adventures. “It’s world famous for big redfish and catches fire after the first cool snap. The tide washes across the bar so I figure out which way I’m going to drift. I want to be perpendicular to the bar. I like to throw a bait 90 degrees to the current and cover huge chunks of water. I catch 95 percent of my fish throwing a 4-inch Gulp! Swimming Mullet in chartreuse or white with a 3/8-ounce jighead.”

For slot redfish, head to the marshes and river systems of the lower Mo-

See **REDFISH**, 35



Photo by John N. Felsher

Angie Felsher admires a redfish she caught in the Mississippi Sound near Bayou La Batre.

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