Rough & RED-dy

Bad fishing days could be good catching days

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Slashing north winds pushed water toward Mississippi Sound. Pummeling rain mixed with sleet as a front roared through the previous evening left icy puddles glinting like diamonds in the mudflats.

Few people enjoy heading into a winter storm to fish, but severe weather affects fishermen more than fish. Redfish can tolerate cold water much better than speckled trout and many other species. In rough conditions, anglers just need to find the fish.

“I don’t think it can get too cold to catch redfish,” opined Bobby Abruscato with A-Team Fishing Adventures. “I’ve seen redfish swimming through slush with their backs out of the water and the banks covered with ice. When we get days with a hard north wind that blows the water out of the marsh and it turns really cold, I think that’s the best fishing.”

Strong, stinging winds can make any day on the water miserable, but winds can concentrate fish. When brutal north winds bring biting cold and create extremely low tides, prey species must leave their lairs for deeper water.

“The falling water forces fish out to deeper water,” Abruscato explained. “When redfish are foraging way back in the grass, it’s hard to get to them. When a front drops the water level, it’s much easier to get to redfish because it concentrates them into certain spots. Anywhere that drains the marshes is a good place to fish for redfish. Flowing water also pulls bait out from hiding and redfish feed on that.”

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