

## *Night Fishing for Snook....Klaus Gohrbandt*



In May, inspired by Bob Willice, I fished for snook at night under the dock lights around Stuart on the central peninsula. The lagoons of the St. Lucie and Indian Rivers connect there to the Atlantic Ocean. By arrangement of the local flyfishing store, Southern Angler, I hired Captain Duber Winters to guide me.

Fishing was great! Duber is an excellent flyfishing guide who put me continuously in the right spot for successful casting. He drove a comfortable Pathfinder Tournament Edition 22 bay boat with wide bow and stern decks, equipped with a 200HP Yamaha, remotely controlled Minnkota trolling motor and a GPS system for precise night time navigation. Seeing snook swim around under the dock lights was fun in itself.

I landed a number of snook, plus many "lookdown", a hand-sized tropical fish, on Duber's attractive Clouser style glass minnow in size 6, tied with a non-slip loop to a straight 5 foot fluorocarbon tippet. I used a floating line with clear intermediate sink-tip with my seven weight rod. The picture shows the largest snook I landed. I broke off two even harder fighting fish, one due to the fish's shredding of the 15 pound test tippet! Snook easily sever tippets because their lower, protruding lip is as abrasive as sandpaper. Snook apparently reject flies tied to a wire trace (tippet). Reportedly, snook are occasionally caught in the 8-12 pound range with the rare 30 pounder, around seawalls and bridges, primarily during the day. **Note:** Bob Willice later fished with the same guide and landed two fish larger than the one shown.

## *Red Beard Clousers....Jerry Aldridge*

The speckled trout fishing has been good on the grass flats with lots of fish, mostly small, fairly eager to take your well presented Clouser Minnow. Action on poppers and gurglers has been surprisingly slow, especially considering the water temperature in the high 80s. Look for intermittent patches of sand and grass, changes in depth (edges and ledges) plus any "nervous water" you see. Two to eight feet of water is the normal range; the deeper you get the better chance you have at the occasional lady fish, Spanish mackerel or blue fish.

The Naval Live Oaks and Big Sabine Bay have been fishing well but Shoreline Park, the east and west sides of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the area between Deer Point and Fair Point have been mysteriously slow, at least for me.

Good Clouser colors have been tan and olive, tan and yellow, dark green and white, and chartreuse and white. I have started tying some of my Clousers with red hackle beards to represent blood red gills or perhaps just for a little variety in tying. They seem to work at least as well as their beardless counterparts so give them a try. A couple are pictured here..

