

FIRST TARPON - TONY BROOKFIELD

Details of Tony Brookfield's first tarpon on his first day EVER fishing the flats. Fishing some coastal flats, near the reef, in Belize. The skiff was being poled down a white sand flat 30 feet off a dark grass edge. A tarpon suddenly moved off the dark flat (where he was invisible) and onto the white sand, moving right towards the boat. One cast (first cast ever for Tony to a tarpon) and the fish rushed the fly – cast wasn't perfect, off a little to one side. The fish turned his head to take fly and assisted the hook set. Tony acknowledged that his hook setting methods showed his lack of experience, but the fish provided the necessary assist. Half dozen jumps, many spectacular with full body out of the water from this fifty-pounder. Three long runs into the backing. Forty-minute battle – at very end of fight, Tony lifted the fish and just as the guide grabbed the lower lip, his rod snapped into 3 pieces. Did get the fish for a photo.

TRIP REPORT

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