

WHY IS PERMIT FISHING SO DIFFICULT?

Why is permit fishing so difficult? Let me count the ways:

- I often make lousy casts, especially early in a trip.
- The winds are “down,” the water slick and the fish spook from the fly line in the air; plus, they seem to sense the skiff from 100 feet away.
- Winds are “up” making accurate casts a challenge, plus the slap of the chop on the hull of the skiff spooks the fish.
- The set up is perfect, 4 tailing fish in two feet of water at 60 feet.....now headed for the deep water, spooked by a large ray sharing their feeding ground.
- The tide's too low and there's an approaching weather front - haven't seen a fish in four hours.
- The cast was perfect, but while it was in the air, the permit switched directions and the fly landed 10 feet behind him
- The cast was perfect, but while in the air, the fish speeded up and the fly landed behind him and the line spooked him.
- They look, they follow, they come back and look again....but they don't eat. Don't think I'll ever catch another – maybe I'll try a live crab??
- Panic set in as one of the two tailing fish we were stalking saw the shadow of the other, bolted for the deep, scaring the hell out of his partner who follows him.
- It's difficult for me to turn the fly over accurately from 60 feet with a 20 mph crosswind.
- The set up is perfect, 4 tailing fish at 60 feet.....now headed for the depths due to the shadow of a circling frigate bird 500 feet above us.
- Winds are heavy – fish just 50 feet away and feeding. Know I can make this cast. What is this crab fly doing stuck in my arse?
- I know the fish is using that big eye to measure the length of the crab legs on my fly and finds them half a millimeter shorter than he prefers.
- That black tail waving above the surface is so BIG.....“buck fever”
- If we'd have seen that fish 2 seconds earlier, we would have had a good chance.
- The cast is perfect and lands a few feet in front of the slowly cruising permit who charges forward. The hook strikes home.....where did that yellow tail snapper come from?

Why would someone go through the frustration of permit fishing? Very small chance of success and the most challenging fly casting situations with a quarry that is notorious for ignoring the casted fly? Fish all week to catch one fish and call it a successful week? Why, why? If you have to ask, I guess you've never seen that big black tail waving a foot above the water, which by the way, happens to be a spectacular environment, unrivaled anywhere in the world. Shallow coral flats dropping off to indigo depths. Great way to fail!

TRIP REPORT
Fly Fishing Adventures
888-347-4896
flyfish@napanet.net

