

RISING TIDE PERMIT TRIP SUMMARY – CONDITIONS DICTATED

Wintertime in Belize – usually, you can count on the normal fickle tropical weather being more unstable. Our trip was the first week in December and daily conditions did determine the demeanor of the permit.

This report has two parts. First, this general summary. Second, for those who are interested in all the details, the general summary is followed by a day-by-day recap of conditions and fishing results.

Conditions broke this trip into three parts-

PART 1: We arrived on the heels of 3 days with favorable conditions – should have been here four days ago!! Those good conditions would take us through day 1 and day 2.

PART 2: We woke the third morning to a low pressure system sitting on top of us. Day 4 saw the winds rotate a full 540°, beginning with rain/wind from the NW, making the full face of the clock, and ending from the SE. Day 5 resulted in more permit visible, but relatively few tails and fish which were apparently still unsettled by yesterdays erratic wind patterns.

PART 3: A perfect day on day 6 – light winds from the SE and E, blue skies, and lots of tailing fish.

Departure day (day 7), we hoped for a repeat of yesterday and a few solid hours before fly out. Instead, there was 20+ mph cool winds from the NW pushing dark clouds and light rain.

Daily high temps were in the low to mid 80's, lows in the 71-74 range. Compared to the cool, gray skies in the US, a good place to spend time regardless of fishing conditions!

Results Summary (2 or 3 pangas out every day):
Total # permit seen: 568
tailing fish: 169
Shots: 63
Eats: 13
Permit released: 8 (largest 17#)

NOTE: The only other anglers encountered during our week were on day 3 when two pangas fished south as far as South Water Cay. The Rising Tide avoids the often extreme fishing pressure further south by not anchoring any further south than Sand Fly.

DEFINITIONS: pod 3 to 6 fish, school 7 to 15, herd 15+ fish - 6# and under identified as "small fish"

DAY:

1 1st night, anchored at Robinson. Moved to Bluefield after breakfast. Good sun.....winds 6 to 10 from E to NE.

notes

seen 203+ 3 herds of 30+ (many tailing), 1 herd of 50+ (most trailing)
tailing 70+
shots 12
eats 3 released one 12# fish and one small one

2 moved to Sand Fly after breakfast – fished our way down. Good sun until late afternoon when some rain clouds moved in. Winds about same as Day 1.

seen 70+ includes 1 herd of 20+ and 1 school of 15
tailing 37+
shots 13
eats 4 released 3 small ones

3 am – winds started NE, moved to NW, 12-14. Around noon, back to NE. Good sun. Low pressure in morning, rising in early afternoon. Two pangas packed lunch and fished south to South Water Cay

| | | |
|---------|---|---------------------------------------|
| # seen | 7 | |
| tailing | 2 | |
| shots | 3 | two large singles stalked, one wading |
| eats | 0 | |

4 woke to rain, winds out of NE. In next 4 hours, wind direction moved to SW, SE, E, NE, NW, W. Then started back – NW, NE, E, and ended SE. .

Cloudy all day and rain returned late afternoon. After breakfast, moved Rising Tide back to Bluefield....guides fished our way back.

| | | |
|---------|----|--------------------------|
| # seen | 30 | |
| tailing | 6 | |
| shots | 5 | one large single stalked |
| eats | 0 | |

5 2 rain squalls early, then clear. Wind from SE 12 and dropping in aft. After early rain, conditions goo....saw fish, had 3 eats (one fish), but very few tails... fish unsettled, maybe recovering from the day before with the weird circling winds? After breakfast, moved the RT back to Robinson.

| | | |
|---------|----|-------------------|
| # seen | 97 | |
| tailing | 4 | |
| shots | 13 | |
| eats | 3 | released 14# fish |

6 Perfect – winds from E – SE from 4 to 10. Clear skies. Frank had to depart for home, Mike packed a lunch and had a productive day chasing permit at the reef. Don had an exciting morning at Robinson with lots of tailing fish.

| | | |
|---------|------|--|
| # seen | 161+ | 4 herds of 20+ fish, most tailing |
| tailing | 57+ | |
| shots | 17 | |
| eats | 6 | released 17# and 9# fish + had one more hook-up and hook broke |