

GRATITUDE

Every day fishing should be a day of thanksgiving. Fishermen are surrounded by the beauty of nature, they experience the thrill of the catch, and they enjoy the companionship of fellow anglers. Even when the catch-net is empty, fishing is its own reward

Criswell Freeman
The Fisherman's Guide To Live

FOOD FOR FISHING (from page 35)

Go ahead and make a pot of coffee, but waiting about an hour after waking up before your morning cup will make the caffeine in it more effective.

“And if you hold true to your sports drinks, do yourself a favor and dilute those 50 percent with water. There’s just so much sugar in those as well chemicals added to diet versions. You’ll still get your drink satisfaction but will be cutting the negative effects in half,” Kupferman adds.

Got an hour or two?

Is fishing just going to be a relaxing, couple hours after work? Don’t think twice. Go ahead and crack a cold one (if that’s legal in your state or providence), and have a snack that may not be the perfect food.

Kupferman states that if you just fish once or twice a month, go ahead and make that fun experience; your “cheat” days, if you will. Just don’t go overboard.

“Nobody’s perfect, and I know one of the best things is enjoying tastes you like, whether healthy or not. If it affects your energy while fishing all day, however, drink lots of water and fill your cooler with the foods mentioned above for a few weeks and notice the difference,” Kupferman states. “Eat and enjoy “the bad stuff” but don’t make it your lifestyle, just a treat.”

After all, fishing is fun. Smile. Enjoy it.

Necessity overrules

Food and water are water are inconvenient necessities when you’re fishing all day. But instead of a candy bar, chew on something that’ll make you feel good and be able to concentrate on catching fish.

Pack “real food” in that cooler of yours, and take a few minutes every couple of hours to take a bite or two and drink copious amounts of water. The worst thing that can happen won’t be on you, but all those fish with sore lips.

WITEK: BLACK SEA BASS (from page 30)

Between 2011 and 2016, the five states between Massachusetts and New Jersey accounted for anywhere between 86% and 96% of the overall black sea bass landings; taking 2011 out of the picture, landings have remained in a very narrow 92.2%-95.7% range, a range that remains consistent even though New Jersey’s share of the overall landings varies between 11.6% and 39.3% of all landings during those years.

Such consistency suggests that New Jersey should be placed in the 5-state region, despite the fact that it straddles the northern and southern populations; low landings in Delaware, Maryland and Virginia further suggest that the southern population probably contributes little to New Jersey’s recreational harvest, reinforcing the conclusion that New Jersey should be grouped with the northern states.

Furthermore, allowing New Jersey to become its own region, or allowing it to be treated as a southern state would allow it to exploit the northern population of sea bass while not being subject to the same rules that apply to the northern bloc of states, a situation which would truly not be equitable.

All states in the five-state region should then be required to adopt the same set of regulations, with no conservation equivalency allowed. In that way, both the catch limits and the harvest estimates could be applied over the entire five-state region, leading to greater overall accuracy and more consistent year-to-year regulations.

Such regulatory consistency would be further enhanced, and unneeded changes avoided, if a final option of Addendum XXX was adopted, “a performance evaluation process that better incorporates biological information and efforts to reduce discard mortality into the metrics used for evaluation and management response by evaluating fishery performance against the [annual catch limit]. This option seeks to integrate information from the 2016 assessment into the management process, enhance the angling experience of the recreational community, improve the reporting of recreational information, and achieve meaningful reductions in discard mortality to better inform management responses to changes in the condition of this resource.”

In Addendum XXX, fishery managers have a chance to make meaningful improvements in the way black sea bass are managed. By regionalizing management and insisting on consistent regulations across each region, and by incorporating more and better information into the annual regulatory process, managers can create a system that provides better landings estimates, results in more effective regulation and incorporates the best available science.

Hopefully, that will happen.

Unfortunately, there will be plenty of people, including those down in New Jersey, who will try to throw it off the rails in order to gain some parochial advantage. If they succeed in undercutting the most effective provisions, both the fish and the larger angling community will pay the price.

The ASMFC is holding meetings in all of the affected states to obtain angler input on the Addendum. All black sea bass anglers should try to attend, and urge ASMFC to stay on track, bring black sea bass management out of the past, and propel it toward a new and far better future.