

Flounder Fishing Leads To White Knuckle Adventure

by
Jason Scheuron

Everyone knows that when it comes to mining the worldwide web for information that old adage “all that glitters is not gold” comes to mind quite often. However, if you spend enough time mining... you just may uncover a true nugget like I did recently. For me, it just may be a once in a lifetime experience I may never forget.

When the company I work for announced that the annual company fishing trip was fast approaching I said “Sure... count me in... sounds like fun.” New employees tend to say ridiculous things like that for obvious reasons, no matter how reluctant they may be. And for the record, I was not reluctant. It just so happens that I **do not** have a lot of fishing experience, but being the new guy and wanting to try new things I was willing to give it a shot.

Two weeks later found me on a charter boat heading out onto the Delaware Bay along with the majority of my coworkers. Our target species... flounder. I’ll admit, I know nothing about catching flounder, but I do know how to eat them and catching a few for the table sure sounded appealing to me. 5-hours and 2-dramamines later I finally hooked a fish... a sea robin that the first mate threw back. But I was determined, and half an hour later it happened, as if by magic. I hooked my first flounder... a whopping 6-inch fish that I had to throw back. Then the captain started the boat and we headed back in to the dock. Everyone on the boat caught fish, but I was just getting started and the trip was over. However, the outing had peaked my interest in flounder fishing. All I needed now was more information on how to catch these fish and to the Internet is where I turned.



The author shown here with one of many flounder caught on his white-knuckle adventure

Now my hectic lifestyle is not conducive to spending lots of time gathering, sifting and reading through all the information available on the web, and in magazines. Like most people nowadays, all I want to do is gather the basic information I am looking for and if I can point and click my way to this information all the better. Short and sweet suits me fine. My search went something like this: flounder, summer; flounder, winter; flounder, cooking; flounder, pictures of; flounderbytes; flounder, history of. Whoa, scroll back up

to flounderbytes, looks interesting. One click and **eureka!!!** I was looking at 5-page special reports on flounder fishing that I can order and download online... instantly! The site even has an upcoming e-book on flounder fishing if I need more information. Ok, I'm set... just what I was looking for... I hope? (I'm a skeptic.) So I order and download some special reports to check out the information, hoping to come up with a nugget or two for my mining efforts. I figure the worse that can happen is I'll either be out a few bucks for the reports, or I will gain some valuable information that can be put to good use. **Tada!!!** My mining efforts had paid off. The special reports contain valuable information and photographs, on locating and catching summer flounder. The kind of information I am looking for in an easy to read format. Now I have a good idea of what to look for -- and use -- to catch flounder. Perfect! So I dash off a thank you to the Webmaster and a brief note on where I planned on trying out the information.

The following day I received an email from Ronald Tracy, the author of Flounder Bytes. Familiar with the area I was going to try, he extended an invitation for a day of flounder fishing on his flats skiff, which I gladly accepted, besides, it is a chance to see if he really knows what he is writing about.

After meeting at our designated location we headed off to catch our own bait. Not buy it, catch it... as in **"take a long net and drag it through the water and see what shows up in it."** (This was not in any of the special reports!) The types of baitfish that showed up in the net were minnows, spearing, a few peanut bunkers and the occasional grass shrimp. The minnows and spearing were by far the predominate species and we grabbed some of each for the bait bucket and released the rest. With our freshly caught bait on board it was time to launch the Flounder Bytes flats skiff and go catch some flounder!

My adrenalin was rushing as the boat slowly pulled away from the dock and started to ease its way out of the creek and into the bay. However, I was unprepared for the **"white knuckle"** ride as we shot across the main channel and up onto a large sand flat in 3-feet of water where we stopped to check our drift speed and direction. A short twenty-yard boat-run up current and we were ready to start fishing the flats. However, before I could say "look out flounder here I come" Ron was already reeling one into the boat. Another lesson learned: **"prepare your rods and gear at home."** This way you can get right down to the business of catching fish. A few more drifts yielded only small flounder (throwbacks) in the area and apparently a change in location was in order.

We moved several times trying to locate larger fish, or a larger school of fish, or a more actively feeding school of fish until we finally settled into what seemed the most unlikely area to catch a fish. The bay and channels were loaded with boats and some of the anglers were catching fish. Not a lot of fish, but some fish. We, on the other hand, were all by ourselves. Out back, behind some island cruising to another location in search of our quarry, when Ron noticed that there was not a lot of water under the boat. (Now I know why he has a flats skiff!) There was maybe a foot and a half of water under the boat, and to an experienced fisherman like Ron, that meant a drop-off had to be nearby. **And a drop-off means flounder.** A quick hop onto the rear casting deck and the deeper water of the nearby channel revealed itself, so off we went... again!

We no sooner motored off of the sand flat when Ron cut the engine and told me this looks like a really good spot and yes... cast his line out before I could say anything. Before I could pick my rod up he was fighting another fish. A flounder. Again. A short fish that was released and another cast before I could even get my line wet. Again, another strike and another flounder. Ok, apparently he does know what he is doing. So I get my line in the water and Ron decides to change the set up on his rod. Go figure! When I asked him why, his reply was **“to trigger more strikes and catch a lot more fish... watch.”** He took off the spinner-rig and Bucktail combination and tied on a smaller Bucktail, cast it out and bam. Another flounder. Then it was my turn. We changed the set-up on my rod to the smaller Bucktail; I cast out and... nothing, not a thing.

Ron looked at me and explained:
“There is no wrong way to fish a jig for flounder. Even if you cast it out and let it drag behind the boat you will eventually catch something. But if you want to get more strikes and have more fun, shake it, pop it, twitch it; do something to make that jig appear alive! Your competition is every baitfish in the area. You need to do something to make your offering **stand out** and get noticed. That way you will get more strikes and put more fish in the boat.”

So I tried shaking, popping and twitching my rod and the flounder went nuts over the presentation. We boated over thirty flounder in less than an hour and I do believe that we could have caught fish there all day long. We had a great day, I learned a lot and I have a memory that will last a lifetime.

If you are interested in getting your own special reports or just checking out the website go to:

www.flounderbytes.com

Or snail mail at:

Flounder Bytes

P.O. Box 85

Williamstown, N.J. 08094



Ronald Tracy of Williamstown, N.J. is the creator and author of Flounder Bytes, a series of special reports and an upcoming ebook on flounder fishing.

If you are just getting started or are really into fishing, this is one site you need to check out. Who knows... you just may wind up on a **“white knuckle”** adventure of your own!