

FIVE MINUTE PRIMER

SUMMER/FALL BASICS for ADULT TARPON in CHARLOTTE HARBOR



TARPON

- THEIR SAFETY
 - › MUST revive
 - › Safest option is “tow and cut”



TARPON

- YOUR SAFETY

- › BIG animals
- › Don't go alone
- › Start with guide or experienced angler



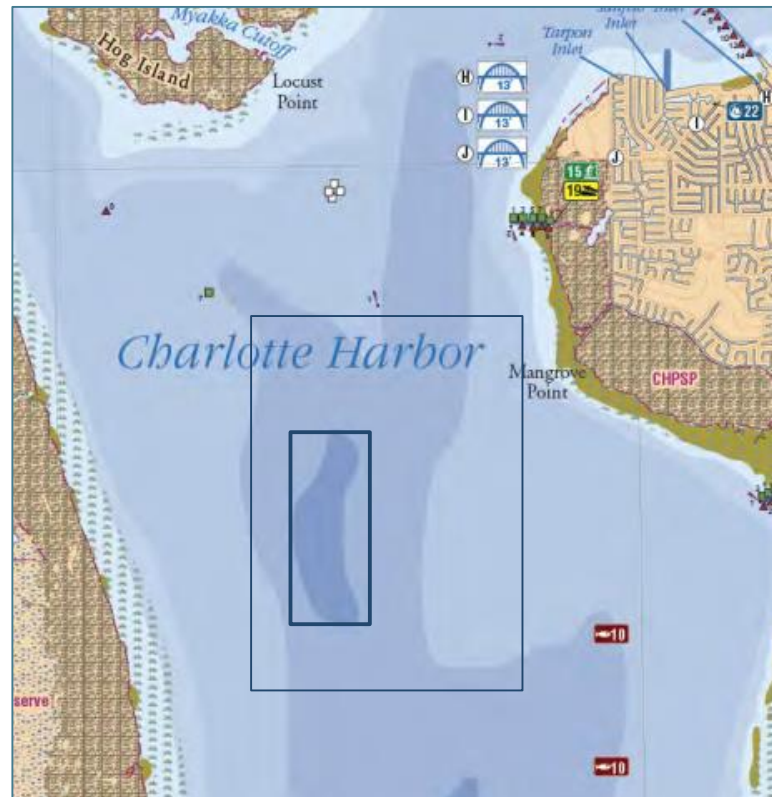
Tackle for tarpon

- 65# braid (50 minimum)
- 6' of 60# or 80 fluorocarbon leader
- 8/0 or 9/0 circle hook
 - › Trokar Lancet offset TK3
- 8" spinning rod
 - › Shimano Teramar TMS-X80XH (\$139)
- 5000-10000 reel
 - › Daiwa BG5000 (\$120)
- Note: Your “grouper rod” will work with ladyfish IF it has a good drag and min 65 # braid



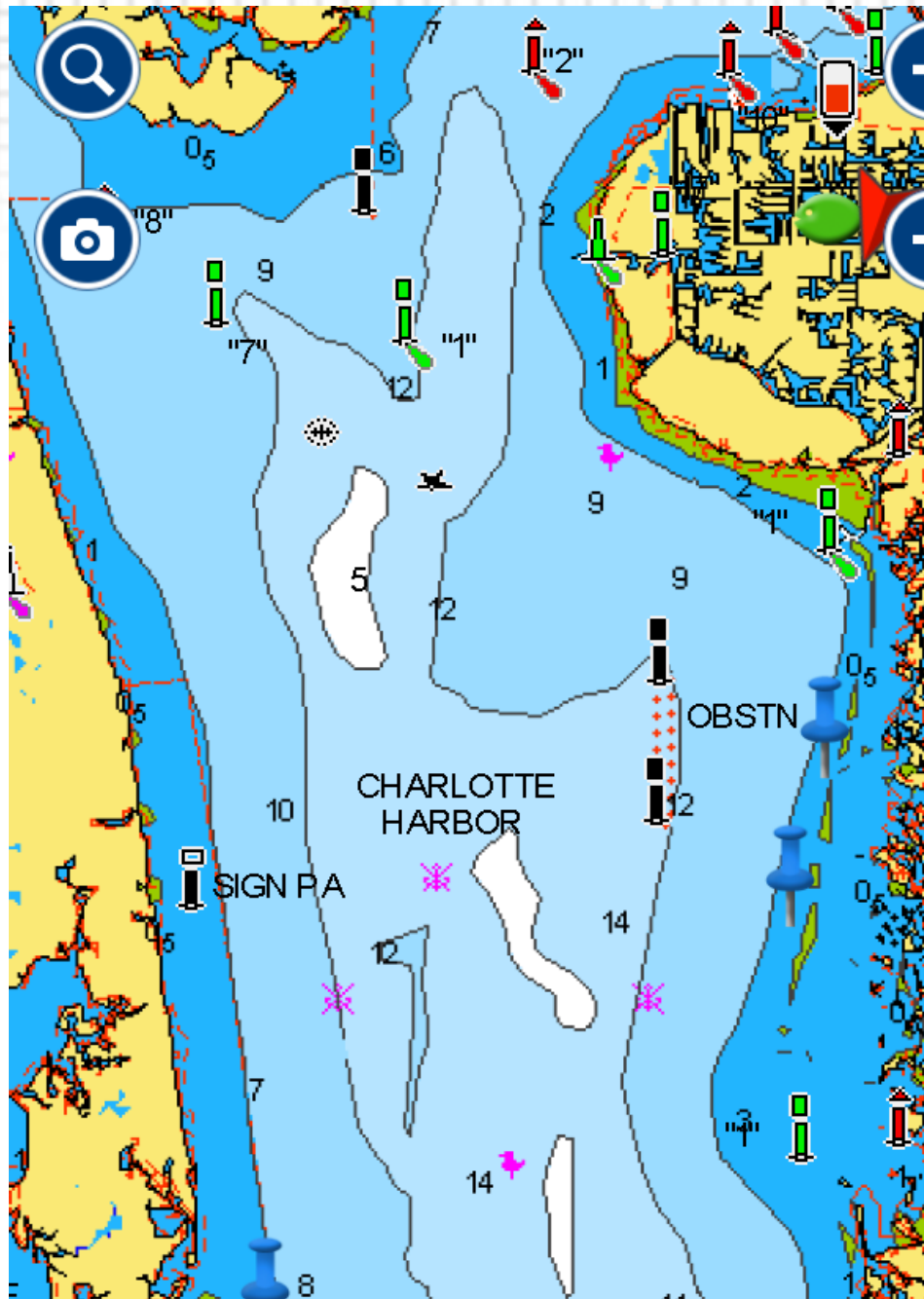
TARPON LOCATION

- Deep hole always good
 - › Fish there April to Halloween
 - › BGP better May and June but much more technical
 - › Harbor is best place in the state from August on
- Bait Buster method
 - › Simple and effective
 - › Any boat
 - › Any time
- Free-lining method (best)
 - › Use live ladyfish
 - › Requires good livewell
 - › Messy



Finding Tarpon

- Birds
- Ladyfish
- Busting tarpon
- Rolling tarpon
- Blind fish in deep holes



Tarpon with DOA Bait Buster

“How to catch a tarpon from you deck boat”

■ Rig

- › 3' leader 60# or 80# fluorocarbon
- › Trolling model Bait Buster in rootbeer (sometimes silver)
- › Keep hook sharp
- › Loop knot
- › Lure must run true

■ Retrieve

- › No sink
- › Steady, no action
- › SLOW
- › Throw at rolling fish
- › Dead stick

■ TAP!

- › Hard hook set
- › Bow to the silver king



Tarpon Free-lining

- Hook live ladyfish thru mouth
- Drift ladyfish behind boat
 - › Trolling motor control best
 - › One or two rods (float w/ two)
 - › 30' to 100'
- Rod in holder
 - › Circle hook
 - › No free spool
 - › No hookset
 - › Bow to the silver king



Tarpon Guides and Help

- Captain Scott Hughes
 - › 941-628-4247
- Captain Karl Butigan
 - › 941-565-7325



Questions???

