

The Stand-N-Fish Advantage

In my never ending quest to gain every advantage possible on the water and become a more productive angler, I turned my attention to a creative new invention of the Sarasota father and son team of Jerry and Rick Rosenberg. Their innovative Stand-N-Fish kayak fishing system allows anglers to gain key advantages that only those fishing from flats skiffs had in the past. Topping this list is the ability to stand upon a stable platform and pole their kayak to search for fish. This opens a whole new field of vision to anglers that was unachievable from the seated position at water level. Their system also provides anglers with the ability to cast and tangle with their quarry from a 360 degree standing position. This is especially advantageous to fly anglers, who in the past faced the unenviable task of casting while seated then stripping their line into their laps.

The crystal clear inshore waters that arrive with the change of season had me ready to begin the hunt for redfish and snook that have pushed out from their summer residence tucked up in the mangroves. They now have migrated onto the flats to forage and settle into the potholes that will serve as their winter feeding stations.

Now, with pothole fishing on the brain, I decided to give my friend Rick a call to set up a trip to put the Stand-N-Fish to the test after a trip where I found myself spooking several pods of nice redfish because I did not see them laying in the sand holes before I drifted over them from my seated position. I could not help but think with the Stand-N-Fish I will be able to see and catch these fish.

Our trip began early at the put in to try to beat the extremely high winds that had been kicking up. It took all of two minutes for Rick to affix the pontoon system and we were off paddling to the targeted flats. One of my original concerns when I first saw the Stand-N-Fish was the drag the pontoons would cause while paddling, but that was quickly erased when Rick showed me how to operate the simple to use pulleys that lift and lock the pontoons out of the water then drop them back into the water once you are ready to get up into the poling position.

After a quick paddle to the flat, we popped up and were ready to find some fish. Just for me and every other person whose knees require some extra coaxing they developed an assist handle that easily attaches to the bow of the boat, to further simplify the ascent to the standing position.

Now in the upright position, the first thing I noticed was how stable the kayak had become. Next I was really impressed how all my gear had been lifted by the leaning post putting everything at my fingertips. Now that I was in the fishing position, with the underwater life coming alive before my eyes we began poling the flat looking for fish hugging the edges of the potholes ready to ambush their prey. Seeing these fish provided a great advantage in picking the spots to cast at that had eluded me only one day prior. Rick and I peppered the unsuspecting fish with much longer casts than those possible from the seated position, drawing strikes from trout and small snook on our topwater plugs. As we continued to drift the flats, we were able to spot a submerged oyster bar

that was not visible to me on previous trips to this particular flat. We saw several redfish staged up around the bar but had no luck enticing them to eat. The winds began to whip, well on their way to 30 mph, so our trip was unfortunately cut short. Now, my thoughts drift back to the Stand-N-Fish with the anticipation of plucking unsuspecting redfish from their winter pothole homes from high atop the Stand-N-Fish perch. For more detailed information on the Stand-N-Fish, go to www.standnfish.com or visit their flagship distributor, Economy Tackle in Sarasota to see them on display.