

## Looking For Albies

There are things to look for to locate albies. First off, find some information about where they've been seen recently. Online, fly and tackle shops, good fishermen you know, and commercial fishermen in your area are good sources. Maybe you'll spot them yourself! Look for the fish, which are tunoid shaped, jumping and gray-hounding out of the water. Often they'll be in a school, small or large. The water they push and explosions they make while feeding will also be whiter and look more "electric" than other inshore species because the albies are moving faster. They often make a "ripping" sound as they feed as well. False Albacore often show up at the same places year after year, and often at about the same time, but this can change, especially with the way our region's climate is warming. It is a good way to start your search though.



## How To Albie Fish

The easiest way to hook up with albies is to locate schools that are attacking the bait from multiple directions simultaneously. Those predators have already slashed through the bait school and are now going in for the "spoils", the disoriented bait. Find this scenario, which has been common for decades, but has been much rarer this past season for some reason, and you have a GOOD CHANCE of hooking up. Throw that lure or fly to the other side of the feeding school and retrieve it through the feeding fish or cast right into the melee and retrieve. Anticipate a take! When albies are moving in one direction only they are harder to get a strike from and you have to throw ahead of the fish, "lead" them, as it were, to get a hook up. It's often tougher to get a hit when the individual predators are spread apart too. This past season the albies, although sometimes in great numbers, were mostly swimming through the bait in one direction, moving down-tide, and moving FAST, faster than they usually do. To get a hit we had to get ahead of the fish, throw down to them, and retrieve REALLY FAST. They ate the Albie Snacks far better than the flies in this situation too. In fact, getting them on the fly was really tough for some reason. And you really had to MOVE that bait

Use a "hand over hand" retrieve with the rod grip secured in your armpit opposed to the one handed "strip" for albies. You have WAY more control of the retrieve and presentation of the fly this way. It works so much better that I've rarely used the strip retrieve for this species for decades.

The farther you can cast, both fly or lure, the better your chances of hooking up. False Albacore fishing is a casting game. You must be accurate too.

Look for False Albacore in water temps starting at 69 degrees (sometimes 70-71) down to 57-56 degrees. They're usually gone from the Northeast after that.

A reel with a good, smooth, and strong drag is a must, be it spinning or fly. Enjoy that long, fast run! It's why we fish for this species, and so look forward to it's arrival each season.

Spinning: Medium to MH power rods 6 1/2 to 8 ft, long  
Medium or Medium/ Light size spinning reels that hold 150 yards or more of line.

15 or 20 lb. braided line and 20 lb. leader.

Lure: Albie Snack (Fish Snax Lures) - White Pearl, Tan, White/Tan combo, Hoagy Epoxy Jig.

Fly Rod:

# 8-11 rod. Most prefer #9 or #10

Floating or Intermediate line

150 yds. of backing or more. You can get away with 100 yds in the Northeast - with only a VERY few hookups will you need more.

15 lb. Flourocarbon tippet.

General:

Make sure your knots are tied well. Uni Knot to Uni Knot for braid to mono and braid to braid. 100% Lefty Kreh Non Slip loop knot or your favorite knot for attaching leader to lure or tippet to fly.

Enjoy your fishing. False Albacore are simply a light tackle anglers dream.